

## Report on History of Art BA Admissions 2021-2022

### 1. Admissions statistics

The History of Art BA course received 122 applications this year, which represents 7.2 candidates per place. 49 candidates were invited for interview. 17 candidates were offered places.

The 17 offers were made to 16 female candidates and 1 male candidate. Offers were made to 9 candidates from UK state-funded schools, 6 candidates from UK independent schools, and 2 candidates from overseas schools.

104 applicants were female (85.2%); 18 were male (14.8%). 42 of those interviewed were female (85.7%) and 7 male (14.3%). Offers were made to 16 female candidates (94.1%) and 1 male candidate (5.9%). The success rate for female candidates was 15.4% and for male candidates 5.6%.

39 applicants (up 7 from last year) were from UK state-funded schools (32.0%), 39 were from UK independent schools (32.0%), and 44 were from overseas schools (36.1%). 24 of those interviewed were from UK state-funded schools (49.0%), 20 were from UK independent schools (40.8%), and 5 were from overseas schools (10.2%). Offers were made to 9 candidates from UK state-funded schools (52.9%), 6 to candidates from UK independent schools (35.3%), and 2 to candidates from overseas schools (11.8%). Of UK-educated offer holders, 60.0% are from the state sector and 40.0% from the independent sector. The success rate for UK state sector candidates was 23.1% and for UK independent school candidates 15.4%. For overseas candidates the success rate was 4.5%.

### 2. Admissions processes

The Admissions Panel comprised representatives from all participating colleges together with members of the Department of History of Art. For interviews the Panel was augmented by a JRF and two advanced doctoral candidates. Each candidate's UCAS form and written work were assessed against the subject's published selection criteria (<https://www.hoa.ox.ac.uk/guidance-applicants>) by two members of the panel. For every candidate one assessor was the college representative of the candidate's first choice college. At the short-listing meeting, attended by all members of the Admissions Panel and held virtually due to the COVID pandemic, each applicant was considered on his/her own merits and also as part of the gathered field of all applicants. Contextual data and any special circumstances were taken into consideration as appropriate. Very careful consideration was given to all aspects of each application, including academic record (achieved results and predicted marks), the school reference, the personal statement, and the two required pieces of written work (a marked school essay, or equivalent, and a 750-word response to a piece of art, architecture or design). Shortlisting decisions were not based on any single aspect of an application, but on the combined evidence presented to and very carefully considered by the Panel as a whole.

Because of the COVID pandemic, interviews were held virtually on MS Teams. Each candidate had two pre-scheduled interviews, each with a pair of interviewers from the Admissions Panel. For each candidate one of the four interviewers was the college representative of the candidate's first choice college. In their first interview, candidates were asked to discuss their application materials and written work; in their second interview, candidates were asked to discuss images with which they were unfamiliar.

During the Final Selection Meeting, held on MS Teams and attended by all members of the Admissions Panel, all interviewed candidates were assessed against the subject's published selection criteria (<https://www.hoa.ox.ac.uk/guidance-applicants>). The Panel's discussions were extensive. Decisions

were once again not based on a single element of an application or on interview performance alone, but rather took account of each applicant on his/her own individual merits and also in the context of the gathered field as a whole. Contextual data and any special circumstances were again taken into consideration as appropriate. The Panel had to make many difficult decisions based on candidates' past and predicted achievements, performance at interview, written work (including the personal statement), and future potential. After very careful consideration of all the available evidence, the Panel was unanimous in its final recommendations.