

Balliol College



Feedback on Undergraduate Admissions December 2018

Subject: Biological Sciences

In total there were 700 applications across the University to read Biological Sciences this year, and increase of more than 20% on the previous year. Of these applications, 24 were either direct to Balliol or were open applications allocated to Balliol.

Shortlisting was based on the contents of the UCAS application, including consideration of all examination results (both achieved and predicted), the candidates' personal statements, and the referees' statements. Initial shortlisting recommendations were made by a panel of Tutors across the entire field of 700 applicants. Each application was then reviewed by individual Colleges, and educational background and context were considered during this process. In total 377 candidates were shortlisted for interview, including 12 at Balliol.

The large majority of candidates were interviewed at two different Colleges, the exception being some candidates, undergoing Skype interviews. Candidates interviewed at Balliol received one interview lasting approximately 30 minutes. Following interview all shortlisted candidates were again considered, including all the information originally used in shortlisting, plus the outcome of the interviews, in deciding to whom offers would be made. Across the University 136 candidates were made offers or open offers, including five of the candidates originally considered by Balliol.