

Balliol College



Feedback on Undergraduate Admissions December 2018

Subject: Modern Languages and associated Joint Schools

845 applications to read Modern Languages were received this year across the University. This number includes applications in Modern Languages joint schools, including History and Modern Languages, English and Modern Languages, and Philosophy and Modern Languages. Balliol received 21 applications across Modern Languages and joint schools. These applicants either selected Balliol in their application, or were open applications allocated to Balliol.

Some applicants were expected to sit an aptitude test in Modern Languages, and applicants to joint schools were also usually expected to sit the aptitude test in the relevant joint school subject. Shortlisting was based on performance in the aptitude test(s) coupled with an evaluation of information in the UCAS form, including consideration of contextual data where relevant. The large majority of applicants were shortlisted for interview across the University. All Balliol applicants were either shortlisted for interview, or allocated to other colleges for consideration.

At interview applicants were given the opportunity to demonstrate their motivation and commitment, their capacity for the sustained study of language and literature, their overall communication skills and, where appropriate, their oral competence in the relevant language(s). Final decisions on to whom to offer places were made on consideration of all these data across all shortlisted candidates, including test performances, interviews and UCAS form data, again contextualised where appropriate. In total, Balliol made offers to eight applicants across Modern languages and associated joint schools.