

# MANSFIELD COLLEGE

University of Oxford



## PPE Admissions Feedback 2021-22

### Summary

Applications		1994
Shortlisted		733
Offers	2022 entry	258 [including 16 <a href="#">open offers</a> ]
	2023 entry	7

Mansfield made eight offers for 2022 entry.

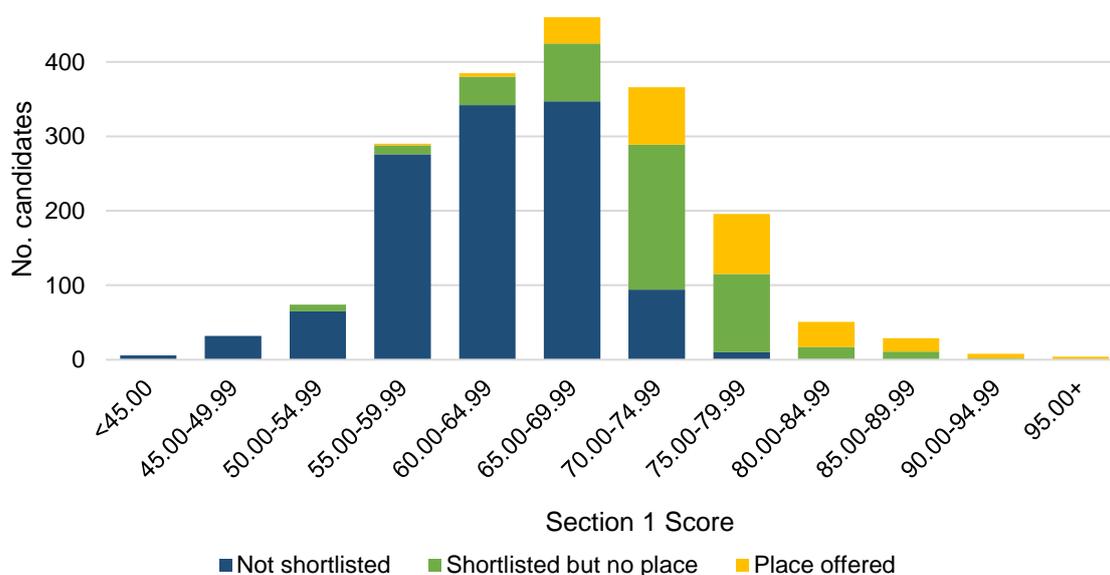
### Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their UCAS applications and their scores on the Thinking Skills Assessment. 733 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 2.8 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](#).

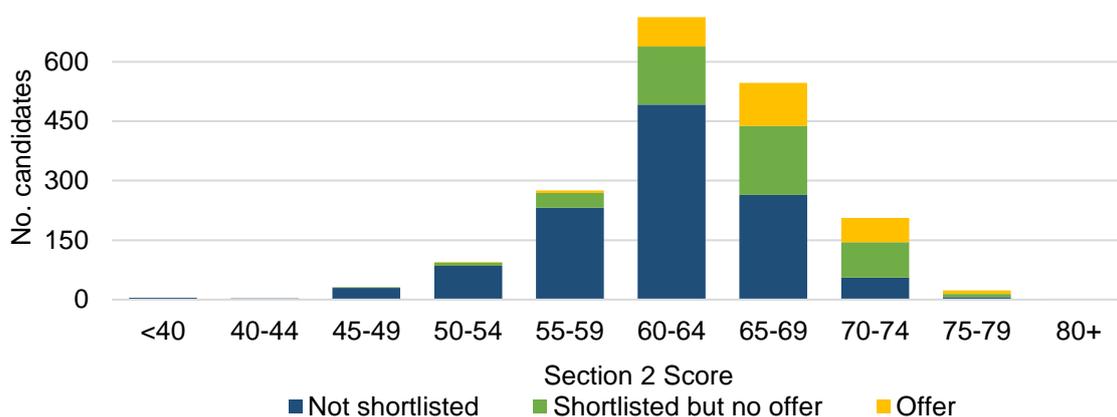
The mean Section 1 (multiple choice) score for all PPE applicants (excluding those who did not sit the test) was 66.8. For shortlisted applicants the mean was 73.3, and 76.0 for those who received an offer. The distribution of marks was as follows:



Note: graph excludes candidates who did not sit Section 1 (n=93).

When marking Section 2 (essay), tutors looked for evidence of whether the candidate had addressed the question in the way demanded; organised their thoughts clearly; used clear, concise, compelling and correct English; used general knowledge and opinions appropriately. Essays in the top range of marks had clear construction, an interesting and effective argument, and excellent use of English. Weaker answers failed to address the question appropriately, or had significant weaknesses in argument, structure or use of English.

The mean Section 2 (essay) score for all PPE applicants (excluding those who did not sit the test) was 63.0. For shortlisted applicants the mean was 65.8, and 66.7 for those who received an offer. The distribution of marks was as follows:



Note: graph excludes candidates who did not sit Section 2 (n=94).

### UCAS Application

Candidates were assessed on the basis of their past and predicted examination results, their personal statement, their teacher's reference and any relevant contextual information. Each candidate's individual circumstances were considered when assessing their application. The stronger candidates were those who had high predicted or achieved grades (A\*/9/8s at GCSE or equivalent, AAA+ at A Level or equivalent), and a reference recommending them as outstanding among their peers.

In assessing the personal statement, tutors looked for evidence of interest in PPE but not necessarily knowledge of the three subjects. Candidates were not expected to have studied any of the three subjects at school, but were expected to show engagement with at least one or two of the three (e.g. extra-curricular reading).

Candidates were shortlisted on the basis of their TSA scores and their UCAS application, including relevant contextual information. The TSA scores and GCSE/A Level (or equivalent grades) were given highest weighting, the teacher's reference medium weighting, and the personal statement the lowest weighting.

Candidates with strong TSA scores and UCAS applications were likely to be shortlisted for interview. Those with weaker TSA scores and/or UCAS applications were only shortlisted if 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 45 minutes with the Mansfield tutors. Candidates were asked questions relating to Philosophy, Politics and Economics, though no prior knowledge of any of the subjects was assumed.

In the interviews tutors looked for evidence of: capacity for sustained study, motivation and interest, an independent and reflective approach to learning; ability to analyse and solve problems using logical and critical approaches, ability to assess relevance, capacity to construct and critically assess arguments, flexibility and willingness to consider alternative views; willingness and ability to express ideas clearly and effectively on paper and orally; ability to listen; ability to give considered responses.

Candidates were not expected to have studied any philosophy, politics or economics before, but were expected to show critical and creative engagement with issues relevant to the study of those subjects.

A number of candidates were also interviewed at a second college. Approximately 25 additional interviews took place. These interviews were carried out as part of the movement of candidates 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 application, performance in the TSA multiple choice and essay, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information.

16.6% 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](#).