English Language and Literature
Admissions Feedback 2021-22

Summary

| Applications | 913 |
| Shortlisted | 608¹ |
| Offers | 2022 entry: 226 [including 4 open offers]
| 2023 entry: 4 |

Mansfield made nine offers for 2022 entry, including one open offer.

Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their UCAS applications, written work, and their scores on the English Literature Admissions Test. 608 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 2.7 candidates per place.

UCAS Application

Each candidate’s UCAS application was marked on a scale of 1-10. Tutors assessed candidates on the basis of their qualifications and predicted grades, personal statement and reference. Each candidate’s individual circumstances were considered when assessing their application.

The mean UCAS grade for all applicants was 7.6. The mean grade for shortlisted applicants was 8.1, and 8.5 for those who went on to receive an offer.

The distribution of grades was as follows:

Written Work

All candidates were asked to submit a piece of work as part of the assessment, usually a marked essay written as part of their normal school or college work. Work was graded on a scale of 1-10, using the following criteria: attention to the literary aspects of texts; sensitivity to the creative use of language; evidence of careful and critical reading; an analytical approach; coherence of argument and articulacy of expression; precision, in the handling of

¹ Includes some candidates who initially applied for a joint honours degree, who were shortlisted or made an offer for English Language & Literature only.
concepts and in the evidence presented to support points; relevance to the question; independence of thought.

The mean written work score for all applicants was 6.8. The mean for shortlisted applicants was 7.3, and 7.6 for those who went on to receive an offer.

The distribution of grades was as follows:

Note: graph excludes candidates who did not submit written work (n=25).

**English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT)**
All candidates were required to sit the ELAT on 4 November 2021. The ELAT is a 90-minute test, marked out of 60, that consists of a single writing exercise in response to passages of literary material. Candidates may access their test results from the admissions testing service [website](#) from 11 January 2022. An explanation of the scoring and results can also be found there. More information about the ELAT can be found on the [University website](#).

The mean ELAT score for all applicants (excluding those who did not sit the test) was 43.1. The mean score for shortlisted applicants was 46.2, and 48.1 for those who went on to receive an offer.

The distribution of marks was as follows:

Note: graph excludes candidates who did not sit the ELAT (n=40).
ELAT scores, UCAS grades, and written work scores were combined to create an initial grouping which put candidates in one of ten bands. The banding was then used to help shortlist candidates, with those who fell into the higher bands more likely to be shortlisted for interview, and those in the lower bands less likely to be shortlisted unless mitigating circumstances or contextual information suggested that their scores might not be an accurate reflection of their potential.

A number of candidates were reallocated to a different college at this point, to ensure that the ratio of shortlisted applicants per place was approximately the same at each college.

**Interview**

All shortlisted candidates were asked to attend an interview online of around 40 minutes with Mansfield tutors. The interviews centred on the candidates' written work, general reading and a piece of unseen poetry.

In the interviews tutors looked for: evidence of independent reading; capacity to exchange and build on ideas; clarity of thought and expression; analytical ability; flexibility of thought; evidence of independent thinking about literature; readiness and commitment to read widely with discrimination.

A number of candidates were also interviewed at a second college, and a small number at a third or fourth college. Approximately 100 additional interviews took place. These interviews were carried out as part of the movement of candidates between colleges, from oversubscribed to undersubscribed colleges.

**Offers**

Offers were made to candidates who demonstrated the most potential to perform well on the course on the basis of their UCAS form, performance in the ELAT, submitted written work, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information. The list of candidates to be made open offers was agreed at a meeting of English tutors from all colleges. 19.6% of candidates who were made offers received their offer from a college other than their first-choice college. Most candidates were made a conditional offer; for details of the standard offer please see here.