Engineering Admissions Feedback 2019-20

Summary

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Mansfield made seven offers for 2020 entry, including one open offer.

Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their UCAS applications and their scores on the Physics Aptitude Test, along with relevant contextual information. 443 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 2.6 candidates per place.

UCAS Application

All applications were assessed independently by tutors from two colleges. The forms were assessed "college blind" (i.e. choice of college was removed). Tutors graded candidates on their examination performance to date, examination predictions, personal statement, and reference, taking into account each applicant’s individual circumstances.

The mean UCAS grade for all applicants was 7.6. The mean grade for shortlisted applicants was 8.2, and 8.3 for those who went on to receive an offer.

The distribution of grades was as follows:

Physics Aptitude Test

All candidates were required to sit the Physics Aptitude Test on 30 October 2019. 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 39.2. For shortlisted applicants the mean was 47.3, and 51.7 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=44).

PAT scores and UCAS grades were combined to create an initial shortlist, which was then discussed at a meeting of all Engineering tutors. A final list was agreed and applicants were then notified about whether they had been shortlisted. 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 come to Oxford to attend an interview. Applicants resident outside the EEA/Switzerland were also offered the option of a remote interview. Candidates who came to Oxford were interviewed at two colleges. In the interviews tutors looked for evidence of: fluency in expressing core knowledge and ideas in physics and mathematics; ability to apply existing knowledge methodically to new situations; ability to assimilate and apply new concepts; rapidity in thinking and reasoning; commitment to intense and sustained learning; interest in and enthusiasm for the engineered world.

**Offers**

Offers were made to candidates who demonstrated the most potential to perform well on the course, on the basis of their UCAS grade, PAT score, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information. The final list of offers was agreed at a meeting of all Engineering tutors. As part of the process, some candidates were reassigned to a college other than the one they had applied to or been allocated: 21% 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](#).