



## Oxbridge

### Should I apply to Oxford and Cambridge?

Oxford and Cambridge universities, also known collectively as Oxbridge, hold a special place in the imagination. However, they also have some popular, and sometimes false, stereotypes about the kind of students who are admitted.

Oxford and Cambridge universities both emphasise that they seek to attract the best and brightest applicants regardless of background and have rigorous and fair application procedures designed to let the best candidates shine.

You can only apply to Oxford or Cambridge, not both.

The deadline for applying to Oxford or Cambridge is **15 October 2022 (before 18:00)**

### Choosing a course

Both Oxford and Cambridge agree that choosing the degree you wish to study, not which university you want to apply to, is the most important decision to make.

Make sure you read the course details carefully. You will be studying for several years, so it's vital to choose something you're truly passionate about.

Oxford and Cambridge tend to run traditional academic courses with an emphasis on small group tuition, and assessment is more often based 100% on examinations.

### Choosing between Oxford and Cambridge

You can't apply to both Oxford and Cambridge in the same year, so you'll have to choose one or the other. Both universities are world-renowned in both arts and science subjects, so the decision is largely an individual one.

Cambridge usually comes above Oxford in the Complete University Guide rankings, but this is partly due to its subject mix. Some courses are offered at one of the universities, but not the other. It's important to be aware that courses with a similar title at the two universities may be different in content, so you should check the course details to see which one will suit you best.

Each university has a number of open days and events, and we strongly advise you to attend one before you make your choice. These may be provided through virtual tours for your cohort so try and attend these.

### What is the Oxford and Cambridge Collegiate system?

Both universities are made up of individual colleges, as well as different academic departments.

Academic departments are responsible for core teaching and assessment and colleges provide academic and pastoral support and arrange small group tuition – sometimes with a tutor or supervisor from another college.

Each college will have a diverse range of students studying across a range of subject areas and academic levels.

The college system offers the benefits of a smaller, interdisciplinary academic college community while belonging to a large, internationally renowned university. Each college offers the same excellent standard

of teaching and the same high academic standards. You will have access to your college's facilities, such as an extensive library and IT provision, as well as the resources of the wider university.

You're able to specify a preferred college when you make your UCAS application, but your college choice doesn't really matter. Once you've submitted your UCAS application, you'll be committed to your choice of college, so do your research. However, you may be interviewed by more than one college and you may receive an offer from a different college than you applied to. If you prefer not to choose a college, you can make an open application.

### **Useful websites**

<https://oxbridgeapplications.com/blog/how-to-choose-your-oxbridge-college/>

#### **HE+**

[myheplus.com](http://myheplus.com)

#### **Staircase 12**

<https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/applying-to-univ/staircase12/>

#### **University of Oxford**

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/suggested-subject-resources>

#### **Kings College Cambridge**

<https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/reading-lists>

