

MANSFIELD COLLEGE

University of Oxford



Geography Admissions Feedback 2021-22

Summary

Applications		333	
Shortlisted		242	
Offers	2022 entry	84	[including 5 open offers]
	2023 entry	1	

Mansfield made eight offers for 2022 entry.

Shortlisting

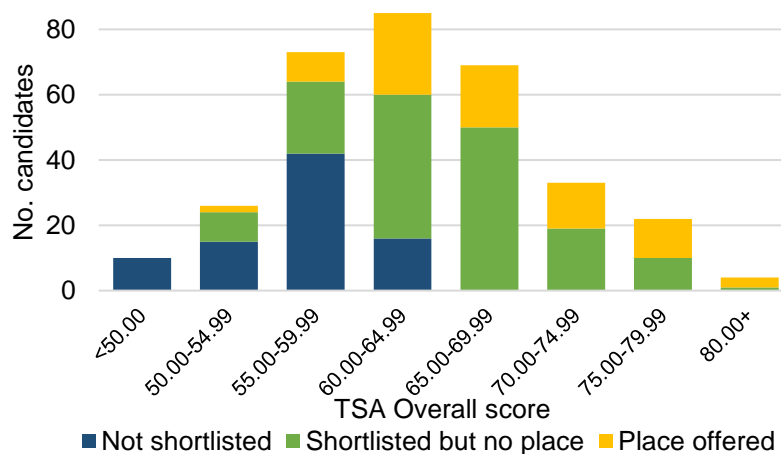
Candidates were shortlisted using their UCAS applications and their score in the Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA). 242 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 2.9 candidates per place.

Thinking Skills Assessment

All candidates were required to sit the Thinking Skills Assessment on 4 November 2021. The Thinking Skills Assessment is a single two-hour test consisting of two sections: the first section (90 minutes) contains multiple choice questions which test problem-solving skills such as numerical and spatial reasoning, and critical thinking; in the second section (30 minutes) candidates are asked to choose one essay question from a choice of four and write a response. More information about the test can be found [here](#).

The mean TSA multiple choice score for all Geography applicants (excluding those who did not sit the test) was 63.5. For shortlisted applicants the mean was 65.9, and 67.2 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 TSA (n=11).

UCAS Application

Tutors assessed candidates on the basis of their qualifications and predicted grades, personal statement, and reference. Tutors looked for: high marks or predictions at GCSE (A*/9/8s) and

A level (A*AA+) or equivalent; a reference recommending the applicant as outstanding among their peers; a personal statement suggesting a strong interest in the study of Geography at degree level. Each candidate's individual circumstances were considered when assessing their application.

A departmental admissions panel drew up an initial shortlist based primarily on TSA score. The shortlist was discussed by Geography tutors from across the colleges and a final list was agreed. Applicants were then notified about whether they had been shortlisted.

Candidates with strong UCAS applications and TSA scores were more likely to be shortlisted for interview. Candidates with lower TSA scores and weaker applications were 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 remote interviews. At Mansfield, each candidate had two interviews: one on Physical Geography and one on Human Geography.

In the interviews tutors looked for: potential for independent thinking; ability to follow an argument; comprehension; problem-solving; spirit of enquiry; evidence of ability to respond in a thoughtful way to unpredictable questions and ideas; evidence that the candidate's interest goes beyond their current academic training; ability to able to deploy knowledge in ways that show initiative and enthusiasm.

Offers

Offers were made to candidates who demonstrated the most potential to perform well on the course on the basis of their UCAS application, TSA score, and interview performance, and any other relevant contextual information (including for GCSEs, where applicable). Colleges were able to make offers to strong applicants whom they had not interviewed if their first-choice college was unable to offer them a place. Overall, 22.4% 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](#).