

MANSFIELD COLLEGE

University of Oxford



Geography Feedback 2016-17

Across the University there were 318 applicants for Geography. The estimated competition for places was approximately 3.3 applicants per place.

235 applicants were shortlisted for interview. The decision about who to shortlist for interview was made using a combination of TSA scores and, where available, contextual GCSE exam data. Candidates were called for interview if their average TSA score was above 59 or if they met our other criteria relating to contextualised GCSE scores. Candidates not meeting either of these criteria may have been invited for interview after careful consideration of other relevant factors. All overseas candidates offered interviews were given the choice of either attending in Oxford or having a Skype interview.

The Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA) is a 2-hour pre-interview test for applicants to several undergraduate courses at the University of Oxford. It is designed to help tutors assess whether candidates have the skills and aptitudes needed to study at Oxford. Candidates make access their test results from the Admissions Testing Service website:

<http://www.admissionstesting-service.org/for-test-takers/thinking-skills-assessment/tsa-oxford/scoring-and-results/>. An explanation of the scoring and results can also be found on the ATS website.

Shortlisted candidates at Mansfield were given two interviews, each of which was conducted by two tutors, generally one on Physical Geography and one on Human Geography. The interviews were just one part of the selection procedure, and did not outweigh other factors. Tutors considered all available information, including the TSA, past and predicted examination results, teachers' references and the interviews when assessing whether an individual candidate should be offered a place.

Competition was fierce, with most candidates having strong GCSE (or equivalent) results and a minimum of A*AA in their predicted A-level grades (or equivalent). In selecting for Geography the qualities tutors look for include: the ability to follow and construct an argument; the potential for independent thinking and problem-solving; and a high level of motivation for the study of Geography, which goes beyond their current study. The University selection criteria are published at: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/selection-criteria>.

Across the University, 94 offers were made for 2018 entry (including open offers), and 2 for 2019 entry.

Mansfield made 7 offers for 2018 entry, including 1 open offer. In addition, two deferred offers for 2018 entry was made during the 2016-17 admissions cycle.