

Admissions system for UK applicants

Winchester College is one of the country's most distinguished schools. It prides itself on its unique system of admissions and on the substantial bursary support it is able to offer, which currently runs at more than £3 million per annum. <http://www.winchestercollege.org/bursaries>

The school has a unique system of admissions: human, and personalised; focused on potential, not merely prior attainment; and designed to fashion an accessible, balanced, and harmonious community. It has its origins in systems still used by top universities and it depends substantially on interview. It is designed to give maximum human interaction with the school at each stage.

The system for the UK, EU or outside the specified regions, is explained below.

There are four simple stages to the Winchester process. First, we encourage UK residents to learn about the school, by using this website, and requesting our prospectus. In addition, we offer regular Open Mornings in Years 4 and 5, when you can meet the Headmaster, the Registrar and other senior staff, including Housemasters. Open Mornings can be booked by emailing Miss Georgina Tyrrell, the Admissions Officer (glt@wincoll.ac.uk).

Next comes a personalised visit, to two Housemasters and their boarding houses, which should take place in Year 5. You can either make your own choice from the House information on the website or ask for recommendations from the Registrar, Mr Andrew Shedden, or simply submit an open application. The system is designed to maximise your contact with the school and to ensure a uniform standard across the Houses. We do not permit visits before the applicant is aged 8, and strongly recommend waiting until after the Open Day at the end of Year 4 (when boys are aged 9).

In Year 5, and in dialogue with the Registrar, the third stage is to make a provisional choice of House, to complete a registration form, and then, in the course of Year 6, to take the Winchester bespoke test within the chosen House. The Housemaster will request a reference from the boy's current school and interview each boy between January and May of Year 6. The test consists of two short written papers and a 45 minute interview taken on the same day.

In June of Year 6, you will receive either:

1. A House Place in the House selected (each Housemaster may offer an agreed quota); or
2. A General Place, offering admission to Winchester but not necessarily in the selected House;
or
3. A Reserve List place, dependent on a place becoming available; or
4. (With our apologies) a rejection.

In each case, as in most other schools, the place is finally confirmed after the Winchester Entrance or Scholarship exams taken in the summer of Year 8. However, places are only offered to those expected to pass these exams and failure at this stage is, as a consequence, rare.

The school offers means tested bursaries to those unable to afford the full fee, and scholarships for those particularly gifted in academic work, music or sport.

Academic Awards

Academic awards have existed at Winchester since its foundation. The original awards are called Scholarships. The boys who hold them still live in the original boarding accommodation known as College, for which reason they are still sometimes known as Collegemen.

All academic awards are made on the basis of an exam called Election, taken in the summer of Year 8 at Winchester. The majority of boys who sit Election have gone through the process set out above and have therefore already secured a place in a House. If successful they win either a Scholarship, and with it a place in College; or an Exhibition, which ensures a place in a Commoner House.

In addition, by special arrangement and as part of the school's access arrangements, boys who for any reason have not already been part of the admissions process and who possess in the opinion of their current school exceptional talent, may sit Election on the basis of a Winchester College Headmaster's Nomination. This will also, in some cases, bring with it exemption from certain papers. For successful Headmaster's Nomination candidates, Election will result in one of the following: 1. a Scholarship, and with it a place in College; 2. an Exhibition, and with it a place in a House allocated by the Headmaster; or 3. a General Place in the school, in a House allocated by the Headmaster.

In considering the allocation of Bursaries those who hold Academic Awards are considered first.

Admissions Timeline

Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request an Information Pack from admissions@wincoll.ac.uk• Book a visit to one of our Open Days in Year 4 or Year 5 by emailing Georgina Tyrrell, the Admissions Officer (glt@wincoll.ac.uk)
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talk to the Registrar, Mr Andy Shedden, about choosing two Houses to visit• Email the two Housemasters to book a date• Visit both boarding houses, with your son if possible• Make a provisional choice of House and complete a registration form• Send completed registration form back to Mrs McComb, the Deputy Registrar
Jan-May Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interview and assessment with chosen Housemaster• Results published in June
April/May Year 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take Election (scholarship) or Winchester Entrance examinations• Results known by middle of May