

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR

MSc MATHEMATICAL & COMPUTATIONAL FINANCE FOR ENTRY IN 2012-13

1. Criteria

Within equal opportunities principles and legislation, applications will be assessed in the light of a candidate's ability to meet the following criteria:

2. Academic ability

Proven and potential academic excellence.

Applicants are normally expected to be predicted or to have achieved a first-class or an upper second class undergraduate degree (or equivalent international qualifications¹) in Mathematics or a related discipline: the degree should cover the following subjects: calculus, linear algebra, probability, partial differential equations. We also expect candidates to have at least a basic knowledge of algorithms and programming.

For applicants with a degree from the USA, the minimum GPA we seek is 3.6 out of 4.0.

However, entrance is very competitive and most successful applicants have a first class degree or its equivalent.

Appropriate indicators will include:

Academic references/letters of recommendation, which support intellectual ability, academic achievement and motivation.

Solutions to the MSc in Mathematical & Computational Finance Admissions Exercise, which is available on the admissions section of the course website. Applicants must submit solutions to the exercise as part of their application. The MSc MCF admissions exercise is not a formal written examination but candidates must certify that their solutions are their own unaided work by signing the 'authenticity statement' attached to the exercise. Applicants' solutions are used to assess whether their mathematical background (particularly in the areas stated above) is adequate.

Transcript Candidates are required to provide an official transcript in English as part of their application (an interim transcript if necessary). This will be assessed for academic ability in Mathematics as above.

Personal statement and CV The personal statement should be written in English, and should be about one page long. This will be assessed for: your reasons for applying; evidence of motivation for and understanding of the proposed area of study; commitment to the subject, beyond the requirements of the degree course; capacity for sustained and intense work; reasoning ability; ability to absorb new ideas, often presented abstractly, at a rapid pace. The CV should be written in English and should be about one page long.

Performance at interview Based on the criteria above applicants are ranked and the highest ranked are selected for interview. The Admissions Panel aims to interview two applicants per place. Applicants living within reasonable proximity of Oxford are invited to attend an interview

¹ If you hold non-British qualifications, you are advised to check with the National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC) www.naric.org.uk how your qualifications match these requirements.

in person; those living further away are invited to be interviewed via telephone. Interviews are used to confirm candidates' mathematical backgrounds and will be of a predominantly technical nature.

3. Other qualifications and experience

- Professional experience in quantitative finance may be an advantage.

4. Availability of supervision, teaching, facilities and places

The following factors will govern whether candidates can be offered places:

- The ability of the Mathematical Institute to provide the appropriate supervision, research opportunities, teaching and facilities for your chosen area of work.
- There are minimum and maximum limits to the numbers of students who may be admitted onto Oxford's research and taught programmes.

The provision of supervision is subject to the following points.

- The allocation of graduate supervision is the responsibility of the Mathematical Institute and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff.
- Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside the Mathematical Institute.

5. English language requirement

Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to provide evidence of proficiency in English at the higher level required by the University

http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/apply/internat_students.html.

6. Deadlines and required full set of application materials

Please refer to the Graduate Admissions website

http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/apply/application_guide.html#awhen_to_apply

for information on the deadlines which must be met, and the full set of supporting materials required, in order for applications to be guaranteed to be considered.

7. Whether you have yet secured funding is not taken into consideration in the decision to make an initial offer a place, but please note that the initial offer of a place will not be confirmed until the college which gives you an initial offer of a place is satisfied that you have sufficient funding to cover your fees and living costs for the standard period of fee liability for your course.

8. Disability, health conditions and specific learning difficulties.

Students are selected for admission without regard to gender, marital or civil partnership status, disability, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or social

background. Decisions on admission are based solely on the individual academic merits of each candidate and the application of the selection criteria appropriate to the programme of study. Further information on how these matters are supported during the admissions process is available here.

http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/about_the_university/graduate_welfare/e_d.html

9. Other information

- Acceptance on this course does not guarantee the offer of a DPhil place.
- We encourage prospective applicants to communicate with us prior to submitting an application to discuss the course content, teaching, assessment and to answer any questions.
- In the case of students who require specific help to adjust to an academic programme or to a new range of skills, the supervisor will work with them to ensure that they have additional support.

10. Assessors

All applications will be assessed by more than one member of the academic staff with relevant experience and expertise.

11. Course webpage

<https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/current-students/graduates/taught-courses/mscmcf>