Mathematics Admissions Feedback 2021-22

Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Maths and Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
<td>1883</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortlisted</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022 entry</td>
<td>187(^1) [inc. 8 open offers]</td>
<td>8 [inc.1 open offer]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023 entry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mansfield made eight offers for Mathematics for 2022 entry.

Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their scores on the Maths Admissions Test and their UCAS forms, including any relevant contextual information. Approximately 3.0 candidates were shortlisted per place. All figures below include applicants for both Mathematics and Mathematics and Statistics.

Maths Admissions Test

The MAT is a 2hr30 test of mathematical ability and understanding. The test contains both a multiple-choice question and a series of longer questions for which candidates need to show their working. Candidates received their MAT scores from the Mathematical Institute in January. Information about the MAT - including the syllabus, past papers, solutions, and reports - can be found on the Oxford Maths website.

The mean MAT score for all Mathematics and Mathematics and Statistics applicants (excluding those who did not sit the test) was 51.6. The mean score for shortlisted applicants was 70.3, and 74.3 for those who went on to receive an offer. The distribution of marks was as follows:

![MAT Score Distribution](#)

Note: graph excludes candidates who did not sit the MAT (n=32).

\(^1\) Includes any candidates who applied for a joint honours degree with Mathematics but were made an offer for Mathematics only.
UCAS Application

Tutors assessed the motivation and ability of each candidate (including appropriate mathematical background) 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*A*A+) or equivalent; a reference recommending the applicant as outstanding among their peers; a personal statement suggesting strong evidence of interest and enthusiasm for mathematics. Each candidate’s individual circumstances were taken into account when assessing their application.

An initial ranking was created from the MAT score which was then combined with information from the UCAS form to create a shortlist for interview. Those who came higher in the ranking were more likely to be shortlisted for interview, and those who came lower in the ranking were less likely to be shortlisted unless mitigating circumstances or contextual information suggested that their score might not be an accurate reflection of their potential.

Interview

All candidates shortlisted by Mansfield were asked to attend an interview online of around 30 minutes with Mansfield tutors, with some candidates having an additional interview with a different set of interviewers. Most candidates also had an interview at a second college, and a small number at a third or fourth college. These interviews were carried out as part of the movement of candidates from oversubscribed to undersubscribed colleges.

In the interviews tutors looked for: mathematical aptitude and technical skills; a capacity to absorb and use new ideas; the ability to think and work independently; perseverance 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 form, performance in the MAT, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information. 24.5% of Mathematics and Mathematics & Statistics 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.