

Balliol College



Feedback on Undergraduate Admissions December 2018

Subject: Economics and Management

Economics and Management retained its very high level of popularity, with 1519 applications across the University in 2018. The majority of applicants (77.4%) named a first choice college in their application, with the remainder making open applications. Seventy-two of the 1519 applications were either direct to Balliol, or were open allocations allocated to Balliol. Applicants were expected to sit the Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA).

The majority of applications, nearly 1200, were rejected at the shortlisting stage, with 325 applicants invited for interview (reflecting the University norm of interviewing around three applicants for each available place). Shortlisting decisions were based on assessment of every candidate's UCAS profile in combination with performance in the TSA, with these data assessed in the context of each candidate's educational background.

Shortlisted candidates, including ten who has applied to or been allocated to Balliol, were invited to Oxford for interview, though a small number, principally from outside the EU, were interviewed by Skype. Following interviews, interview outcomes were added to the above data and all candidates were reassessed in deciding to whom to make offers. Overall around one hundred offers were made across the University.

The mean score on the multiple choice component of the TSA was 64.9%, while that for admitted applicants was around 79%: more information on the TSA can be found at <https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/thinking-skills-assessment/tsa-oxford/scoring-and-results/>. However it should be restated that the TSA score formed only part of the assessment, with other factors including interviews, performance at GCSE level (or similar), predicted A-level grades (or similar), and the personal statement, also playing important roles.