

Applying for Biomedical Sciences



Robert Wilkins
Course Director

Places

4-year course
MBiomedSci Master's degree

December 2021
524 applicants
131 interviewed
45 offers

Admitting Colleges

Around 50% of successful applicants are made an offer by a college other than the one to which they applied

You can make an 'open application': same chance of success

Balliol College
Corpus Christi College
Exeter College
Keble College
Lincoln College
Magdalen College
New College
St Anne's College
St Catherine's College
St Edmund Hall
St Hilda's College
St Hugh's College
St John's College
The Queen's College
Trinity College
University College
each offers at least two places

Entrance requirements

3 A levels
to include **two** from
Biology/Chemistry/Mathematics/Physics

Typical offer: A*AA

We expect you to have taken and passed any practical component in your chosen science subjects.
If you are not studying Biology/Chemistry/Mathematics/Physics, GCSEs in these subjects are needed

We do not have a further agenda:
there is no preference for 3 science subjects
or specific subject combinations

Entrance requirements

IB

HL to include **two** from
Biology/Chemistry/Mathematics/Physics
Typical offer: 39 (7,6,6 at HL)

If you are not studying Biology/Chemistry/Mathematics/Physics, GCSEs in these subjects are needed

We do not have a further agenda:
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or specific subject combinations

The evidence

UCAS application
academic record
(GCSE, A-level prediction)
personal statement
reference
BMAT
Interviews

Personal statement

Read the selection criteria first

Explain why you have chosen the subject

Outline your interests in the subject

Describe what you have done to learn/prepare

Summarise your extra-curricular activities

Provide other relevant information: gap year, illness

Note that the bulk should be academic-related

Be sure to be honest: do not manufacture interests

Selection criteria

www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/bms

We look for evidence of

a strong track record of academic achievement

motivation: an informed view of the subject

intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm for science

reasoning and problem-solving ability

the ability to communicate

the capacity for sustained and intense work

a commitment to study biomedical science at University

Personal statement

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BMAT

**ALL applicants must sit BMAT
on 18 October 2022**

It provides an assessment of potential for
medicine, biomedical sciences courses

There are three elements:

60 minute test of aptitude and skills

30 minute test of scientific knowledge and
applications

30 minute writing task

BMAT

BMAT questions are designed so that **no specific preparation** beyond GCSE-level science and mathematics is necessary, ensuring that the BMAT is accessible to all potential applicants irrespective of background

BMAT will revert to a paper-based test in 2022

Register by **30 September 2022**

Late registration will not be accepted

www.bmat.org.uk

Shortlisting

We write to applicants in early
December to let them know if they have
been short-listed

~ **3** people are invited for each available
place

Shortlisting

The short list is drawn up using contextualized BMAT score, GCSE performance and other relevant information

If you have GCSE grades, we assess them in relation to the performance of all students at your school

We weight sections 1-3 of BMAT 40:40:20

There is no absolute required number of 9/8 grades or BMAT threshold

Shortlisting

Short-listed applicants are considered by **two** colleges: the college of application plus a second, randomly assigned one

College selectors will not be aware of college choice or BMAT score

Interviews will be conducted online

Interviews

The number and format of interviews may vary but the selection criteria are common

Applicants will be interviewed by at least two academics from each college

The personal statement often shapes the interview

Why interview?

- to explore your interests and motivation for the subject
- to establish what insight you have about the subject and studying it at Oxford
- to examine how you think
 - how you handle information
 - how? why? so what? what don't we know?

Misconceptions about interviews

- there are trick questions
- it's a test of knowledge
- everyone gets the same questions
- wrong answers are always a bad thing
- you will know how it's gone
- one bad interview and it's all over
- it's an ordeal

Types of questions

- questions based on your statement
 - reading
 - projects
 - experience
 - interests
- scientific problem questions
- questions based on schoolwork
- current affairs

Selection

Colleges rank applicants on the basis of the UCAS information and interview

Selectors then receive BMAT scores, and the opinion of the second interviewing college

Colleges take into account all the available information and make offers to the most highly ranked students

<http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/bms>

The screenshot shows the website for the University of Oxford Medical Sciences Division, specifically the Biomedical Sciences page. The header includes the University of Oxford logo and navigation links for Accessibility, Contact us, and Log in. A main navigation bar lists ABOUT US, DEPARTMENTS, RESEARCH, STUDY, DIVISIONAL SERVICES, GET INVOLVED, NEWS, and EVENTS. The page title is 'Biomedical Sciences'. Below the title are three images: a building, a group of people, and a laboratory. To the right is a 'CONTACT US' section with the address: Medical Sciences Teaching Centre, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS, and the email: bmsadmissions@medsci.ox.ac.uk. At the bottom, there are three columns: 'ABOUT THE COURSE' (The undergraduate course in Biomedical Sciences is a broad and flexible), 'APPLYING' (Information on the admissions process, including open days, introductory), and 'FAQS' (I did better than expected in my A-levels. Does Oxford University take).