

Feedback for applicants to Earth Sciences, 2024

Earth Sciences had, in total, 187 applicants across all colleges, broken down as follows: 98 male, 87 female, 2 prefer not to say/use another term; 1 for deferred entry; 76 from the UK, 111 from overseas. This year, 45 applicants received conditional offers to study Earth Sciences at Oxford starting in 2025. In total, therefore, there were 4.16 applicants per place for entry in 2024, resulting in a highly competitive process.

The Earth Sciences admissions procedure is as follows: all candidates who were predicted to meet our minimum offer (including our required subjects of Maths and at least one of Chemistry or Physics), had strong academic records and references, and showed an understanding of the Oxford Earth Sciences course in their UCAS statement were shortlisted and invited to interview. Earth Sciences does not use a pre-interview test. This year we shortlisted 148 applicants. The average number of GCSEs held by these applicants (who sat more than five GCSEs) was 9.5. The average cGCSE score for these candidates was 0.17. Each of the shortlisted candidates was invited to two interviews. Interviewers evaluated candidates against our selection criteria (<https://www.earth.ox.ac.uk/teaching/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/>). Each candidate was assessed on their qualitative and quantitative skills, and was awarded numerical scores based on their performance in each interview. A description of each candidate's performance was also made to complement the numerical score. These scores and descriptions formed the basis of the decision making process, alongside the University of Oxford's guidelines for widening participation. This decision making was conducted by a group of 15 faculty and stipendiary lecturers in the Earth Sciences department.

The college choices of Earth Sciences applicants are intentionally not known to the admissions panel until after the panel have selected all candidates that will be offered places. The goal of this is that applicants have equal chances of being offered a place, regardless of which college they applied to (although they may be reallocated to a different college upon offer of a place to study).