



## BRIEFING PAPER

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# Oxbridge 'elitism'

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### Contents:

1. Type of school
2. Gender
3. Ethnicity
4. Under-represented groups



# Contents

<b>Summary</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1. Type of school</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Access agreement targets	4
1.2 Historical information	4
1.3 Schools with the highest entry rates to Oxbridge	6
<b>2. Gender</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3. Ethnicity</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. Under-represented groups</b>	<b>9</b>

## Summary

**For most of the last two decades both Oxford and Cambridge have taken more than half of their entrants from state schools. The latest rates are 59% for Oxford and 61% for Cambridge**, or somewhat higher if overseas students at UK schools are excluded. **These rates have generally increased over the past few decades, but the historical data shows that progress has been slow.** At the end of the 1930s 24% of entrants to Oxford and 19% to Cambridge started their education at a state school. By the early 1950s these rates had increased to 43% and 34% respectively. In the early 1960s 34% of students at Oxford and 27% at Cambridge came from state secondary schools

Interest in the background of students who go to Oxford and Cambridge is nothing new. The 1852 Royal Commissions on both universities identified access by poorer students as an important and longstanding issue. The debate about elitism at Oxford and Cambridge has tended to focus on a single indicator –the proportion of students from state schools– and particularly whether it has gone up or down in the latest year. This gives a limited view. A fuller picture needs more context, including longer term trends in this indicator, rates of entry for other under-represented groups, data on other prestigious universities and a better understanding of the types of state schools that send pupils to Oxbridge.

The latest statistics on entry can be viewed at:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/admissions-statistics>

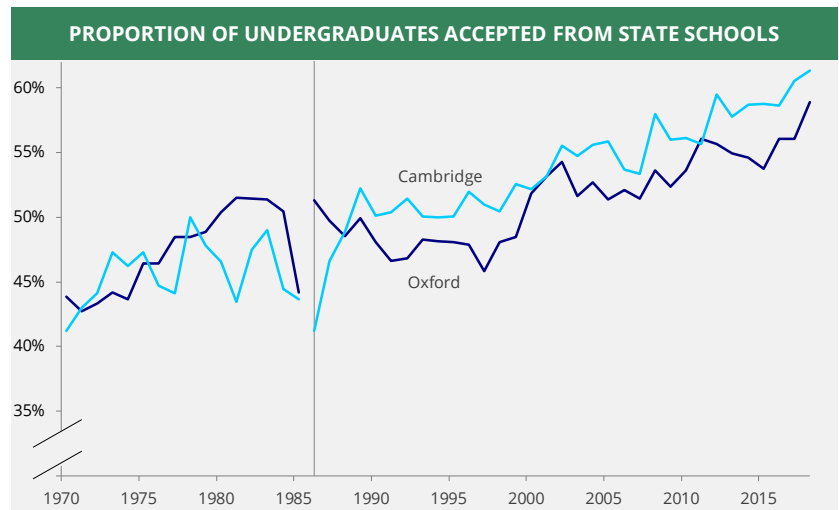
<http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/statistics>

Oxford University publishes a range of more detailed data in interactive tables. These includes the socio-economic background of entrants by college, entrants by local authority, Parliamentary Constituency, ethnicity and disadvantage. These are listed individually in each category on the [Undergraduate admissions statistics page](#) (under 'detailed statistics').

Readers may be interested in the Sutton Trust reports [Oxbridge Admissions](#) from 2016 and [Access to Advantage](#) from 2018 . Data from Freedom of Information requests on applications and entrance by local authority and socio-economic breakdowns can be found on [David Lammy MP's website](#). HESA performance indicators on widening participation can be downloaded at: [www.hesa.ac.uk/pi](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/pi)

# 1. Type of school

The table at the end of this note shows consistent information on undergraduate intake by school and college type since 1989. The proportion of entrants from the state sector is illustrated opposite. This includes earlier data with a break in series.<sup>1</sup> The rate looks at entrants from the UK state sector as a proportion of total entrants from this sector and UK independent schools. It therefore excludes entrants from overseas schools, but will include some overseas nationals at UK schools and colleges, particularly at independent schools.



In the first half of the period there was a clear increase in the proportion of state school pupils entering Oxford. This increased from 43% in the early 1970s to 52% in 1981. The level at Cambridge was more erratic, varying between 45% and 50% for most of this period. The rate at both institutions fell noticeably in the mid-1980s. New definitions were brought in from 1986/87 and trends since then have been more stable. Cambridge overtook Oxford in 1988 and took a higher percentage of state school pupils in each subsequent year other than 2011. There was little change at either institution during the early/mid-1990s. Rates at both increased to more than 50% in the late 1990s and early part of this century. This increase has generally been sustained in recent years and both institutions saw record highs in 2018; 61.3% at Cambridge and 58.9% at Oxford.

The absolute number of state school entrants peaked in 2002 at Oxford and 2008 at Cambridge. Increases in the number of 'overseas and other' entrants meant highs in maintained school percentages in 2017 and 2018 were not matched by highs in absolute numbers. To put these figures in context Independent school leavers made up 9.7% of young (<20) accepted home applicants to higher education via the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) in 2018.<sup>2,3</sup>

In 2018 *applications* from maintained pupils made up a slightly larger share of total applications at Oxford and Cambridge—therefore acceptance rates for these pupils were lower. The acceptance rate for home pupils from the maintained sector was 21% at Cambridge and 18% at Oxford; the acceptance rate for home independent school pupils was 28% at Cambridge and 23% at Oxford.<sup>4</sup>

Complete state/independent breakdowns by Oxbridge college have been published for a number of years. Substantial variations exist between colleges. At Cambridge in 2018 Robinson College had the lowest proportion of home acceptances from maintained school pupils at 41%. St Catherine's College 78%.<sup>5</sup> With a relatively small number of new

<sup>1</sup> Pre 1989 data from [HC Deb 5 December 1988 c4-7W](#) and [HL Deb 5 June 2003 c189WA](#)

<sup>2</sup> Includes those who applied before the 30 June deadline only.

<sup>3</sup> [Ucas end of cycle data resources](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Undergraduate admissions statistics](#), University of Oxford; [Undergraduate Admissions Statistics - 2018 cycle](#), University of Cambridge

<sup>5</sup> [Undergraduate Admissions Statistics - 2018 cycle](#), University of Cambridge. Highest maintained proportion excludes the mature students colleges (Homerton, Hughes Hall, Lucy Cavendish, St Edmunds, Wolfson)

students at each college, some year-on-year variation should be expected. Data for individual colleges in individual years should therefore be treated with caution.

The three-year average up to 2018 by Oxford college showed that the proportion of acceptances made to maintained school pupils varied from 48% (Trinity) to 90% (Mansfield).<sup>6</sup> Only one out of 30 colleges made fewer than half their offers to maintained school pupils.<sup>7</sup>

## 1.1 Access agreement targets

When 'variable' fees for new students were introduced in 2006 both universities set 'targets' for the proportion of pupils they aimed to take from state schools by 2011. These were set out in their access agreements with the Office of Fair Access (Ofa). Both rates apply to home applicants/entrants only so are slightly different from the other figures in this note which look at all those attending UK schools and colleges. Oxford's target was 62% of *applicants*<sup>8</sup> and Cambridge's was 60-63% of *entrants*.<sup>9</sup> In 2011 64% of UK applicants to Oxford were from state schools, this fell to 63% in 2012 and in 2013.<sup>10</sup> In 2011 57% of UK acceptances at Cambridge were from the state sector.<sup>11</sup> This increased to 63% in 2012 and fell slightly to 61% in 2013 (excludes home students at overseas and other schools/colleges).<sup>12</sup>

All universities which planned to charge tuition fees of over £6,000 for new students from 2012 had to produce revised access agreements. Those for [Oxford](#) and [Cambridge](#) are published on the (archived) Ofa website. They include a range of targets and milestones the institutions set themselves and agreed with Ofa. Oxford's do not include a simple state school percentage target, data on its progress can be found [here](#). One of Cambridge's targets was to increase the proportion of UK state sector entrants to 62-63% by the end of the access agreement period (2016). Its rate was above 62% (home students only) in each year from 2014 to 2016.<sup>13</sup>

Cambridge also publishes [research into admissions and evaluation of widening participation](#). This includes their own research into the issue and lists publications by other organisations.

Access and participation plans agreed with the new Office for Students (OfS) come into force from 2019/20. These can be found on the [OfS website](#).

## 1.2 Historical information

The Education Act 1944 extended free education to all state secondary schools and introduced a clear distinction between primary and secondary education at age 11. There was some public sector support for some pupils in grammar schools before then and pupils did stay on to the senior department of elementary school. But without an entirely

<sup>6</sup> Excludes Harris Manchester which admits mature students only

<sup>7</sup> [Undergraduate admissions statistics](#), University of Oxford

<sup>8</sup> In 2009 just under 60% of applicants to Oxford were from the maintained sector. The target level was suggested as it was the proportion of candidates with three As at A levels from maintained schools. However, it does not appear in the latest access agreement.

<sup>9</sup> [www.offa.org.uk](http://www.offa.org.uk)

<sup>10</sup> [Undergraduate Admissions Statistics - Applications by College](#), University of Oxford

<sup>11</sup> This is calculated on a slightly different basis from the Ofa target data which is year of entry not application/acceptance.

<sup>12</sup> [Undergraduate Admissions Statistics - 2011 cycle](#), University of Cambridge; [Undergraduate Admissions Statistics - 2012 cycle](#), University of Cambridge

<sup>13</sup> [Access Agreement with the Office for Fair Access \(OFFA\) 2018-19](#), University of Cambridge

free maintained secondary school sector the concept of entrance data by type of school is meaningless.

The rest of this section summarises historical information on types of entrants. It uses different definitions and is taken from different sources so is presented in a narrative form with the appropriate context and definitions, rather than a simple table or chart which would leave these out and present a misleading picture.

The issue of differences in access to Oxford and Cambridge is very longstanding. The 1922 Royal Commission quoted work which stated that after the Reformation the flow of monks and friars to the two universities ceased and "...as a direct result of this, the proportion of country gentlemen's sons increased".<sup>14</sup> The report of the 1922 Royal Commission looked into the accessibility of these universities to 'poor' students. While not defining what it meant by 'poor', the report stated that reforms which followed the 1852 Royal Commission meant that:<sup>15</sup>

The number of poor men in residence at both Universities increased materially during the last half of the nineteenth century. This increase has been very rapid in recent years...

Citing evidence from the two years before the First World War the report said that around half of Scholarships awarded were to boys from 'cheaper' boarding and day schools and around 20% were won by boys from the 'cheapest' day schools.<sup>16</sup> It added that "practically all the boys on the latter list must have been sons of poorer parents".<sup>17</sup>

The first comprehensive official data on the school background of entrants was published in the late 1930s. In their 1937-38 report the University Grants Committee stated:<sup>18</sup>

In the course of last year attention in Parliament and elsewhere was directed to the question of the number of students originating from public elementary schools who found their way to universities.

Some information had earlier been provided by all universities, other than Oxford and Cambridge, and figures were published in this year for the first time. Oxford and Cambridge were included from 1938-39 when 24.2% of full-time home entrants to Oxford and 19.3% at Cambridge started their education in a public sector elementary school. The equivalent figure for all other universities was 54.8%.<sup>19</sup> Such students could have attended independent schools afterwards, or been supported by central or local government at a grammar school. In 1947-48 the rates had reached 39% for Oxford and 30% for Cambridge. In the final year these data were published (1950-51) 43% of entrants to Oxford and 34% of entrants to Cambridge came started their education at public sector elementary schools. The rate for the other universities had increased to 71%.<sup>20</sup>

This statistic became less relevant as more pupils benefited from free state secondary education and could potentially attend state grammar schools. No

At the end of the 1930s 24% of entrants to Oxford and 19% to Cambridge started their education at a state school. By the early 1950s these rates had increased to 43% and 34% respectively.

<sup>14</sup> J A Venn *Oxford and Cambridge Matriculations*, quoted in *Report of the Royal Commission (Oxford and Cambridge Universities)* Cm 1588 (1922) p.10

<sup>15</sup> Cm 1588 para. 155

<sup>16</sup> Those with fees of less than £10 per year, around £800 in current prices.

<sup>17</sup> Cm 1588 para. 155

<sup>18</sup> *Returns from universities and university colleges in receipt of Treasury grant academic year 1937-38*, University Grants Committee

<sup>19</sup> *Returns from universities and university colleges in receipt of Treasury grant academic year 1938-39*, University Grants Committee. Table 2

<sup>20</sup> *Returns from universities and university colleges in receipt of Treasury grant academic year 1950-51*, University Grants Committee. Table 2

routinely published data on entrants by type of secondary school replaced it for a period of around two decades. There were some one-off assessments in the intervening period.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the UK carried out a detailed inquiry into university applications that was published in 1957.<sup>21</sup> This found a very similar proportion of entrants who started at state elementary schools as the 1950-51 figure mentioned above. Among candidates admitted to Cambridge in 1955-56 27% were from state grammar schools (or equivalent in Scotland and Northern Ireland). The equivalent figure for Oxford was 39%. This compares to 60% across all universities. State grammar schools would have been the only type of maintained school to send pupils to university at the time.<sup>22</sup> These figures and all those below exclude entrants from Direct Grant grammar schools (they received public funding to pay the fees of pupils from state primary schools that had to make up at least 25% of their places).

A survey carried out in 1961 as part of the work for the Robbins Report found that 34% of all students at Oxford and 27% at Cambridge had attended a state secondary school compared to 63% across all universities. Entrants to men's colleges in 1964 were also reported with 37% from state schools at Oxford and 37% at Cambridge. Breaking the survey results down by entrance year the authors reported that the proportion of state school pupils entering either institution went from 26% in 1959 to 37% in 1964.<sup>23</sup>

In the early 1960s  
34% of students at  
Oxford and 27% at  
Cambridge came  
from state  
secondary schools

If these findings are put alongside the data in the table at the end of this paper and the earlier chart we can conclude that 'state school pupils' improved their representation at Oxford and Cambridge between the end of the 1930s and end of the 1940s; there appears to have been relatively little change in the late 1950s, but further increases in the 1960s and late 1970s which saw state school pupil numbers draw roughly equal with independent schools at the start of the 1980s. State school participation was higher at Oxford, on the measures given here, up to the mid-1960s. However, given there are large gaps this may not necessarily have been the case in each and every year.

### 1.3 Schools with the highest entry rates to Oxbridge

The Sutton Trust analysed entrants to Oxbridge by individual school over the period 2002-06.<sup>24</sup> They found that the 30 schools<sup>25</sup> (less than one percent of the total) with the highest admissions rates to Oxbridge made up 15% of entrants. The admission or 'hit rate' used by the authors is the number of entrants to Oxbridge as a proportion of the total number of university entrants. The 200 schools with the highest Oxbridge hit rates (just over 5% of relevant schools) accounted for 48% of entrants. An average of 10% of university entrants from such schools went to Oxbridge, compared to 1% at the remaining schools. Similar but less extreme patterns were found for entry to the 'Sutton Trust' group of universities<sup>26</sup>.

<sup>21</sup> R Kelsall *Applications for Admissions to Universities. Report on an Inquiry commissions by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom* (1957). Tables 9 and 11

<sup>22</sup> Excludes those who had been to such schools and a private or preparatory school

<sup>23</sup> *Higher Education* (the Robbins Report) -Report of the committee appointed to the Prime Minister under the Chairmanship of Lord Robbins 1961-63. Cm 2154. Appendix Two (B) Table 11 and Annex D

<sup>24</sup> [University admissions by individual schools](#). The Sutton Trust (September 2007)

<sup>25</sup> 28 independent, one grammar and one comprehensive

<sup>26</sup> The 13 with the highest public league table rankings: Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, Imperial College, London School of Economics, Nottingham, Oxford, St Andrews, University College London, Warwick and York.

Analysis of this data and A-level results<sup>27</sup> found that variation in results could only 'explain' part of the divergent entry rates across schools. Some schools with very similar results had very different entry rates. The top 30 performing state grammar schools had similar A-level scores to the top 30 independent schools and, based on results alone, expected Oxbridge hit rates would be higher in independent schools by less than half of one percentage point. The actual rate for these independent schools was 13.2% in 2006, well above the 7.5% for the top 30 grammars. Different indicators of A level performance might produce somewhat different outcomes, but the report noted a slightly larger gap when hit rates were compared to average A level points per exam entry.<sup>28</sup>

Westminster School and St Paul's Girls' School achieved the highest Oxbridge hit rates over the five years with 49.9% and 49.0% (of pupils who went on to university) respectively. The best performing state grammar and comprehensive schools on this measure were the Colchester Royal Grammar School (19.5%) and the Dame Alice Owen's School (10.5%). There was only one state comprehensive in the top 100 list which excludes schools where fewer than 20 pupils went to Oxbridge over the five year period

The Sutton Trust updated this research in 2011 with data on entrants between 2007 and 2009.<sup>29</sup> This found a similar pattern to the earlier report. Students from the 100 schools with the highest Oxbridge admission rates<sup>30</sup> took more than 30% of places. There were 16 state grammars among these schools, but no state comprehensives. Hills Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge had 204 students accepted at Oxbridge over these three years, only Eton and Westminster had higher totals, but this was 8.6% of all their students who applied to university and was outside the top 100 on this admission rate.

In 2011 students from grammar schools made up around one-third of state school entrants to Oxford and Cambridge respectively.<sup>31</sup> In the same year they made up 26% of students who gained at least three As at A-Level from the state sector<sup>32</sup> in England.<sup>33</sup>

In July 2012 The Department for Education released new 'experimental' statistics which looked at the destination of A level students the year after they took their qualifications. The data identify those in higher education and within this those in any Russell Group university and those at Oxford or Cambridge. The information is taken from matching National Pupil Database records to those held by the Higher Education Statistics Agency. It only includes young people who studied at state sector schools or colleges in England. Information is broken down by region, local authority, individual (state) school or college and, more recently, student characteristics. The data now covers the period up to 2017 and can be found at [Destinations of Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 pupils](#).

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<sup>27</sup> Average A level points score per pupil.

<sup>28</sup> Sutton Trust 2007 pp15-17

<sup>29</sup> [Degrees of Success. University Chances by Individual School](#), Sutton Trust (July 2011)

<sup>30</sup> Here as a proportion of UCAS applicants from each school

<sup>31</sup> *Undergraduate Admissions Statistics: 2011 cycle*, University of Cambridge. Undergraduate Admissions Statistics: 2011 entry *University of Oxford*

<sup>32</sup> State funded schools and FE sector colleges

<sup>33</sup> *GCE/Applied GCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2010/11 (Revised)*, DfE

Both [Oxford](#) and [Cambridge](#) now publish data on applications and acceptances by school (UCAS apply centre).

## 2. Gender

The following table shows the proportion of female students attending Oxbridge at selected intervals over the last 30 years. There has been a significant increase over this period. Latest data show that Oxford has around 50% female representation and Cambridge slightly below 47%<sup>34</sup>. Differences between the two institutions may in part reflect differences in the range of courses offered. Rates were below 20% in 1970/71. Women accounted for 56.4% of all undergraduates across all UK institutions in 2016/17.<sup>35</sup>

In the mid-1950s only around 10% of students at Cambridge and 15% at Oxford were women. The latest data show that Oxford has just under 50% female representation and Cambridge slightly below 48%.

PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE UNDERGRADUATES AT OXBRIDGE						
Academic year, home and overseas students						
	1970/71 <sup>(a)</sup>	1980/81 <sup>(a)</sup>	1990/91	2001/02	2010/11	2017/18
Oxford	19.4	29.8	43.2	51.0	50.4	49.9
Cambridge	12.9	27.5	40.0	53.6	47.2	47.6

(a) Full-time degree students only  
 Note. The treatment of part-time students from 2009/10 means the data from before and after this time are not comparable.

Sources: *University statistics, UGC, various years*  
*Students in Higher Education Institutions, HESA, various years. Tables 12 and 9a*  
*Higher Education Student Data, HESA*

In 1938-39 8.7% of all home full-time entrants to Cambridge were women compared to 17.5% at Oxford and 27.6% across all universities in Great Britain. In 1955-56 this rate had reached 9.7% at Cambridge, 15.4% at Oxford and 28.8% for all universities in Great Britain.<sup>36</sup>

## 3. Ethnicity

Information on the ethnic background of home students applying and accepted to Oxford and Cambridge has been produced since the early 1990s. In 1992, 5% of accepted UK applicants to Oxford were non-white<sup>37</sup>. This increased to almost 8% in 2002 and 18% in 2018.<sup>38</sup> At Cambridge approximately 5% of acceptances in 1990 were non-white, increasing to 14% in 2002 and to 24% in 2018.<sup>39</sup> The equivalent figure for 2018 from all home accepted applicants through UCAS was 27%.<sup>40</sup> Clearly admission rates by ethnic group will be influenced to a large extent by underlying patterns of attainment.

<sup>34</sup> From 2009/10 the rate at Cambridge fell below 50% in the HESA figures. Their data included many fewer part-time students from that year and a larger majority of part-time undergraduates are female.

<sup>35</sup> *Students in Higher Education Institutions, 2014/15, HESA. Table 12*

<sup>36</sup> *Returns from universities and university colleges in receipt of Treasury grant, various years, University Grants Committee. Table 2*

<sup>37</sup> Home accepted applicants only. Includes those of mixed background

<sup>38</sup> [Undergraduate admissions statistics](#), University of Oxford, various years.

<sup>39</sup> Latest figures exclude 'unknowns'. *Undergraduates: statistics of applications and acceptances*, various years, Cambridge University Reporter; [Undergraduate Admissions Statistics - 2018 cycle](#), University of Cambridge

<sup>40</sup> [End of cycle data resources 2018](#), Ucas



## 4. Under-represented groups

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) publishes data on the participation of under-represented groups. The latest results for Oxford and Cambridge are shown in the following table. To help comparison between institutions benchmark figures have been calculated. These estimate the score that the whole UK sector would have achieved if it had the same subject and entry qualification profile as the institution. These are further adjusted for the location of the institution. Results that are significantly different from the benchmark are marked (\*) in the table.

ACCESS TO OXBRIDGE BY UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS					
Young full-time first degree entrants 2017/18					
	From state schools or colleges		From low participation neighbourhoods		
	%	Benchmark	%	Benchmark	
University of Cambridge	63.4	71.6 *	4.7	5.2	
University of Oxford	58.2	71.5 *	4.1	5.3	
<b>All UK institutions</b>	<b>89.8</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>..</b>	

\* Denotes a value significantly different from both the unadjusted and the location adjusted benchmark

Source: *Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK, 2017/18, HESA*

As in previous years both institutions had significantly fewer pupils from the state sector than their benchmark values. They both also had fewer, but not significantly fewer, pupils from low participation neighbourhoods than the benchmark.<sup>41</sup> These indicators have been published since 1997/98 and both universities have been significantly below their state school in each year. Earlier data also included social class information and both institutions were also below their benchmarks on this indicator. They have also taken a smaller proportion of pupils from low participation neighbourhoods, but this difference has not always been significant and has not been so at either institution since 2007/08.<sup>42</sup>

Oxford and Cambridge were not alone in scoring below the benchmark values for state school and lower socio-economic group participation. In 2017/18, 18 out of 158 higher education institutions were significantly below their state school benchmark and 8 were significantly below their low participation neighbourhood benchmark.<sup>43,44</sup>

In 2014-15 14.9% of post-2012 full-time undergraduates at Oxford and 11.8% at Cambridge received full state support<sup>45</sup>. The average across all institutions in England was

<sup>41</sup> Low participation neighbourhoods are those wards in the bottom 20% for young participation in higher education. This is based on the proportion of people who were aged 18 between 2005 and 2009 and entered higher education between 2005/06 and 2010/11 aged 18 or 19. The 2011/12 and 2012/13 indicators use new underlying data but the same method as used since 2006/07. Before then the data on this indicator is not directly comparable.

<sup>42</sup> *Performance indicators in higher education, HESA/HEFCE*

<sup>43</sup> This indicator is for English institutions only

<sup>44</sup> Location adjusted benchmarks

<sup>45</sup> A full maintenance grant

## 10 Oxbridge 'elitism'

29%. A further 8.6% at Oxford and 8.8% at Cambridge received either partial state support or were in other under-represented groups within OFFA's remit (7% nationally).<sup>46</sup>

Both universities have set out data on a range of other access targets agreed with the regulator. Progress on these can be viewed in the latest access agreements on the [OfS website](#).

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<sup>46</sup> [Monitoring of 2014-15 access agreements](#), OFFA

ACCEPTANCES TO OXBRIDGE BY TYPE OF SCHOOL								
All domiciles, by year of entry								
	Oxford				Cambridge			
	Maintained		Independent	Overseas and others	Maintained		Independent	Overseas and others
	number	% <sup>a</sup>			number	% <sup>a</sup>		
1989	1,457	49.9%	1,463	244	1,404	52.2%	1,285	324
1990	1,384	48.1%	1,493	233	1,385	50.1%	1,379	353
1991	1,343	46.6%	1,537	309	1,436	50.4%	1,415	165
1992	1,362	46.8%	1,549	273	1,412	51.5%	1,332	308
1993	1,380	48.3%	1,479	307	1,393	50.1%	1,389	286
1994	1,410	48.1%	1,519	347	1,413	50.0%	1,415	267
1995	1,390	48.1%	1,500	341	1,413	50.1%	1,409	293
1996	1,480	47.9%	1,612	305	1,374	52.0%	1,269	225
1997	1,338	45.8%	1,581	300	1,453	51.0%	1,397	274
1998	1,449	48.1%	1,565	294	1,414	50.4%	1,390	300
1999	1,445	48.5%	1,535	259	1,461	52.5%	1,320	303
2000	1,519	51.9%	1,410	292	1,458	52.2%	1,336	341
2001	1,575	53.2%	1,388	302	1,531	53.2%	1,349	368
2002	1,671	54.3%	1,406	316	1,672	55.5%	1,340	392
2003	1,539	51.7%	1,440	301	1,643	54.7%	1,360	432
2004	1,518	52.7%	1,362	296	1,588	55.6%	1,268	437
2005	1,490	51.4%	1,410	314	1,630	55.9%	1,287	467
2006	1,511	52.1%	1,391	306	1,554	53.7%	1,340	445
2007	1,484	51.4%	1,402	275	1,517	53.3%	1,327	546
2008	1,534	53.6%	1,328	308	1,762	58.0%	1,277	492
2009	1,482	52.3%	1,349	371	1,675	56.0%	1,318	486
2010	1,475	53.6%	1,277	402	1,609	56.1%	1,259	526
2011	1,516	56.1%	1,188	482	1,500	55.7%	1,194	580
2012	1,519	55.6%	1,211	503	1,687	59.5%	1,149	601
2013	1,469	55.0%	1,204	528	1,590	57.8%	1,161	620
2014	1,435	54.6%	1,194	532	1,626	58.7%	1,143	679
2015	1,411	53.8%	1,213	592	1,621	58.8%	1,137	691
2016	1,490	56.0%	1,169	603	1,603	58.6%	1,131	723
2017	1,439	56.1%	1,127	704	1,642	60.5%	1,070	785
2018	1,529	58.9%	1,068	712	1,637	61.3%	1,033	795

(a) Maintained school pupils as a percentage of all accepted maintained and independent school pupils

Sources: Undergraduate admission statistics, University of Oxford, Oxford colleges: statistics for entry, various years  
Undergraduates: statistics of applications and acceptances, various, Cambridge University Reporter  
Undergraduate Admissions Statistics, various years, University of Cambridge

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