



EXAMINATION FELLOWSHIPS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN I APPLY IF I HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD?

Yes, provided you are registered for a higher degree at the University of Oxford and also fulfil the other conditions mentioned in the Further Particulars.

AM I ALLOWED TO SIT THE FELLOWSHIP EXAMINATION AT THE SAME TIME AS I AM JOINING THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD TO STUDY FOR A HIGHER DEGREE?

Yes, provided you have a degree from the University of Oxford or have registered for a higher degree there by 1st October in the year in which you are applying, you can sit the Fellowship Examination that year.

IF SUCCESSFUL IN THE EXAMINATIONS, CAN I DEFER TAKING UP THE FELLOWSHIP?

So far, those securing a Fellowship by Examination have taken up their Fellowship immediately after their election but it is possible for a Fellow by Examination to defer the start of the Fellowship by up to one year from the date of election.

AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY IF I DID NOT GET A FIRST (OR EQUIVALENT) FOR MY UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE?

Yes, provided you have successfully completed a BA (or equivalent) and fulfil the other conditions mentioned in the Further Particulars, you can apply. When we assess applicants, we do not take account of their undergraduate degree result. However, because the standard of the Fellowship Examination is high, the successful candidates are likely to be ones who either obtained a high First Class undergraduate degree and won an undergraduate prize, or reached an equivalent level of achievement.

I HAVE A BSc BUT NOT A BA. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Yes, anyone with an undergraduate Bachelor's degree is eligible to apply, provided they also fulfil the other conditions mentioned in the Further Particulars. The reason why we specify 'BA or equivalent degree' is simply because at the University of Oxford all undergraduate Bachelor's degrees are called BAs.

I HAVE TWO UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES. WHEN DO THE ‘SEVEN TERMS FROM GRADUATION’ START?

They start from the date of completion of your first degree; you will be eligible to sit for a Fellowship by Examination only if you are within seven terms of the completion of your first degree.

CAN ANY EXCEPTIONS BE MADE TO THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?

Exceptions to the eligibility criteria can sometimes be made, but very rarely and only in exceptional circumstances (e.g. documented long-term illness).

CAN I SIT THE FELLOWSHIP EXAMINATION MORE THAN ONCE?

You can sit the Examination as many times as you wish, provided you continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

CAN I SIT THE EXAMINATION ONLINE IF I AM UNABLE TO COME TO OXFORD?

Unfortunately we are unable to make provision for candidates to sit the Examination online. You will need to be able to come to Oxford to sit the Examination in person.

CAN SCIENTISTS AND MATHEMATICIANS SIT THE EXAMINATIONS?

Some Fellows of All Souls do work in Mathematics and the Natural Sciences, but for the Fellowship Examination there are no specialist subject papers in the sciences, only in certain Humanities and Social Science subjects (in which eligible candidates must have completed or be studying for a degree).

IS IT POSSIBLE TO TAKE SPECIALIST PAPERS IN TWO DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES?

No. You must select one and the same subject for both Specialist Papers.

WHICH SUBJECTS ARE INCLUDED UNDER THE HEADINGS ‘HUMANITIES’ AND ‘SOCIAL SCIENCES’?

The College follows Oxford University’s subject definitions and allocations as detailed by the University’s four [divisions](#). Your subject must fall under either the Humanities or the Social Sciences heading.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO SIT THE EXAM IF I HAVE A JOINT DEGREE?

Yes. If you have a joint degree, you are still able to sit the exam provided one of your subjects is in Humanities or Social Sciences as defined by the University of Oxford in its list of [divisions](#).