History Feedback 2017-18

Across the University there were 1020 applications for History. The estimated competition for places was 4.8 applicants per place.

762 History applicants were shortlisted for interview. Applicants were given a pre-shortlisting rank based on their HAT mark and contextualised GCSE score. A percentage of candidates were not recommended for interview on this basis, although UCAS information was also taken into account at the shortlisting stage, including any further relevant contextual information. Candidates whose UCAS information and pre-interview score were not strong were unlikely to be called for interview, as we consider that an interview will not compensate for weaknesses elsewhere in their application. All overseas candidates offered interviews were given the choice of either attending interview in Oxford or having a Skype interview.

The History Aptitude Test is a two hour test, which requires candidates to read two extracts and answer a total of four questions about them. The HAT is a test of skills, not substantive historical knowledge, and is designed so that candidates should find it equally challenging regardless of what period(s) they have studied. Candidates can request their HAT scores from the College. More information about the HAT can be found here: http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/prospective/undergraduate/applying/the-history-aptitude-test.html

The average HAT score for all History candidates was 57.2. The average HAT score for shortlisted History candidates was 63.6, and for candidates made offers it was 68.2.

At Mansfield, all shortlisted candidates received two interviews. The general selection criteria used by the tutors was as follows: intellectual curiosity; conceptual clarity; flexibility – the capacity to engage with alternative perspectives and/or new information; accuracy and attention to detail; critical engagement; capacity for hard work, enthusiasm for History; evidence of historical imagination and understanding, in particular, the ability to speculate and compare alongside the possession of appropriate historical knowledge and the capacity to deploy it.

The selection criteria for History are published on the web at: http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/sele selection-criteria.

Candidates were assessed using the following information: UCAS forms, including, in particular, personal statements, references, qualifications achieved and qualifications predicted; performance at
GCSE; performance in the History Aptitude Test (HAT); written work submitted by candidates; performance in interviews.

Across the University, approximately 269 offers were made for History for 2018 entry (including open offers), and two for 2019 entry.

Mansfield made 11 offers for History for 2018 entry, including one open offer.