Graduate Admissions Selection Criteria

Applications are considered for any of the courses in which the College offers admission. Please use the College search tool to see if your proposed course is one that Exeter offers.

Applications are usually considered by our Fellows and lecturers in the relevant subject area, and by the Academic Dean.

Note that applicants must first have been accepted by a Department or Faculty of the University of Oxford before any college can consider them.

The College aims to admit about 75 graduate students each year, spread across the range of subjects in which we accept graduate students. We aim for approximately two-thirds of our graduate body to be students admitted to research degrees, the remainder being students on postgraduate taught courses. These targets determine the number of offers which can be made to applicants.

The factors we normally consider in making our admissions decisions are these:

- The academic merit and potential of the applicant. (The possession of competitively-won funding may be taken into account as an indicator of the applicant’s academic merit and potential.)

- Preference will normally be given to applicants whose proposed area of study is within the subject areas of the College’s academic staff.

- The College may take its aims for the size and shape of the graduate student body into consideration when deciding between applicants.

- Preference may be given to current or past students of the College who meet the other selection criteria.

The final decision on whether to offer a place in the light of the overall competition for graduate places and the spread of those places across subject areas and courses is usually taken by the Academic Dean, in consultation with colleagues.

It may not be possible to admit applicants whose applications are received late in the admissions round, when places are full.

Please note that any offer of a place will be conditional, subject to satisfactory financial evidence that the applicant can meet the tuition and living costs for the duration of their course. Please consult this guidance for more details.