

Music 2025-26 cycle admissions report

Note on the data in this report

The data used for the statistics in this report are a snapshot of the data available on 12 January 2026. Whilst it is not anticipated that there will be significant change between this date and the date on which candidates are notified of the outcome of their applications, small changes may be possible. As such, the statistics presented in this report may differ slightly from any statistics produced after final decisions are communicated.

Candidates who withdrew before final decisions were made, or that submitted their applications after the deadline at 6pm on 15th October 2025 that were not considered, are excluded from the statistics given in this report.

Admissions requirements

Information on the requirements to study Music at Oxford can be found on the University website at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/course-listing/music> and on the department website at <https://www.music.ox.ac.uk/apply/undergraduate/application-procedure>.

Application numbers

The table below shows information regarding the number of applicants, shortlisted applicants, and applicants made offers. It further shows the numbers by Gender (“Prefers not to say” and “Uses another term” have been combined due to low numbers), and by domicile (“UK” or “Non-UK”).

	Man	Woman	Prefers not to say/Uses another term	UK	Non-UK	Total
Applicants	86	101	9	151	45	196
Shortlisted applicants	85	100	9	149	45	194
Applicants made offers	50	40	5	81	14	95

GCSE results

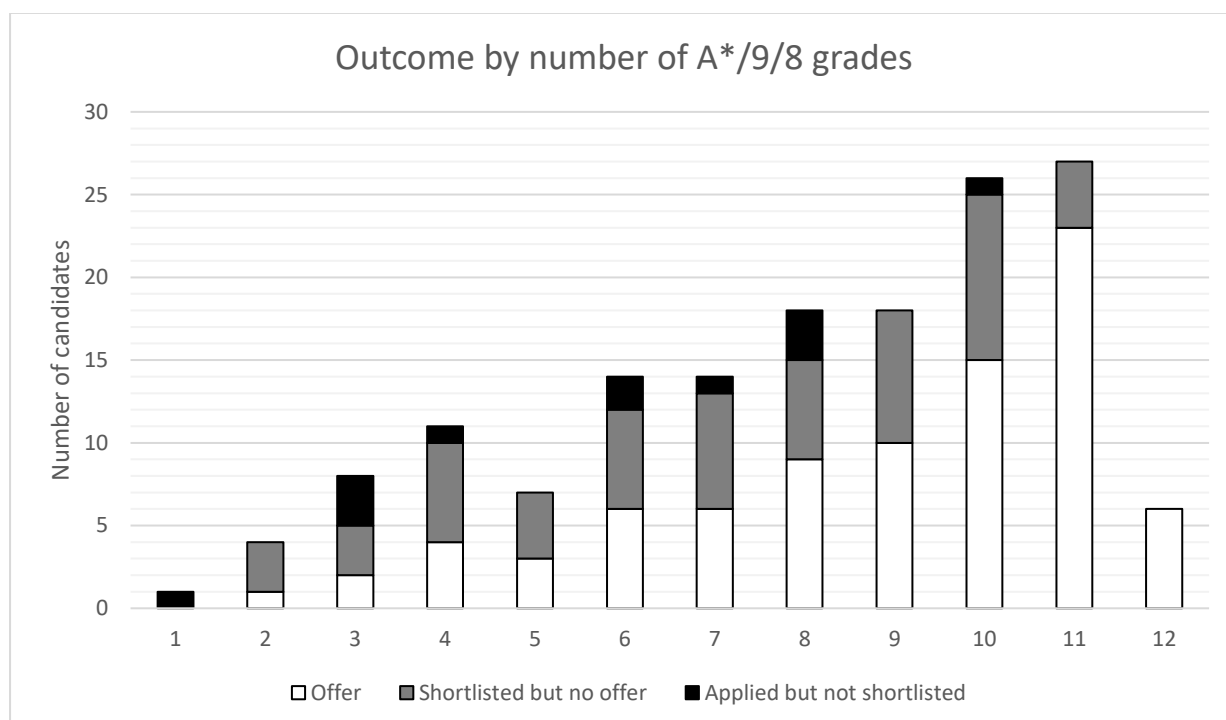
GCSEs (General Certificates in Secondary Education) are UK qualifications usually taken in Year 11 (when the applicant is 15-16). It is not required for applicants to have taken GCSEs, and we receive and consider many applications, particularly from outside the UK, that have not taken GCSEs. However, where these results are available, they are considered when making decisions.

In this section, “A*/9/8” refers to GCSE results of A* **or** 9 **or** 8 (the grading may depend on the exact qualification and when it was taken), and only includes applicants that have taken at least five GCSEs.

The average numbers of A*/9/8 grades for all applicants, shortlisted applicants, and applicants made offers, are listed in the table below.

	Average number of A*/9/8 grades
Applicants	6.9
Shortlisted Applicants	7.0
Applicants made offers	7.9

The chart below shows the outcome for applicants by their number of A*/9/8 grades.



Shortlisting decisions

Candidates will normally be invited for interview (shortlisted) if they have met, or are predicted to meet, our standard offer of AAA at A Level with an A in Music (or equivalent). Home Candidates whose schools do not offer the A Level in Music need to pass ABRSM Grade 7 in addition to AAA at A Level. International qualifications are recognised in line with the university-wide admissions policy. We will carefully consider additional circumstances such as access to music education, and educational disruption, in line with university procedures. Both shortlisting and final decisions for Music are made on the basis of all available information, without any set weighting granted to particular parts of the application. This includes the education/qualification history of the applicant, the Personal Statement, the Reference, predicted grades (if applicable), written work and the performance video received.

Interviews

The majority of Music applicants were interviewed online over two or three days in December. Every Music candidate has a minimum of two interviews with two different colleges. This gives every candidate more than one opportunity to talk about their interest in Music and why they want to study at Oxford. Applicants identified as being in the most disadvantaged group are offered an interview at a third college. A number of candidates will be invited for a further Faculty-based interview in 10th week.

Interviewing tutors consider:

- Knowledge acquired through a current or completed A Level Music course (or equivalent);
- Powers of reasoning: ability to reason and think critically;
- Communication: ability to engage in debate and use appropriate terminology;
- Potential to engage with the undergraduate course.

Final Decisions

Following the interviews, all tutors met and carefully considered every application based on:

- UCAS application (personal statement and reference)
- Results in GCSE or equivalent examinations
- Actual or predicted results at A Level or equivalent
- Submitted written work
- Interview