



Postgraduate access and widening participation at the University of Oxford

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Why do equality and diversity matter to Oxford?

“We are committed to equality of opportunity, to engendering inclusivity, and to supporting staff and student wellbeing, ensuring that the very best students and staff can flourish in our community.

“We believe that a diverse staff and student body strengthens our research and enhances our students’ learning.”

University of Oxford Strategic Plan 2018-2024

Why do equality and diversity matter to Oxford? (cont.)

 The Independent

How state schools contribute to the Oxbridge north-south admissions bias

'Expanding the grammar school system will not redress the inequality in access to Oxbridge,' a researcher said.

16 Aug 2016



 The Independent

Oxford University admits need to improve student diversity after third of colleges accept handful of black applicants ...

'The truth is that Oxford is still a bastion of white middle-class southern privilege', Labour MP David Lammy says.

23 May 2018



 Channel 4

FactCheck: Oxford was more likely to offer a place to the best black candidates last year – but its race problem is more ...

Oxford University published its latest admission statistics this week. In a country where seven out the last 10 Prime Ministers went to...

24 May 2018



 The Independent

Oxford University to offer free year of study to disadvantaged students with lower grades

Move is 'sea change' in admissions for university, vice-chancellor says.

21 May 2019



 Daily Mail

Eton College loses HALF its Oxbridge offers as universities try to boost intake from state schools

Oxford and Cambridge universities have offered just 48 places to Eton pupils this year, compared to 99 in 2014. The universities have...

13 Feb 2021



 The Telegraph

Oxford University admits fewer state school pupils for third year in a row

Institution's latest admissions statistics are 'disappointing' and fall far 'short of reflecting wider society', say teaching unions.

22 hours ago





What made you decide to apply to Oxford for postgraduate study?

"Studying at Oxford is a dream so big and far-fetched that people are almost even too afraid to dream it, and as such, never vocalise or chase it."

DPhil candidate in Biochemistry and Academic Futures scholar

Outreach

**Pre-application
/ application**

Assessment

Funding

**Transition to
Oxford**

*Will double in
size from
2026*

UNIQ+

**Events /
campaigns**

**Socio-
economic
data**

**Website
information**

Fee waiver

**Close the Gap
(PGR offer
rates)**

**Contextual
data**

Anonymisation

**Contextual
statement**

**Guaranteed
interviews
(in some instances)**

**Structured
reference**

**Academic
Futures
scholarships
(Black British,
care
experienced,
refugees)**

**Targeted
offer-holder
information
sessions**

**'Preparing for
Oxford' emails**

*Additional 'socio-
economic' strand
from next year*



UNIQ+ research internship programme

- Research internship programme for current / recent undergraduates from under-represented and / or disadvantaged backgrounds
- Seven weeks in July / August
- Interns undertake a research project, working with a supervisor, and conclude with a presentation to their peers
- Accompanying programme of skills training (research skills, careers, how to apply etc.) and social activities

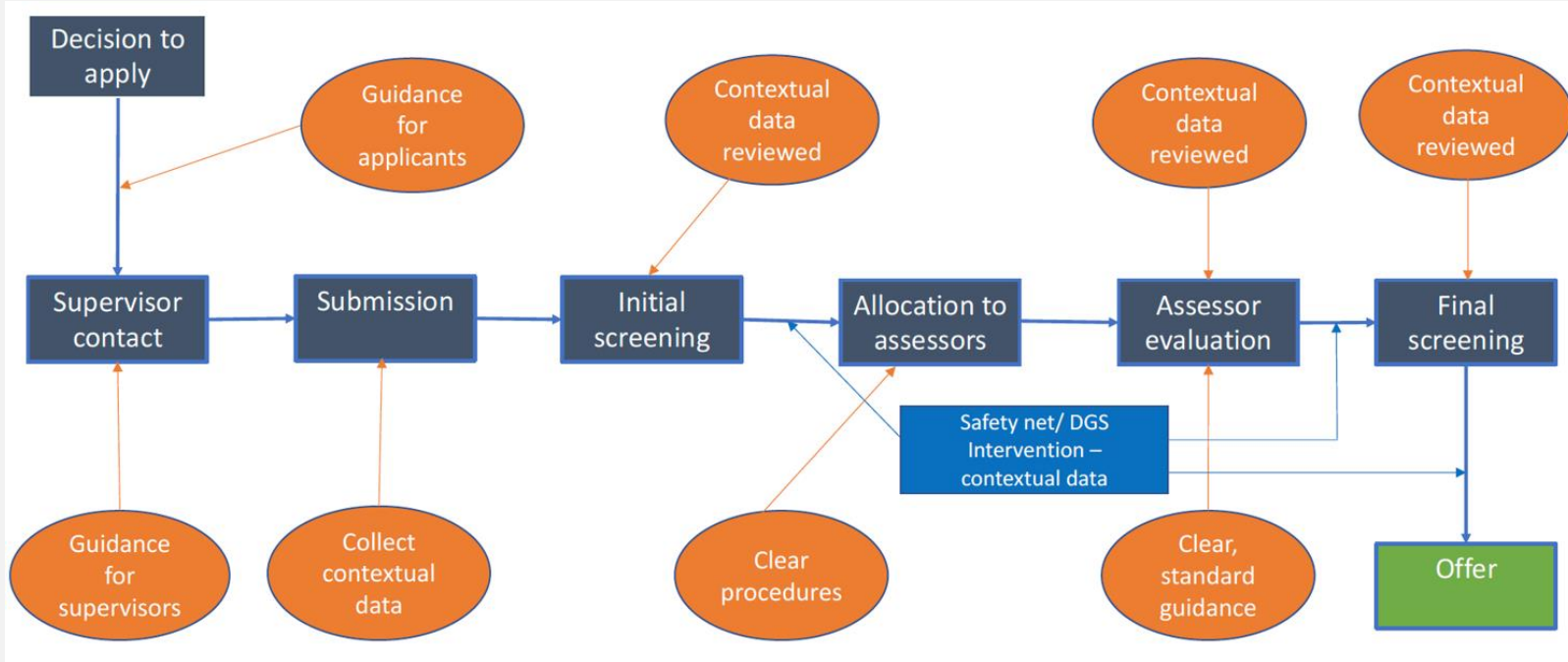
UNIQ+ research internship programme (cont.)

UNIQ+ PG applications to Oxford 2019-2023 compared to overall applications

UNIQ+ participants	UNIQ+ apps to Oxford	UNIQ+ offers	UNIQ+ accepts	UNIQ+ offer rate	Overall Oxford offer rate	UNIQ+ registration	Overall registration
635	343	130	53	37.18%	27.58%	50.86%	62.12%

What does it mean in practice?

Selection Pilots & Close the Gap:





Academic Futures

- Created to address under-representation and disadvantage in Oxford's graduate student recruitment.
- Black Academic Futures is the first and largest strand with over 70 scholars on course over 3 intakes
- Importance of on-course support - belonging



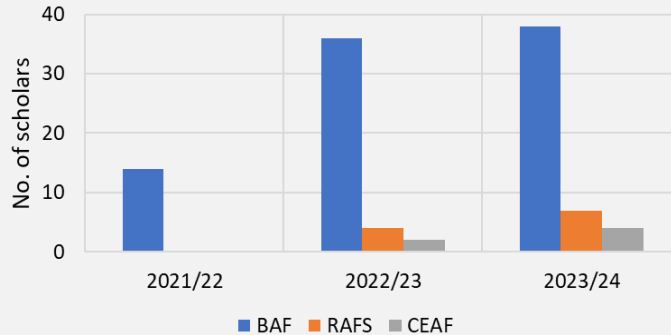
BLACK ♦
ACADEMIC
FUTURES



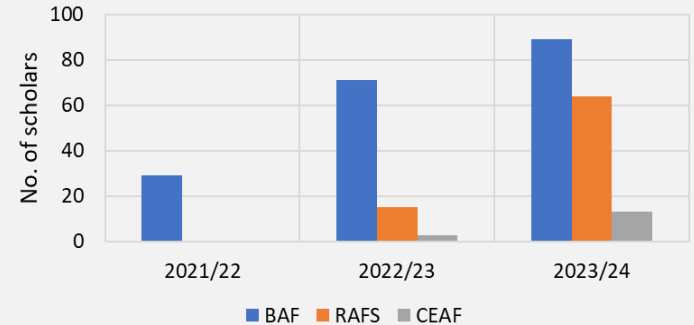
Academic Futures (cont.)

- The demand is greater than the funding available
- New 'socio-economic' strand coming on stream next year

Scholar numbers



Eligible offer holders





What made you decide to take up your offer of a place at Oxford?

“

If I was offered a place without funding, I would've turned it down. The scholarship afforded me the freedom to make a decision based purely on my own desire to pursue research here and at this level, taking fear of survival out of the equation.

DPhil candidate in Biochemistry and Academic Futures scholar

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The Oxford context / imperative

- Access to additional resources
- Imperative to act?
- Postgraduate access as a shared endeavour



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Questions?

www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/access