Geography Admissions Feedback 2020-21

Summary

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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
<td>458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortlisted</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offers 2021 entry</td>
<td>84 [including 6 open offers]</td>
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<td>Offers 2022 entry</td>
<td>2</td>
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Mansfield made nine offers for 2021 entry, including one open offer.

Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their UCAS applications and their contextualised GCSE score (where available). 247 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 2.9 candidates per place.

Contextualised GCSE score

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.

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*A+) or equivalent; a reference recommending the applicant as outstanding among their peers; a personal statement suggesting a strong interest in the study of Geography at degree level. Each candidate’s individual circumstances were considered when assessing their application.

A departmental admissions panel drew up an initial shortlist based primarily on ranked contextualised GCSE score. Candidates with a strong academic profile in the absence of a contextualised GCSE score were also recommended for shortlisting, as were candidates whose mitigating circumstances or contextual information suggested that their scores might not be an accurate reflection of their potential.

The shortlist was discussed by Geography tutors from across the colleges and a final list was agreed. 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 attend remote interviews. At Mansfield, each candidate had two interviews: one on Physical Geography and one on Human Geography.

In the interviews tutors looked for: potential for independent thinking; ability to follow an argument; comprehension; problem-solving; spirit of enquiry; evidence of ability to respond in
a thoughtful way to unpredictable questions and ideas; evidence that the candidate's interest goes beyond their current academic training; ability to deploy knowledge in ways that show initiative and enthusiasm.

**Offers**

Offers were made to candidates who demonstrated the most potential to perform well on the course, on the basis of their UCAS application, contextualised GCSE score and interview performance, and any other relevant contextual information. Colleges were able to make offers to strong applicants whom they had not interviewed if their first choice college was unable to offer them a place. Overall, 19.8% 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](#).