

Early Apps (MSc/MEng/Medical sciences)

Future planning



Early Applicants Are Applying For...

- Oxford

- Cambridge

“Oxbridge”

- Medicine

- Veterinary Medicine

- Dentistry

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/Dentistry 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**

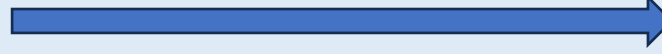
✗ **Irrelevant extra-curricular activities**

✗ **Particular backgrounds**

STEM/Medicine specific concerns

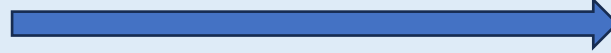
'Early Apps' - the overall aims

Course structure



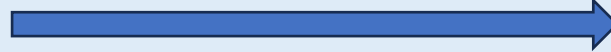
Is it right?

Subject content



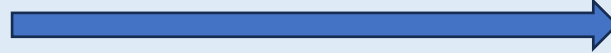
Is it manageable?

Prove interest and aptitude



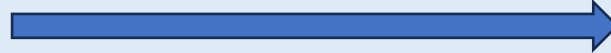
Application
(15th October)

Revision load

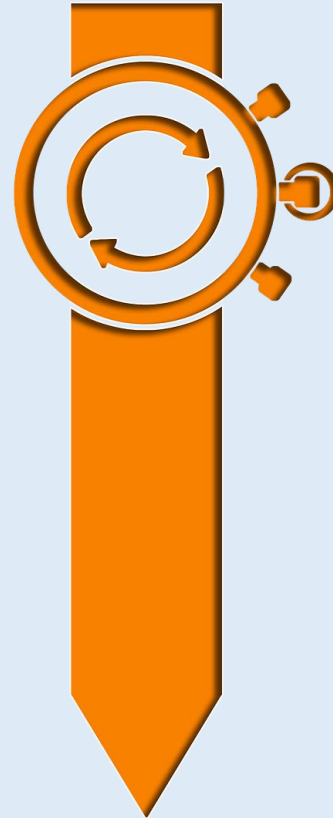


Admissions tests

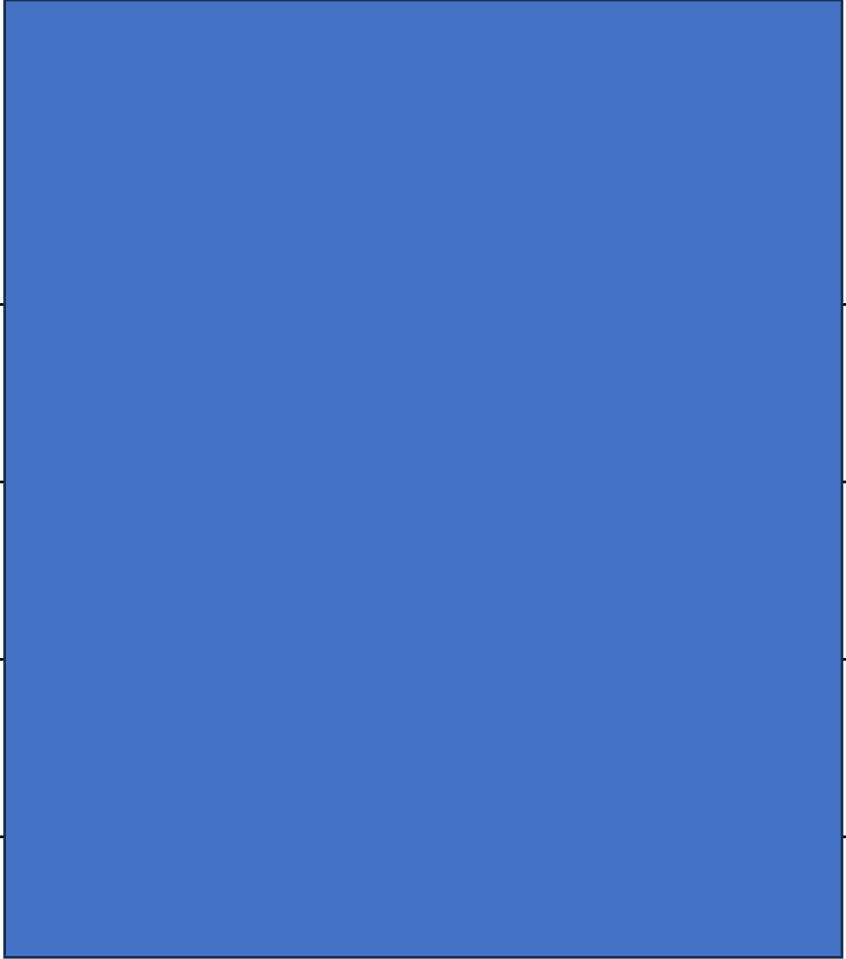
Discomfort!



Interviews



What grades do you need?

| Course | 2026 entry requirements | What 90%+ of <u>successful</u> applicants <i>actually</i> achieved in 2025 (*UCAS) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Medicine | A* A* A (Cambridge) A* A A (Birmingham) A* A A (Leeds) B B A (Bristol Medicine gateway course) |  |
| Dentistry | A* A A (King's college) A B B (Bristol) | |
| Mechanical engineering | A* A* A (Oxford) | |
| Natural Sciences | A* A* A (Cambridge) | |
| Chemistry | A* A* A (Oxford) | |

University of Cambridge - 2025

| | Success rate |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Chemical Engineering & Biotechnology | 15.7 |
| Computer Science | 7.6 |
| Engineering | 12.1 |
| Mathematics | 14.1 |
| Medicine | 15.1 |
| Medicine Graduate Course | 6.1 |
| Natural Sciences | 22.5 |
| Psychological & Behavioural Sciences | 8.6 |
| Veterinary Medicine | 19.9 |
| Subtotals | 14.1 |
| Totals | 16.4 |

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

- Neuro-economics
- Does scouting make the world better?
- Tulipmania
- Overconsumption
- HeLa Cells
- Language barriers in modern medicine
- Neurosexism
- difficult to find
- Classical Women

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

MEDICS/ DENTISTS/ VETS

May – group tutorials and meet mentors

End of May – UCAT registration opens

June – begin drafting personal statements

June/July – mock UCAT test in school

July → September – UCAT testing window

July – UCAT support

Early October – submit UCAS application

November – mock interviews, in school

November → April – Medical School interviews

March.... – 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