D'OVERBROECK'S
OXFORD
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Last reviewed:	September 2026
Next review due:	September 2027
Reviewed by:	Director of Admissions & Marketing
Approved by Board of Governors:	tba

d'Overbroeck's is a co-educational independent day and boarding school for students from age 11 through to the Sixth Form. There are 2 distinct sections to the school:

- The Senior School teaches day students from Year 7 and boarding students from Year 10 studying up to GCSE level. The main entry points are at age 11+ into Year 7 and at 13+ into Year 9. Subject to places being available, we are happy to consider applications on behalf of students who may wish to join us at a different point, directly into Year 8 or Year 10 for instance.
- Sixth Form is the largest section taking boarders and day students aged 16+ for A level study and Level 3 courses
- The Senior School and Sixth Form offers a range of programmes for international students who wish to study in the UK. These programmes include a one year IGCSE, an Extended A Level Programme (EALP) and a short-term study option dependent on places being available.

Day and boarding students are admitted into the Sixth Form. Primarily day students are admitted into our Senior School, however we do offer boarding in Years 10-11 dependent on availability. In total, we have around 465 students on the roll, of whom 160 or so are boarders.

1. Visits and open events

Where at all possible we encourage prospective parents and students to come and see us. Many applicants will visit more than once. As we have a number of internationally based applicants this is not always possible, and arrangements can be made for remote online meetings and assessments.

We hold on-site Open Events during the day and in the evening, we also hold online Virtual Events for prospective families enquiring about entry to the school. The dates for these events are published well in advance and are available on our website. We also encourage prospective parents and students to have an individual appointment on a normal school day if able to, either before or after they have been to an Open Event.

2. Admissions overview

d'Overbroeck's is a broadly selective school. However, we are not selective on only academic grounds. Subject to applicants meeting the minimum entrance requirements that are relevant to their year of entry, we are happy to consider students across a relatively wide range of abilities. Our overriding aim is to enable all of our students, throughout the age and ability range, to achieve to the best of their potential both academically and personally. In addition to academic ability and motivation, particular aptitude in areas such as art, sport, music or drama or an active and well-informed enthusiasm in any other worthwhile area will be taken into account when applications are considered.

3. Equal treatment

Our aim is to encourage applications from as wide a range of candidates as possible, and we set great store by the fact that our student body is healthily diverse in terms of nationality and background. As a school, we are committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of, for example, a candidate's gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability or, as far as is practically possible given that we are a fee-paying school, social background.

We welcome students with special educational needs provided we are satisfied that we can offer them the support they need – and, of course, that they meet our academic entrance criteria. We will usually arrange an interview and assessment in order to decide whether we can provide the required support and will need to see any relevant documentation (for example educational psychologists' reports, doctors report or EHC plans) prior to such interview and assessment.

We are also happy to welcome students irrespective of any disabilities. We comply with the Equality Act 2010 to accommodate the needs of disabled applicants for which, with reasonable adjustments, we can cater adequately. We will be guided by the principles set out in our Disability Inclusion Policy wherever these are relevant.

Applications from students with mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, disordered eating or self-harm will be considered provided that:

- we are satisfied that the student is well enough to be in school;
- we are able to offer both the kind and amount of support (including in light of the school's equality obligations) we believe the student would need in all aspects of school life, including boarding where relevant;
- the student is receiving sufficient and appropriate support outside of school where we believe this to be necessary; and, of course,
- provided that the student meets our normal academic entrance requirements.

We may also request further information, such as a medical certificate, and any associated correspondence from the student's current school that we consider necessary to make a fair assessment.

4. Religious beliefs

d'Overbroeck's is not associated with, or committed to promoting, any one particular faith or religious belief. We welcome students regardless of religious belief or background and would always seek to make every reasonable effort to accommodate students' religious requirements and to allow them to practise their faith as they and their families would wish to.

5. Entrance requirements and the assessment process

As has already been indicated, d'Overbroeck's is a selective school, though not narrowly on academic grounds alone. We are naturally keen to draw very able students; but we are equally happy to admit students whose ability is closer to the average. Success means helping each and every one of our students to achieve to the best of his or her ability. The aim of the assessment process is, therefore, to enable us to get to know our prospective students and to take a view on whether we think a student is likely to be happy and successful in this environment and to take full advantage of what it has to offer, both academically and personally.

In all cases, admission to the school is at the Principal's discretion.

- **For entry to our Senior School at age 11+ or age 13+**

All applicants are asked to complete a CAT4 assessment. A mean CAT4 score in the average range (90-110) or higher is expected to support entry decisions. International students will be expected to take a test in English and achieve an IELTS equivalent 6.0 or higher. There is a short interview with a senior member of staff, and we ask for a reference from the student's current school. Candidates will be invited to attend a group or individual 'taster/experience day' to sample a typical school day. We will take all these factors into consideration when making our decisions. We are generally looking for evidence that the child will be able to access our full curriculum and to take full advantage of an academic education up to and including A level and other level 3 subjects.

- **For entry into the Sixth Form**

We will always consider an application, taking into account the full range of relevant factors, including academic potential and achievement to date as well as the student's interests, activities and achievements in other areas. Candidate's applications must include copy of their last school reports where appropriate and a personal statement which outlines their academic history and ambitions, their achievements and interests. All of these aspects will be discussed at interview.

Academically, students will usually be expected to have a minimum of six GCSEs (or IGCSEs) with grades 8 or 9 (A*), 7 (A) or 6 (B).

In most cases, at least a grade 6 at GCSE will be required in any subject that a student wishes to continue studying in the Sixth Form. Students who wish to take Mathematics at A level will require a GCSE grade 7, or a grade 8 or 9 to study Further Mathematics. Please refer also to the relevant Subject Profiles for any additional subject-specific recommendations.

All students will be expected to have achieved at least a grade 5 at GCSE (or IGCSE) in both Maths and English.

Offers are made on condition of grades and school reference. Where an offer of a place is made, the subject choice will be conditional on the candidate achieving these minimum grades at GCSE.

International students studying qualifications other than GCSEs (or IGCSEs) are expected to achieve results equivalent to the required GCSE standards. These students are also required to sit the CAT4 (Cognitive Abilities Test). Predicted GCSE grades and CAT4 scores are used to assess a student's ability to meet the entry requirement of grade 6 in six subjects. Students wishing to study A Level Mathematics must also complete a Maths entrance test.

Students who achieve six grade 6s or higher will automatically meet the standard entry requirement. Those who do not meet this threshold will be assessed individually based on their predicted or achieved results in order to select the best possible programme of study.

For students who do not study GCSEs or IGCSEs, CAT4 results will be used to estimate predicted grades. Where appropriate, alternative subjects or a suitable programme of study may be recommended to support the student's success.

For students who require visa sponsorship, an unconditional offer will be given provided we have identified a suitable pathway. We will not however be able to issue a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studie (CAS) until all required elements have been received and reviewed. These include satisfactory references, entrance test outcomes (where applicable), and all supporting documentation necessary to meet UKVI compliance requirements.

Students whose first language is not English must also demonstrate at least an upper intermediate level of English, equivalent to the middle / upper range of B2 or above on the Common European Framework (IELTS 6.0 / 6.5 and above in all skills). These students will usually be required to sit our online entry tests in English Language and a Mathematics test appropriate to their chosen course of study.

Candidates are usually expected to attend for a personal interview. Online interviews for international students are arranged. Students must be able to show their passport to confirm their identity during an online interview and the interview may be recorded. Candidates will be notified of this in advance.

For all candidates joining us from other schools, we will request a formal written reference from the current school, and this will be taken into account when the application is considered.

- **For entry onto IGCSE courses at the Senior School**

Students are usually between 14 and 16 years of age when they start one of the courses at d'Overbroeck's. and progress reports from their current school, applicants are required to sit our online tests in English Language and CAT4 (Cognitive Abilities Test). A mean CAT4 score in the average range (90-110) or higher is expected to support entry decisions. We will also request a formal written reference from their current school to support the offers. All candidates will be expected to attend for a personal interview, whether in person or online (usually Microsoft Teams). We will insist that students must be able to show their passport to confirm their identity during an online interview and this interview may be recorded.

In all cases, admission to the school is at the Principal's discretion.

Please note that the school will not accept applications for students:

- who would be aged 18 before starting at the school.
- who would become age 18 at the Senior School before starting Sixth Form.

6. Scholarships

A range of scholarships is offered each year to candidates entering Year 7, Year 9 or Year 12 (the Lower Sixth) who show outstanding talent and potential. In addition to academic scholarships, we also offer awards for outstanding talent and potential in art, drama, music, sport and tennis academy.

Information on the scholarships and awards will be sent to interested parties at the time of application. Candidates who miss the published deadline for the scholarships may be considered for an award dependent on circumstances.

7. Bursaries

The school also awards a number of bursaries each year to help in cases of demonstrable financial need. Bursaries are means-related and assessed on the financial circumstances of the parents (and, where appropriate, any other family members who may be able and willing to contribute to the fees). Where a bursary is offered, the level will vary according to the family's financial circumstances. Each case will be assessed on its own merits and awards are made accordingly. In general, the expectation is that the bursary covers a minority portion of the fees and large part is paid by the family.

Except where specified otherwise at the outset, bursaries are normally intended to apply for the duration of the student's time at d'Overbroeck's unless the family's financial circumstances change significantly during that time. Bursary recipients will be asked to provide fresh information about their financial circumstances for every year that the student is receiving a Bursary. Levels of financial assistance may be varied up or down where there are significant fluctuations in income, though please note that there will be no obligation on the school to increase the value of a bursary if the family's income should decrease relative to the previous year.

Bursaries are always offered on the condition that the recipient continues to maintain an excellent record of work, attitude and attendance throughout.

Bursaries are usually applied to tuition fees only. Boarding fees (where applicable) and other charges are normally applied in full.

The school respects the confidentiality of bursary awards made to families and recipients are expected to do likewise.

Parents wishing to discuss the possibility of a bursary are asked in the first instance to contact the Director of Admissions & Marketing for a preliminary discussion.

8. Terms and Conditions for Parents

Parents may consult the most recent edition on the website at any time. A copy will be sent to parents at the time an offer of a place is made.

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