Looking for the one?

adapted from an article by Laura Martin

1 Love Island is like a siren call to young attractive members of the public each year. Apply, and you too could be sent to Mallorca, spending the summer flirting outrageously by the pool in the world's smallest swimwear, lathering on sun oil, with the hope of finding your soulmate. Most people are also on the show for overnight fame and 250,000 new followers of course, but the primary objective they're there for is to find 'the one', on national television.



However, Professor Jennifer Rogers, director of statistical consultancy at the University of Oxford, has been crunching the numbers of the past four series, and... well, the odds aren't good for this year's batch of lovers. The probability of an applicant finding love is around one in 35,000. The odds of winning an Oscar are one in 11,500, while the odds of finding a pearl in an oyster are one in 12,000.

Rogers also analysed the stats for those who make it on to the show, and the chances they have of their love story going the distance. The number of people leaving the villa in a couple has increased over the years. Some might say it's the best way to get more exposure. Back in the real world, however, life begins to take its toll and most couples split up by the end of the year.

i newspaper, 2019

2

3