

OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE, or MEDICINE, DENTISTRY and VETERINARY MEDICINE APPLICATIONS

For students who are considering studying **any course at the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge**, or studying **Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine at any university**, the application process differs in a number of ways from those applying to other institutions and other courses.

Applicant Profile

For students applying to Oxbridge: The majority of applicants will have a GCSE profile of mostly 8s and 9s and will be studying three or more A Levels, and these A Levels should be appropriate to the subject they intend to study. For Oxford and Cambridge applicants, this information can be found in the links below:

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/search>

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/course-listing>

Students should be passionate about their intended course of study, enjoy the process of learning, and enjoy exploring beyond the curriculum of their A Levels. They should be actively and regularly doing this.

Applicants should be on course to achieve grades of A* in their A Levels. This does not mean they will necessarily be achieving these grades at all points of their 2-year programme of study, but that they are working at a standard and with a level of commitment which suggests this trajectory of academic development.

For students applying for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine: There is a variety of GCSE requirements, but overall applicants' profiles would often be 7s and above, and many courses require at least 6s in English Language, Maths and Science.

Overall, it is an advantage to be studying both Chemistry **and** Biology A levels; only a small minority of universities will ask for Chemistry **or** Biology. Standard entry courses usually require AAA, a small number require higher and very few require lower. There are other routes, for students who fit certain criteria, where grade requirements are lower.

The Application Process

The UCAS application deadline for these institutions/courses is usually **15th October**, several months earlier than applications for other institutions/courses.

The majority of universities select students based on: students' GCSE results and predicted A Level grades; the personal statement which students write about themselves; and a college reference. For Oxbridge, the personal statement must be about the academic interest of the applicant, and for medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine, this must centre around their knowledge and skills for the job, including what they have learnt from work experience. For most courses, students will also be required to sit an admissions test, most of which take place in mid-October, and for some courses at both Oxford and Cambridge universities, students will have to submit examples of their college work after submitting their applications. Cambridge applicants will be required to fill in an additional application form by 22nd October. The universities will then decide whether to reject a student's application or invite them for interview. For Oxbridge, interviews take place in December or late

November; for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine, interviews take place most commonly between December and February.

Students invited for interview at Oxbridge will learn in January if their application has been successful. If so, they will be given a 'grade offer' in the range of AAA-A*A*A*, most commonly A*AA or A*A*A, which they then need to obtain in their final exams.

Students invited for interview for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine will usually, but not necessarily, learn if their application has been successful by the end of March. Their 'grade offer' varies but is most commonly AAA for standard entry.

Predicted Grades:

To make a competitive application, students' *predicted* final grades are key. These may be higher, lower, or the same as a students' 'Minimum Target Grade' (MTG) allocated to them when they start at New College, but it is the predicted grade, not the MTG, which forms part of students' applications. Predicted grades are decided by subject teachers at the end of Year 12 based on their progress throughout the year, with a key element being their performance in their progression exams, which take place at the beginning of May. For Oxbridge, although actual grade offers for successful candidates may be as low as AAA, the majority of applicants to these institutions/courses will have predicted grades that are mostly, or entirely, A*. Fundamentally, then, students making competitive applications should be working towards achieving A* predicted grades at the end of Year 12, and therefore performing at a level in the May progression exam which indicates this trajectory of progress.

College Support, And What Students Should Be Doing

The college has a robust, tried and tested, successful programme of support for students wishing to apply to these institutions/courses, providing information, visits, visiting speakers, support from New College alumni, assessment support, and guidance through all stages of the process, including support with personal statements and interview preparation.

Students interested in these areas should either be in the Oxbridge group, the MDV group or both. These are widely promoted within college to make all students aware of their existence, and are relaunched each September.

The Oxbridge Programme is led by Mark Anderson. Any student who wishes to apply and is not part of this programme should contact mark.anderson@nclt.ac.uk

The MDV Teams group is led by Emma Chappell-Davies. Any student who wishes to study these areas and is not part of this Teams group should contact emma.chappell-davies@nclt.ac.uk

Students who are considering applying to study Medicine or Veterinary Medicine at Oxford or Cambridge should be part of both Teams.

All students who are part of the Oxbridge Programme should also be part of the Achieving Aspirations Programme, also run by Mark Anderson, be part of that Teams page, and be regularly checking it and engaging with it. They should also be attending the subject-specific subgroup sessions which begin each year in January. Additionally, while it is not compulsory, there is real benefit in potential Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science applicants also being part of the Achieving Aspirations Programme.

There will be early applicant support sessions with Mark and Emma on Progression Day, and at the end of August during the Year 12 enrolment period. Note that this is before students return to begin Year 13.

During the spring term, students should be working on constructing their personal statements, submitting a draft by early June. Support with this is part of Mark and Emma's programmes, but the nature of a personal statement is such that the majority of the work must come from the student.

Above all else, students wishing to make competitive applications for Oxford, Cambridge, or for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science, should be doing three things:

1. Fully engaging with their academic studies, including DIL, in order to achieve their academic potential.
2. Exploring their intended subject area regularly beyond what they are learning in the classroom – what universities call supercurricular, or supracurricular, exploration. Mark and Emma offer guidance on what students may explore, as do subject teachers and Achieving Aspirations subgroup leaders. However, it is important that students are proactive about seeking this out and also about recognising that this is a personal, individual journey of academic development.
3. Being part of the programmes offered by Mark and Emma, and being engaged and proactive within those programmes.

Should you have any queries regarding any of the above, please contact us on the email addresses given.