Law Admissions Feedback 2019-20

Summary

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Mansfield made fourteen offers for 2020 entry, including three open offers, and two offers for 2021 entry. Two of these offers were for Law with Law Studies in Europe. In addition, one offer for 2020 entry was made in a previous cycle.

Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their UCAS applications and their scores on the National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT). 3.1 candidates were shortlisted per place for Law, and 3.8 candidates per place for Law with Law Studies in Europe.

LNAT

The LNAT is a 2hr15 test in two sections that assesses skills required to study Law. The test is in two parts: the first part is a computer-based multiple choice exam where candidates read passages of text and answer questions testing their comprehension of them; for the second part candidates write one essay from a list of three questions, which assesses their ability to construct a compelling argument and reach a conclusion.

The mean LNAT MC score for all applicants (excluding those who did not sit the test) was 23.9 out of 42. The mean score for shortlisted applicants was 27.7, and 28.7 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 LNAT (n=58).

1 Excludes Senior Status Law.
2 Includes applicants for Law with Law Studies in Europe who were made an offer for Law.
The mean LNAT essay score for all applicants (excluding those who did not sit the test) was 61.4. The mean score for shortlisted applicants was 63.1, and 63.9 for those who went on to receive an offer. The distribution of marks was as follows:

UCAS Application
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.

International and mature applicants were reviewed by a faculty selection committee. Recommendations were made to colleges about whether these candidates should be shortlisted for interview.

LNAT scores and GCSE scores (where available) were combined to create an initial ranking. Where a candidate had not sat GCSEs they were ranked only on their LNAT score, and tutors were advised to approach the rankings for these candidates with more caution. The ranking was then used to help shortlist candidates, with those who came higher in the ranking more likely to be shortlisted for interview, and those lower in the ranking less likely to be shortlisted unless mitigating circumstances or contextual information suggested that their scores might not be an accurate reflection of their potential.

Candidates were reviewed by a faculty admissions panel, and a final shortlist 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. At Mansfield, each candidate who came to interviews in Oxford had two interviews of around 20-30 minutes each. Candidates were asked to look at a short case document prior to each interview which was then discussed in the interview.

In the interviews tutors looked for: concentration and enthusiasm; ability to make a sustained and cogent argument; ability to distinguish relevant from irrelevant; ability to identify and explain weaknesses in argument; creativity, flexibility of thought, lateral thinking; ability to give clear and articulated responses.

A number of candidates were also interviewed at a second college. Approximately 20 additional interviews took place. These interviews were carried out as part of the movement of candidates between colleges, from oversubscribed to undersubscribed colleges.

Candidates for Law with Law Studies in France, Germany, Italy or Spain were also asked to attend a short language test, which assessed their oral ability in the language they had chosen.
**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 LNAT, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information. Candidates for Law with Law Studies in Europe were also assessed on their language test performance.

25.5% 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](#).