English Language and Literature
Admissions Feedback 2019-20

Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>899</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shortlisted$^1$</td>
<td>609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offers$^1$</td>
<td>2020 entry: 252 [including 26 open offers] 2021 entry: 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mansfield made twelve offers for 2020 entry, including three open offers.

Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their UCAS applications, written work, and their scores on the English Literature Admissions Test. 609 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 2.7 candidates per place.

UCAS Application

Each candidate’s UCAS application was marked on a scale of 1-10. Tutors assessed candidates on the basis of their qualifications and predicted grades, personal statement and reference. Each candidate’s individual circumstances were considered when assessing their application.

The mean UCAS grade for all applicants was 7.5. The mean grade for shortlisted applicants was 8.0, and 8.5 for those who went on to receive an offer.

The distribution of grades was as follows:

$^1$ These figures include a small number of candidates (n=8) who applied for a combined course with English but were shortlisted only for English Language and Literature, or were shortlisted for the combined course but made an offer only for English Language and Literature. These candidates are not included in the figures in the ‘Shortlisting’ section, due to differences in the assessments used by the courses to which they initially applied.
Written Work

All candidates were asked to submit a piece of work as part of the assessment, usually a marked essay written as part of their normal school or college work. Work was graded on a scale of 1-10, using the following criteria: attention to the literary aspects of texts; sensitivity to the creative use of language; evidence of careful and critical reading; an analytical approach; coherence of argument and articulacy of expression; precision, in the handling of concepts and in the evidence presented to support points; relevance to the question; independence of thought.

The mean written work score for all applicants was 6.6. The mean for shortlisted applicants was 7.0, and 7.4 for those who went on to receive an offer.

The distribution of grades was as follows:

![Graph showing distribution of written work grades]

English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT)

All candidates were required to sit the ELAT on 30 October 2019. The ELAT is a 90-minute test, marked out of 60, that consists of a single writing exercise in response to passages of literary material. Candidates may access their test results from the admissions testing service website from Monday 13 January. An explanation of the scoring and results can also be found there.

The mean ELAT score for all applicants (excluding those who did not sit the test) was 44.8. The mean score for shortlisted applicants was 47.4, and 49.2 for those who went on to receive an offer.

The distribution of marks was as follows:

![Graph showing distribution of ELAT scores]

Note: graph excludes candidates who did not sit the ELAT (n=20).
Contextualised GCSE

All candidates who had sat GCSEs were also given a contextualised GCSE score. The contextualised GCSE score provides information on how well an applicant performed at GCSE compared to other applicants to Oxford, given the performance of the school at which they sat their GCSEs. For candidates who did not do GCSEs, an estimate of how they would have performed is made based on the rest of their application.

ELAT scores, UCAS grades, written work scores and contextualised GCSE scores were combined to create an initial grouping which put candidates in one of ten bands. Each score was weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELAT score</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written work score</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCAS grade</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contextualised GCSE score</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The banding was then used to help shortlist candidates, with those who fell into the higher bands more likely to be shortlisted for interview, and those in the lower bands 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 come to Oxford to attend an interview. Applicants resident outside the EEA/Switzerland were also offered the option of a remote interview. At Mansfield, each candidate had two interviews of around 20-30 minutes each. The interviews centred on the candidates' written work, general reading and a piece of unseen poetry.

In the interviews tutors looked for: evidence of independent reading; capacity to exchange and build on ideas; clarity of thought and expression; analytical ability; flexibility of thought; evidence of independent thinking about literature; readiness and commitment to read widely with discrimination.

A number of candidates were also interviewed at a second college, and a small number at a third or fourth college. Approximately 200 additional interviews took place. 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 ELAT, submitted written work, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information. The list of candidates to be made open offers was agreed at a meeting of English tutors from all colleges. 23.3% 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.