

## Admissions frequently asked questions

The following are some of the more common questions we receive about undergraduate applications to Brasenose. If you have any additional questions after reading these please do contact the Admissions Office ([admissions@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@bnc.ox.ac.uk) or 01865 277510).

### Does Brasenose accept applications from students on a gap year?



Yes, in all subjects! Although most of our applicants will still be taking their A-levels or equivalent we do receive many applications each year from 'post-qualification' students taking some form of gap year. We have no particular preference for activities you might undertake on a gap year, although you should consider how taking a year out of academic study might affect relevant skills (such as mathematical or essay-writing skills). If you are able to undertake activities relevant to your chosen course this may be a good way to explore your subject further but this is not required!

### Does Brasenose accept applications for deferred entry, and is it harder to get a place?

Yes, in all subjects except Fine Art! If you are considering taking a gap year but would like to apply whilst still at school you may apply through UCAS for deferred entry. When making final decisions for direct entry we are able to compare all of our candidates alongside each other. However for deferred entry this is not possible and so the overall standard required is usually slightly higher (A-level or equivalent entry requirements do not change). With that said, it is sometimes the case that if we aren't able to offer you deferred entry we could offer you direct entry instead, and you would then have the opportunity to decide whether or not to accept this offer.

### Do Brasenose prefer students with four A-levels rather than three?

We have no particular preference. Provided your A-levels, excluding General Studies, allow you to meet the University's entrance requirements you are not at any automatic advantage or disadvantage by taking three or four A-levels. We see many applications each year from both categories, and in both cases some candidates are successful and some are not. There may, of course, be indirect advantages in taking an additional subject (such as additional honing of your problem solving or critical thinking skills), but there may also be indirect disadvantages or you may stretch yourself a little too far and be predicted below our entry requirements or even fail to meet a conditional offer. Candidates should discuss the possible options with their school and make an informed decision based on their own circumstances.



### **Am I at an advantage for taking an A-level earlier than in Year 13?**

Similar to those taking four A-levels rather than three, there is no automatic advantage or disadvantage, but indirectly it may affect how well you meet the selection criteria. At Brasenose our policy is such that we often make offers to candidates who have already taken an A-level on three further A-levels if taken, although sometimes the grade required in the 'fourth' A-level will be lower. For instance if you have taken A-level Mathematics in Year 12, are taking three additional A-levels, and have been offered a place for History and Economics (normal requirements are AAA), then your conditions may be set at AAB in addition to your A/A\* in Mathematics.

### **Is there anything that the Brasenose tutors in particular are looking for?**

All courses have centrally coordinated admissions procedures, and entry requirements and selection criteria are standard across the University. More information about the selection criteria for each course can be found on

central webpages: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/selection-criteria>. Although the exact format and contact of interviews is likely to vary between colleges, interviews are assessing the same criteria at Brasenose as they are across the whole University.

### **Is there anything I can do in Year 11/12 to benefit my application?**

Although exact selection criteria do vary between courses, all of our courses look to select applicants that are passionate about their subject and are genuinely interested in the course. It is important to us that applicants have followed their interests and taken things further than they would normally have done at school in the relevant subject. There are a variety of possible ways to investigate your subject further, the most common of which is to do lots of reading. A relevant Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) could also be another method of demonstrating your interest in the subject, but it is not the only one, and is certainly not required (nor does it count towards the offer requirements)!

Check out these four myths about Oxford that we've debunked: <https://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/prospective-students/schools-liaison/832-four-myths-about-oxford>.

### **Are my GCSE grades good enough to apply to Brasenose?**

Although there are no formal requirements for GCSE grades (there are some basic standard requirements, such as requiring a C/4 in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent to study Law) we do carefully consider the prior attainment of our candidates. This means looking at your overall GCSE profile, but also how you've performed compared to the average at your school, and then also how you are progressing from GCSE to A-level (or equivalent). This means that, if you think your GCSE results might not be good enough, a good performance compared to your peers and/or an upward trajectory might mean you are actually very competitive! The range of GCSE grades for successful candidates is very large, and covers those who gain no A\*/8/9s right the way up to those that achieve A\*/8/9 in all subjects.

### **My friend at school also wants to apply to Brasenose for the same subject. Could we both get a place?**

Yes! At Brasenose we, as all Oxford colleges, wish to take the best students, and if all of the best applicants within a subject come from the same school then we'd take them all! If you both want to apply to Brasenose (or any College) then you both can.