

Engineering Science At Oxford

ALTHEONE

An Applicant's Guide

What the course involves, who it suits, and what Oxford expects before you write a word of the application.

The Course

One unified degree, six later specialisms

- Oxford does not offer separate Civil, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering degrees.
- Applicants apply for Engineering Science, a four-year MEng, UCAS code H100.
- The first two years are common to all students: mechanics, electronics, mathematics, structures and thermodynamics.
- Specialisation begins in year three into Biomedical, Chemical, Civil, Electrical, Information and Mechanical Engineering.
- Talk broadly about engineering, not just one narrow branch.

Choosing a college

- All 39 colleges offering the course teach the same University-run degree.
- Base your choice on practical fit: accommodation, size, location and community.
- Pool placement is normal.

Entry At A Glance

A*A*A

A*'s in two of Maths,
Further Maths, Physics

Qualification

A-Level

Advanced Highers

International Baccalaureate

39

Colleges offering the course

Typical Offer

A*A*A, A*'s in two of Maths / Further Maths / Physics

AA / AAB, assessed case-by-case

40, 776 at HL, 75 in HL Maths and Physics

~16%

Approximate recent offer
rate

Source: eng.ox.ac.uk entry requirements

A Typical Week

- Teaching combines faculty lectures with small-group college tutorials, usually one or two per week.
- Students work through problem sheets with a tutor.
- First and second year include laboratory sessions and design-build-test projects.
- Independent study matters: work through problem sheets before tutorials.
- Tutors value setup, reasoning and physical explanation over memorised methods.
- Third and fourth years move toward specialist options and a substantial individual or group project.

Careers & Beyond The Academics

- Graduates move into engineering, technology, finance and general business.
- The degree emphasises analytical skills rather than one fixed path.

Engineering roles

IT roles

Business, consulting

Finance roles

- Engineering has historically been male-skewed nationally.
- Oxford runs a dedicated Women in Engineering programme and outreach.
- This may be relevant when framing an application.

Source: Discover Uni H100 destinations data; eng.ox.ac.uk; Women in Engineering. Destinations figures are single-cohort and directional, not fixed.

The Degree, Year By Year

Years 1–2

- Common foundation for every student: mechanics, electronics, mathematics, structures and thermofluids.
- Includes design-build-test projects and laboratory work.
- No branch chosen yet.

Year 3

- Specialisation begins.
- Students pick option courses from Biomedical, Chemical, Civil, Electrical, Information and Mechanical Engineering.
- Project work becomes more prominent.

Year 4 (MEng)

- Further specialisation.
- Substantial individual or group project, often supervised by an academic active in that field, alongside remaining option courses.

Want personalised feedback?

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altheone.com admissions@altheone.com

Building the Application

A practical guide to the ESAT, personal statement and interview

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The ESAT

Mathematics 1, Mathematics 2, Physics

Sat through Pearson VUE, replacing the PAT for 2027 entry. There is no published pass mark or fixed weighting; it is one comparable data point alongside predicted grades, the statement and, for shortlisted candidates, the interview.

Formula sheets are not provided.

Personal Statement

Show the reasoning, not the résumé

Not simply a list of projects and competitions. Tutors want evidence that an applicant already thinks like an engineer: a physical principle noticed, a model formed, tested and explained when it broke down.

Two or three examples explored properly outperform five mentioned in passing.

Keep it broad enough to fit the unified first two years, rather than committing early to one specialism.

The Interview

Two colleges.

Two interviews, at two colleges, are not necessarily on the same day. The interviews, roughly 30–45 minutes, often opens on motivation before moving into problems.

Each question is worked from a physical scenario, with the interviewer steering. Knowing a hint partway through is expected and does not count against you.

A question drawn from the statement is common, so everything mentioned there should survive follow-up questioning.

Five Habits That Strengthen All Three

- 01 After saving a problem, ask what the answer means physically and how it would change if one condition did.
- 02 Keep a short notebook of problems attempted and mistakes corrected; it is raw material for the statement and interview alike.
- 03 Read around one engineering problem in depth rather than surveying every branch of the subject.
- 04 Practise explaining a diagram, graph or set of assumptions out loud, not just on paper.
- 05 Notice or flag what you cannot discuss; anything mentioned in the application is fair game at interview.

Interview Preparation Checklist

- Can I set up a physical problem from scratch, not just recall a method?
- Am I comfortable talking through working out loud, not just on paper?
- Have I revisited school mechanics and electricity recently, even briefly?
- Can I discuss, in depth, everything named in my personal statement?
- Have I been wrong in practice, and corrected course when redirected?
- Do I have a genuine, specific answer to 'why engineering, why Oxford'?
- Am I treating hints as help, not as a sign I have failed the question?

Application Timeline

1 May – September
ESAT registration opens 1 June and closes 28 September.
Use the summer to sit past papers under timed conditions and draft the statement early.

2 Mid-October
ESAT test window;
UCAS submission follows shortly after, on 15 October, UK.
Engineering has no separate written-work or supplementary-form track.

3 November – January
ESAT results arrive mid-November. Shortlisted candidates are interviewed from late November into December; decisions follow in January.

Source: eng.ox.ac.uk; UAT-UK ESAT specification; Oxford Engineering Science common questions

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