



Physics Admissions Feedback 2021-22

Summary

Applications	1605	
Shortlisted	462	
Offers	2022 entry	198 [including 13 open offers]
	2023 entry	6

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

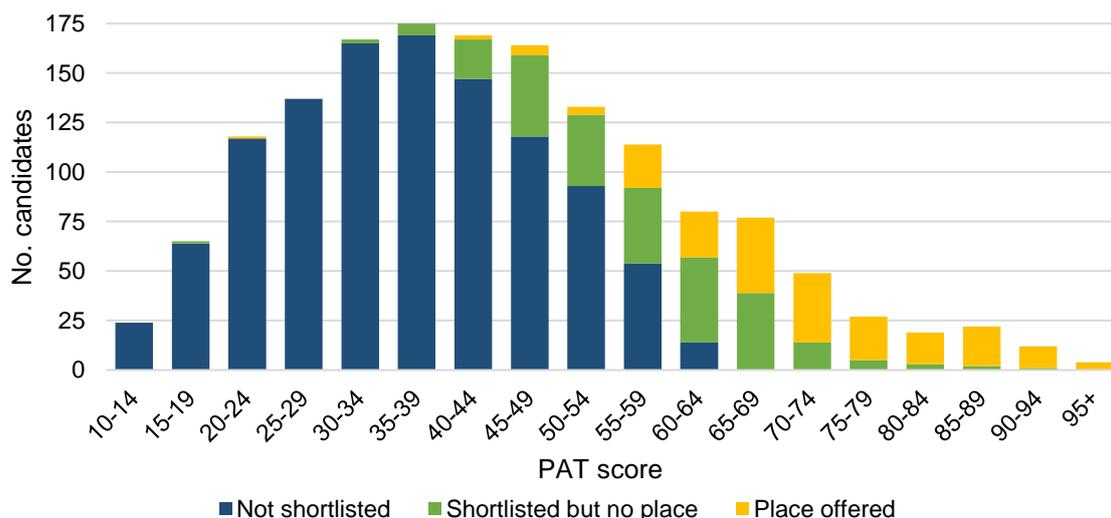
Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their scores on the Physics Aptitude Test and their UCAS applications, including any relevant contextual information. 462 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 2.3 candidates per place.

Physics Aptitude Test

All candidates were required to sit the Physics Aptitude Test on 4 November 2021. The Physics Aptitude Test is a single two-hour paper combining maths and physics questions. The test is set to a defined syllabus and the content is checked by school teachers to ensure that it is set at an appropriate level. More information about the test can be found [here](#).

The mean PAT score for all applicants (excluding those who did not sit the test) was 43.8. For shortlisted applicants the mean was 63.2, and 71.2 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 PAT (n=41).

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 Physics to degree level. Each candidate's individual circumstances were considered when assessing their application.

An initial ranking was created using the PAT score. Candidates who came higher in the ranking were more likely to be shortlisted for interview, and those lower in the ranking 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 interviews remotely. Candidates had at least one interview at their first college, and one at another college that had been assigned to them.

In the interviews tutors looked for evidence of: a real interest and strong desire to learn physics; ability to express physical ideas using mathematics; mathematical ability; ability to analyse and solve problems using logical and critical approaches; ability to see how one part of a physical system connects with another; ability to predict what will happen in a given physical situation; ability to give precise explanations both orally and numerically.

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 PAT, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information.

28.9% of candidates who were made offers for Physics 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](#).