History and History & Politics Feedback 2016-17

Across the University there were 956 applications for History and 425 for History and Politics. The estimated competition for places was 4.2 applicants per place for History, and 9.4 for History and Politics.

Approximately three applicants per place were shortlisted for interview across the University for History and Joint Schools. Approximately 684 History applicants were shortlisted and 194 History and Politics applicants. 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. The HAT is anonymised and double blind marked by members of the History faculty. 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](http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/prospective/undergraduate/applying/the-history-aptitude-test.html)

The average HAT score for all History candidates was 57.6. The average HAT score for shortlisted History candidates was 62.9, and for candidates made offers it was 67.3. For History and Politics the average HAT score was 54.6 for all candidates, 64.9 for shortlisted candidates, and 67.5 for candidates made offers.

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 and History and Politics are published on the web at: [http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/selection-criteria](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/selection-criteria).

Candidates were assessed using the following information: UCAS forms, including, in particular, personal statements, school reports, 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 225 offers were made for History for 2017 entry (including open offers), and 6 for 2018 entry. 64 offers were made for 2017 entry for History and Politics (including an open offer) and 4 for 2018 entry. Mansfield made 7 offers for History and 2 for History and Politics.