

Early Apps (BA)

Future planning



Early Applicants Are Applying For...

- Oxford

- Cambridge

“Oxbridge”

- Medicine

- Veterinary Medicine

- Dentistry

But why ‘Early Applicants’?

Why are these courses/unis so different?

Early Applicants

– The Clue is In The Name!

- Most applicants to UK universities can apply **until the middle of January** for courses that start the following September
- But Oxford, Cambridge, and Medicine/Vet/Denistry courses have an earlier deadline of **October 15th...**
- ...because these courses also involve **interviews**, and often **additional admissions tests and assessments**

What Are They Looking For?

✓ **Academic ability and potential**

✓ **Subject requirements**



✓ **Genuine subject interest**
– motivation and enthusiasm



✓ **Suitability for chosen course**



✗ **Particular school types**

✗ **Irrelevant extra-curricular activities**

✗ **Particular backgrounds**

BA specific concerns

'Early Apps' - the overall aims

Course structure



Is it right?

Subject content



Is it manageable?

Prove interest and aptitude



Application
(15th October)

Revision load



Admissions tests

Discomfort!



Interviews



What grades do you need?

Course	2026 entry requirements	What 90%+ of <u>successful applicants</u> <i>actually</i> achieved in 2025 (*UCAS)
History	A* A A (Cambridge)	A* A* A*
Classics	A* A A (Cambridge)	A* A* A*
Economics (and management)	A* A* A (Cambridge) A* A A (Oxford)	A* A* A* A* A* A* A* A*
Modern Languages	A* A A (Cambridge)	A* A* A*
HSPS	A* A A (Cambridge)	A* A* A
Architecture	A* A A (Cambridge)	A* A* A
Law	A* A A (Cambridge)	A* A* A
Archaeology	A* A A (Cambridge)	A* A A
Music	A A A (Oxford)	A* A* A

University of Cambridge - 2025

Degree programme	and success rates
	Success rate (%)
Arts, h	
Anglo-Saxon, Norse, & Celtic	41.5
Archaeology	27.8
Architecture	12.2
Asian & Middle Eastern Studies	34.2
Classics	46.1
Classics (4 years)	43.0
Design	20.9
Economics	10.2
Education	22.6
English	25.3
Geography	23.1
History	29.0
History & Modern Languages	33.0
History & Politics	21.9
History of Art	34.0
Human, Social, & Political Sciences	13.8
Land Economy	11.6
Law	14.7
Linguistics	35.8
Modern & Medieval Languages	53.7
Music	49.2
Philosophy	17.4
Theology, Religion & Philosophy of Religion	32.0
Subtotals	19.5

Early Apps programme

As the 'odds' suggest, we make no promises of 'success'.

However, in our experience, regardless of the outcome of the Oxbridge application all students benefit from the experience: their aspirations are raised, their academic achievements are consequently greater, their overall university application is stronger (and completed earlier) and they always therefore progress on to fantastic universities once they leave us.

Now

- Seminar series

- Early applicant elective

- Consider the range of courses
- Importance of supercurricular work
- Meeting Year 13 applicants and Alumni
- Personal statements
- Admissions assessments
- Interviews

- Early App Team [General | Early Apps class of 2027](#)

- Essay competitions
- Summer schools
- Supercurricular reading suggestions
- Lectures and Masterclasses

- Why was Tutankhamun so hard to find?
- Does scouting make the world better?
- Tulipmania
- Language Barriers in Modern Medicine
- The Gay Purge in Chechnya
- Classical Women
- A History of Shalford

Soon...

From May, meet as a smaller group and then with their Early App mentor who will support them through the application process

Timelines

OXBRIDGE

May – group tutorials and meet mentors

June – begin drafting personal statements

August – registration for online admissions tests

Late September – mock admission tests

Early October – submit UCAS application

Mid October – *most* pre-interview assessments taken at assessment centres

November – mock interviews, in school

Early December – Oxbridge interviews

January – offers made

My Key Messages From Today

- Taking part in the Early Apps Programme doesn't mean you have to apply
- Students can drop out at any time – it is their decision!
- But students will struggle to make a very competitive application without support...
- ...and it will strengthen a non-Early Application anyway!
- Students need to research and prepare/read/work experience now