**Keble at Large**

MATHEMATCS

APPLICATION GUIDE

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| **Deadline for applying through UCAS** | **15th October 2016** |
| **A-Level requirements** | **A\*A\*A** with the A\*s in Mathematics and Further Mathematics (if taken). Further Mathematics is not essential, but it is highly recommended. |
| **Aptitude test?** | **Yes – The MAT** |
| **Course length** | **4 years** |
| **Qualification** | **A BA in 3 years**  **A MMath in 4 years** |

**UCAS Application**

* The application date for Oxford (and Cambridge) is earlier than most universities, the 15th of October, so make sure you are prepared for this.
* Your references will be sent in by your teachers so you shouldn’t have to worry about this, but it’s worth making sure they’re sent in before the 15th. These are to get a different perspective on you as a student, and may be taken into account when deciding who to invite to interview.
* Some statistics about acceptance rates, varying by subject, college, gender etc can be found here: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/admissions-statistics/undergraduate?wssl=1>
* There are no set GCSE requirements to get a place, but they will play a small part in deciding whether to invite you to interview.

**Personal Statement**

* This is a very difficult part of the application, and there is a wealth of information out there on how to write the ideal personal statement. However, there is no set way to do this and you shouldn’t worry about it being perfect. It is designed so the University can learn about your achievements and interests.
* Make sure you know what the course actually entails, as these may vary by University. You can then use this to fine tune your statement to include things about specific topics/modules.
* The things you should include in your personal statement are: your motivation for taking your chosen subject to university level, any areas of the A level course you found particularly interesting, extracurricular activities and any reading that you have done around the subject.
* Don’t stress about it! For Maths, they really only want to know how good you are, and you can show this in the MAT and the interview. However, do not lie in your personal statement, as if asked about it in the interview you’ll be in trouble.

**Recommended Reading**

* If there is a topic that you find interesting (Number Theory, Geometry, Algebra, Statistics, Mechanics for example) then find some books on these. I’m not saying to learn any material as such but there any many books which outline the history of these topics and the current mathematical issues with them. These will give you something to talk about in your personal statement and in interview.
* If you don’t have a topic, don’t worry! I didn’t, and there are lots of books which give a more general outlook on Mathematics, which can help to broaden your knowledge and expose you a bit to University level Mathematics.
* This is by no means a complete list of good books to read but gives you an idea of the sort of things you could choose: <http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Recommended_Mathematics_Reading>
* Oxford themselves also provide a list here: <https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/system/files/attachments/introbook15_0.pdf>

**Admissions Test**

* The next step of the application after UCAS is the MAT. This is only for Oxford and is critical for your application. Your school may not arrange this for you so make sure you are booked in before the deadline.
* See here for all the guide to applying: <https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduate-study/maths-admissions-test>
* There is a syllabus available at the link above so make sure there aren’t any topics that you don’t think you could answer any questions on – they could all come up.
* Make sure you try all the past papers, and do them under exam conditions so you can get a feel for what it’ll be like in the exam. Don’t be disheartened at first, these are a lot more challenging than anything you will have seen until now.
* The test is made up of 10 multiple choice questions (4 marks each) and 4 long answer questions (15 marks each). Make sure you spend appropriate time on each section and even if you have no clue in the multiple choice section, guess!
* A few things to learn that could be very helpful: standard trigonometric differentials and integrals, compound angle formulae (sin(x+y) = ... etc), the addition formulae (cosx+cosy = … etc). These may also be useful in interview.

**Interview**

* If all goes smoothly, you will be invited for interview in December. This will require you to spend a few nights at one of the colleges.
* Generally, you will have two interviews at the college you’re staying at and one interview at a randomly assigned one. Make sure you know when and where your interviews are.
* They will tell you this whilst you’re there but you may have another interview that they decide upon after they have interviewed everyone. There will be a board where they advertise these so make sure you regularly check these.
* To prepare make sure you know personal statement ie any books you’ve put on there or any specific topic areas. With Maths however, at this stage they really just want to know how good at Maths you are.
* The format will be the interviewers setting you problems and seeing how you go about it. TALK! The best advice I got was to make sure everything I was thinking I said out loud. They don’t want someone to just silently solve the problem, they want to hear how you think and how you would approach the problem. Also, if you get stuck, don’t be afraid to ask for a tip, as they would much rather this than a long silence.
* Clothes: lots of people worry about what to wear but the university simply says to wear whatever you feel comfortable in. What you wear will not affect your chances of getting in, but it is worth wearing something that shows you are taking this opportunity seriously.
* Finally, don’t be worried about being nervous! I think the interviews were one of the most nerve wracking things I’ve done, so remember it’s completely normal.

Best of luck, and if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to send me an email at [max.crolla@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:max.crolla@keble.ox.ac.uk)