FACULTY OF MEDIEVAL & MODERN LANGUAGES
TAYLOR INSTITUTION

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Modern Languages Admissions Feedback Information for Applicants – 2024-5

1. ADMISSIONS STATISTICS

This year, 664 candidates applied for courses with Modern Languages.

Total number of applications: 664
Candidates who withdrew or were not invited for interview: 53
Candidates shortlisted for interview: 611
Places offered for 2025: 302
Places offered for 2026: 2
Opportunity Oxford Offers: 22
Open Offers: 10
Ratio of applications to offers: 2.18 applications per offer

Applications in 2024 2023 figures in parentheses. M/W/PNTS/UAT = Man/Woman/Prefer not to say/Use another term			
Languages		**Joint Schools**	
Czech	4 (8) 2M/2W	Classics and ML	18 (27) 6 M/ 11 W/ 1 PNS
French	331 (395) 92 M/ 232 W/ 7 PNTS	European and Middle Eastern Languages	30 (34) 12 M/ 18 W
Beginners' German	37 (32) 13 M/ 23 W/ 1 PNTS	English and ML	119 (112) 17 M/ 100 W/ 1 UAT/1 PNTS
German	130 (115) 45 M/ 81 W/ 2 PNTS/ 2 UAT	History and ML	78 (89) 40 M/ 36 W/ 1 UAT/ 1 PNTS
Italian	14 (91) 4 M/ 10 W	ML and Linguistics	112 (87) 32 M/ 74 W/ 2 PNTS/ 4 UAT
Modern Greek	9 (8) 2 M/7 W	Philosophy and ML	57 (54) 22 M/ 34 W/ 1 PNTS
Polish	2 (0) 2W		
Portuguese	25 (35)		

	7 M/18 W		
Beginners' Russian	30 (25) 10 M/ 20 W		
Russian	23 (31) 10 M/ 12 W/ 1 PNTS		
Spanish	226 (236) 62 M/ 157 W/ 5 PNTS/ 2 UAT		

2. ADMISSIONS PROCESS

2.0. General Admissions Criteria

Successful candidates for admission displayed the qualities listed below. The admissions process as a whole is designed to identify which candidates possess them in the greatest measure:

• Motivation and commitment along with capacity for sustained study of language and literature.

• Communication: willingness and ability to express ideas clearly and effectively both in writing and orally; ability to listen and to give considered responses.

• Proven competence in the language(s) as established by schoolwork written in the language(s), by the language test and (in some cases) by oral competence at interview. In the case of beginners, clear evidence of aptitude and potential for language study.

• While there is no requirement that candidates will have read any literature in the language(s), successful candidates will demonstrate an aptitude and commitment to the study of literature by evidence of their readiness to discuss their reading in English or in the relevant language(s) or by their response to a reading-passage at interview. Assessors will look for evidence of intellectual curiosity and critical engagement.

Selection is competitive and it may well be that a candidate is able to demonstrate these qualities and nonetheless is edged out of contention by a candidate with stronger all-round claims. In applying these criteria, the main concern is to identify proven competence in the language(s) along with future promise and aptitude in literary and cultural studies.

Candidates who display one or more of the above shortcomings may nonetheless be invited for interview if the paper application reveals a clear justification for, or explanation of, the shortcomings and clear alternative evidence of the candidate's potential.

Selection criteria are displayed in the faculty's admissions pages here: https://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/faqs#faq-12

2.1. Shortlisting

A decision not to shortlist a candidate conforms to current ML guidelines, according to which candidates will normally be invited to interview unless they display at least one of the following shortcomings:

• results in official examinations, especially GCSE, are not at a sufficiently high level;

- results predicted for A-level or other impending official examination suggest that the candidate:

    1. is unlikely to succeed in meeting a conditional offer;
    2. the school report contains clear negative aspects relevant to the general admissions criteria;

- the written work submitted is clearly deficient in respect of the general admissions criteria;

- test results are a) in the bottom quintile for each of two languages, or
  b) a test result in the bottom quintile means an application in a single language or joint school or a language with a beginners' language (except for any language where a LAT score is available) is not viable.

Reallocation:
The purpose of reallocation is to give worthwhile candidates the chance of interview. Colleges with a higher ratio of candidates to places than the average across all Colleges will automatically be invited to reallocate candidates. Colleges with a lower ratio than the average will be asked to receive candidates.

Number of Reallocated students: 88

2.2 Interview Process
Interviews took place on Teams in the second and third weeks of December. During the interviews, candidates were given the opportunity to demonstrate their motivation and commitment, and their capacity for the sustained study of language and literature. They were assessed against the published criteria on their overall communication skills and, where appropriate, on their oral competence in the relevant language(s). We know that it is disappointing to candidates and their schools that we are not able to offer places to all of the very able young people we see.

Candidates normally receive at least two interviews from their First Choice College. All data is shared on ADSS and Admissions Tutors from other colleges can arrange further interviews, with priority given to colleges on the computer-generated string of 'lower' choices.

Over 100 additional interviews were held.

Guide Score:
ADSS calculates each candidate's Guide Score by double-weighting the Interview Score and single-weighting all other factors. Schoolwork is not included in the guide score calculation. GCSE score (or its contextualised equivalent) and Composite Score (based on Contextual Data concerning Prior Education, Residential Postcode and Care Status) are then taken into account before Admissions Tutors make a final decision.

The Mark Scheme (for schoolwork and interviews) is as follows:

10 outstanding   80+

9 excellent	79–75
8 very good	74–70
7 good	69–67
6 promising	66–64
5 competent	63–61
4 adequate	60–58
3 poor	57–51
2 weak	50–45
1 very weak	44–

All decisions to offer places to ML candidates (Joint School included) were confirmed at the ML Admissions Final Decisions meeting on Friday 20th December 2024. All colleges involved were represented by their ML Primary Users together with the Co-ordinators from each Joint Schools and from the Opportunity Oxford scheme.

We are grateful to colleges for their help in making the selection process run so smoothly.

3. PRE-INTERVIEW ADMISSIONS TESTS

The written language tests last half-an-hour and were taken in test centres in October. Language tests consisted of 20 multiple-choice questions filling gaps in target-language sentences, and 10 questions translating from the target language into English. The test is designed to test knowledge of basic structures of the foreign language. It is not primarily a test of vocabulary. Candidates applying for a Beginners' Language are not required to take a test in that language, and this year for the first time, they were not required to take the Language Aptitude Test either. The LAT remains part of the suite of MLAT tests, but is now used only for Russian Single Honours, courses with Polish and courses with Beginners' Russian.