

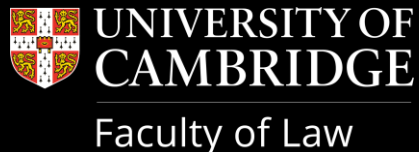
Simplifying Law Admissions: Helping Students with Tests and Applications

Presented by the University of Cambridge

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Session Outline

Part One: Making choices before applying

- Choosing the course
- Choosing the university
- Collegiate universities

Part Two: The Law application process

- What we are looking for
- Breaking down the application process
- Useful resources



Part One

Making choices before applying

The Law Application Process – All Universities

Choose your course

1



Choose your university

2



Book LNAT from 1 August. Sit LNAT by the relevant university deadline

3



UCAS application (January 14 2026)

4



Decision

5



The Law Application Process – Cambridge and Oxford

Choose your course

1



Choose a College or open application

2



Book LNAT from 1 August. Sit LNAT in September/early October

3



UCAS application (usually 15 October)

4



My Cambridge Application (1 week after application deadline)

5



Submit written work (where applicable)

6



Interview (usually December)

7



Decision (January)

8



Choose your course

1



- Combining Law with another subject, such as a language
- Provision of work experience or internships (for instance with law firms or chambers)
- Topics covered and teaching methods
- Duration of course and methods of assessment

Choose your university

2



- Law course
- Location
- Facilities such as accommodation and libraries
- Financial support

Collegiate Universities (Oxford and Cambridge)

A College is like a mini campus providing a base for students

Role of the College

- Admits students
- Academic and pastoral care
- Accommodation, meals and recreation
- Small group teaching (supervisions and tutorials)

Role of the University

- Determines course content
- Organises lectures, seminars, practicals and projects
- Sets (and marks examinations) and awards degrees



Collegiate Universities (Oxford and Cambridge)

Role of the College

- Admits students

Students apply to one College or submit an open application and get automatically allocated to one.

College choice does not affect the assessment of an application positively or negatively.



Part Two

The Law application process

So what are we looking for?

Academic ability
and potential

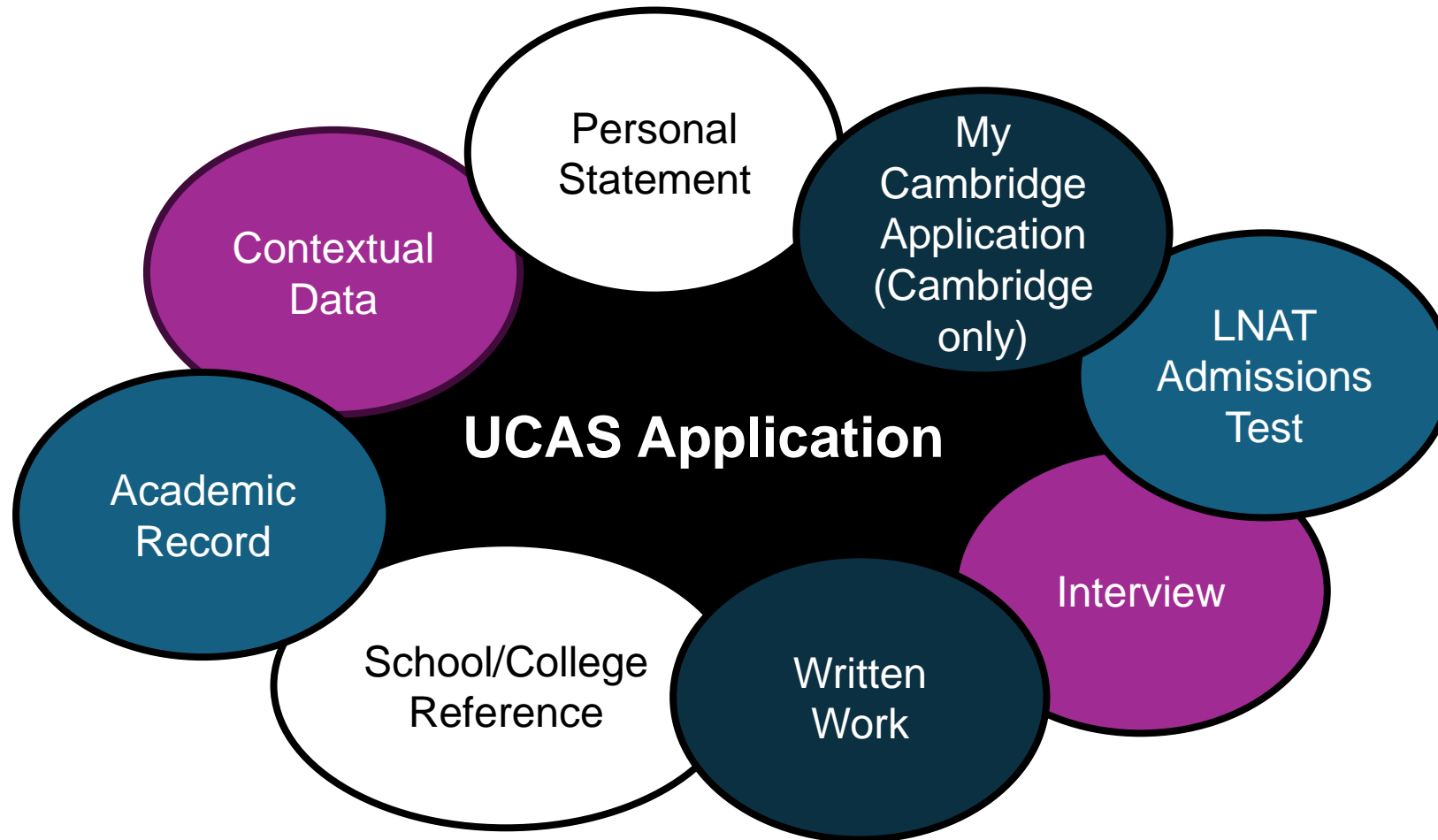
Subject
Requirements

Subject Interest –
Motivation and
Enthusiasm for
Law

Vocational
commitment
(where
appropriate)

Good 'fit' between
applicant and
course

What information do we use to assess applicants?



Universities consider applications individually, taking all aspects into account. No part of an application is considered in isolation – all available information is looked at together before decisions are made.



The LNAT (Law National Aptitude Test)

Some universities require the LNAT for admission. It tests verbal reasoning, comprehension, inductive and deductive reasoning and analytical capabilities for Law. The LNAT is not an intelligence test or a test of Law knowledge.

- Test is 2 hours 15 minutes:
 - Section 1 is 42 multiple choice questions on 12 argumentative passages over 95 minutes
 - Section 2 is an essay answering 1 of 3 possible questions over 40 minutes
- LNAT costs £75 for UK/EU test centres, and £120 for non-UK/EU test centres. Some UK or EU students are eligible for bursary support offered by Pearson
- Exam access requirements (e.g. additional time) must be approved in advance
- **Applicants need to sit the LNAT in September to early October for Oxford and Cambridge applications and by the end of January for other universities.* Registration usually starts on the 1st of August.**
- More information (how to book a test, testing centres, example questions, etc.) at www.lnat.ac.uk

* *The precise deadline for each university can be found on the [LNAT website](http://www.lnat.ac.uk).*

Russell Group universities using the LNAT

- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- Durham University
- University of Glasgow
- King's College London (KCL)
- London School of Economics (LSE)
- University of Oxford
- University College London (UCL)

UCAS Application

Note the format of the personal statement is changing for 2026 entry, from a free text answer to three questions.

The personal statement

- Honesty and integrity
- Students should cover interests in the course, relevant subjects they've studied and the skills they have learned, and supercurricular exploration
- More is not better – a few activities/subjects are enough when accompanied by analysis of the skills and interests they provided to the student
- Extracurricular activities are not relevant unless they show evidence of time management/organisation

Supercurricular exploration

Any activity which explores law and legal ideas

- Books, podcasts, blogs, online courses
- Mock lectures/seminars ran by universities
- Work experience/attending your local Crown Court
- Staying on top of the news

Thinking critically – students should think about questions raised by the material, what interested/surprised them, and how they can follow up on these interests.



The Interview

Some universities will offer an interview as part of the application process – most commonly this is Oxford and Cambridge, who run their interview round in December.

Structure of the interview (Oxford and Cambridge)

- One, two or three interviews
- Each 20-45 minutes
- Conducted by Law academics
- Predominantly academic and subject-focused, but no prior knowledge of Law is required!

What we're looking for (all universities)

- Interest, aptitude and motivation for Law
- Clarity of thought and analytical ability
- Enthusiasm for complex and challenging ideas
- Intellectual flexibility – being open to new ideas and applying existing knowledge to new and unknown situations



The Interview

How to prepare for the interview

- Staying on top of the news
- Reviewing the application
- Discussing academic or supercurricular work and legal topics of interest
- Practising 'thinking aloud' - explaining the reasoning behind their answers, not just responding straight away. The interview is a discussion rather than a test
- Avoiding rehearsed answers
- Being their authentic selves



The Decision

Rejection

Although this is not the desired result, it is important to support students both in terms of their mental health and in investigating their alternative options – this can include other universities they have applied to, clearing or reapplying the next year.

Offer (Acceptance)

- The offer may be **unconditional**
- More often, offers are **conditional** on the student achieving certain grades in, or completing, their academic qualifications. Offers may also carry a condition for the student to prove their English language ability



Further Resources



Your Questions

Thanks for listening and engaging!