Oriental Studies Admissions Feedback 2021-22

Summary¹

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Mansfield made three offers for 2022 entry.

Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their UCAS applications and written work, and any relevant contextual information. 99 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 2.1 applicants per place.

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 (AAA+) or equivalent; a reference recommending the applicant as outstanding among their peers; a personal statement suggesting strong evidence of interest and enthusiasm for their current studies or activities, extending beyond what they had done at school. Each candidate’s individual circumstances were considered when assessing their application.

Written Work

All candidates were asked to submit two pieces of work as part of the assessment, usually a marked essay written as part of their normal school or college work. Candidates were assessed on their ability to construct an argument and express their ideas in English.

Candidates were shortlisted for interview if their UCAS application and written work showed sufficient evidence of the following criteria: intellectual curiosity; conceptual clarity; flexibility - the capacity to engage with alternative perspectives and/or new information; accuracy and attention to detail; critical engagement; capacity for hard work; enthusiasm for their chosen subject.

OLAT

Candidates for Hebrew, Persian, Turkish, Arabic or Jewish Studies (and EMEL and Oriental Studies with Classics courses including those languages) were required to sit the Oriental Languages Aptitude Test on 3 November 2021.

¹ Oriental Studies courses included in these figures: Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Arabic and Islamic Studies, Arabic with subsidiary language, Chinese, Egyptology, Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Hebrew, Japanese, Jewish Studies, Persian, Sanskrit, Turkish.
² Includes applicants who applied for European and Middle Eastern Languages (EMEL) or Classics and Oriental Studies (COS) but were shortlisted or made an offer for Oriental Studies only.
The OLAT is a 30-minute test designed to assess ability to analyse how languages work. The OLAT tests aptitude for learning a new language rapidly, and is not dependent on knowledge of a particular language. More information about the test can be found [here](#).

The OLAT is not used as part of the shortlisting process, but scores are made available to tutors after shortlisting had been completed. The figures below include all candidates who sat the OLAT (including applicants for EMEL and Oriental Studies with Classics courses).

The mean score for applicants who sat the OLAT was 62.0. The mean score for shortlisted applicants was 62.6, and 69.8 for those who went on to receive an offer. The distribution of marks was as follows:

![OLAT score distribution](#)

Note: graph excludes candidates who did not sit the test (n=2).

**Interview**

All shortlisted candidates were asked to attend two interviews remotely, one with the Oriental Institute and one with the College.

In the interviews tutors looked for evidence of: potential for the intended course of study; motivation; capacity for hard and well-organised work; capacity for tackling languages; skills of analysis, argument and description.

A number of candidates were also interviewed at a second college. 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 OLAT, submitted written work, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information.

29.8% 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](#).