Across the University there were 172 applicants for Oriental Studies. The estimated competition for places was 3.9 applicants per place.

138 applicants were shortlisted for interview. Candidates were likely to be called for interview in Oriental Studies if they had: a strong UCAS application, including a good academic record, with a majority of As or A*s at GCSE or equivalent, a majority of As at AS level or equivalent, and 3 A grades at A level or equivalent (predicted or achieved); submitted written work of a good standard. Evidence of above average linguistic ability was also desirable, in either a classical or modern language, and performance in the Oriental Languages Aptitude Test was also taken into account. Any relevant contextual information was also taken into account. Candidates who did not show this level of academic promise were not called for interview, as we consider that an interview is unlikely to compensate for weaknesses elsewhere in an application.

The OLAT is a thirty-minute admissions test taken by applicants wishing to read a Middle Eastern language as their main subject, either: Arabic, Hebrew, Jewish Studies, Persian or Turkish. The test is designed to assess a candidate’s ability to analyse how languages work, in a way which doesn't depend on knowledge of any particular language, in order to gauge aptitude for learning a new language rapidly. When examining the results, it is principally evidence of system and accuracy that is being investigated. Candidates may request their OLAT score from the College. Further information about the OLAT can be found on the Admissions Testing Service website: http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/olat/about-olat/

All overseas candidates offered interviews were given the choice of either attending interview in Oxford or having a Skype interview. Shortlisted candidates were interviewed and graded according to the information on their UCAS forms (including all relevant contextual information), their submitted work, and their Faculty interview. To this information was added the candidate’s performance in the college interview. The selection criteria for Oriental Studies are published on the web at: http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/selection-criteria.

Across the University 51 offers were made for Oriental Studies, and several more offers for Oriental Studies were made to candidates who had applied for European and Middle Eastern Languages. Mansfield offered 3 places for 2018 entry.