Human Sciences Admissions Feedback 2019-20

Summary

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
<td>220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shortlisted</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offers 2020 entry</td>
<td>38  [including 5 open offers]</td>
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<td>Offers 2021 entry</td>
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Mansfield made five offers for 2020 entry, including one open offer.

Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their scores on the Thinking Skills Assessment and their contextualised GCSE score (where applicable), along with their UCAS application and any relevant contextual information. 115 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 3.8 candidates per place.

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.

Thinking Skills Assessment

All candidates were required to sit the Thinking Skills Assessment on 30 October 2019. 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 TSA multiple choice score for all Human Sciences applicants (excluding those who did not sit the test) was 63.9. For shortlisted applicants the mean was 67.8, and 68.9 for those who went on to receive an offer.

The distribution of marks was as follows:

![Distribution of marks](image)

Note: graph excludes candidates who did not sit the TSA (n=6).
A shortlist was created using TSA scores and contextualised GCSE scores (where applicable), along with assessment of the UCAS application and any relevant contextual information. Equal weight was given to the TSA score and contextualised GCSE score (where applicable). The shortlist was then discussed at a meeting of Human Sciences tutors from across the colleges, and a final list was agreed. 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: potential for independent thinking; ability to follow an argument; skill in communication and listening; evidence of ability to respond in a thoughtful way to unpredictable questions and ideas; intellectual curiosity; openness of mind; enthusiasm for their current studies or activities; evidence of interest beyond current studies; evidence of ability to cope successfully with both the quantitative and the essay-based components of the course.

A number of candidates were asked to attend an additional interview with the Human Sciences Admissions Panel. These additional interviews were carried out to ensure that the strongest candidates across the colleges were made offers.

**Offers**

Offers were made to candidates who demonstrated the most potential to perform well on the course, on the basis of their UCAS form, TSA score, contextualised GCSE score, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information. The final list of offers was agreed at a meeting of Human Sciences tutors from across the colleges.

As part of the process, some candidates were reassigned to a college other than the one they had applied to or been allocated: 37.5% 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](#).