Across the University there were 1805 applications total, including 1460 for Law and 345 for Law with Law Studies in Europe. The estimated number of applicants per place was 7.6.

Approximately 657 applicants were shortlisted for interview, including 541 for Law and 116 for Law with Law Studies in Europe. The procedure for Law admissions is designed to ensure that the strongest candidates across the university are placed. All candidates were ranked according to their performance on the multiple choice section of the LNAT and their GCSE results (if applicable). The Law tutors then assessed candidates using all available information, including examination results, predicted grades, LNAT multiple choice and essay scores, personal statement, teacher’s reference, and any relevant contextual information. A smart algorithm was used to reallocate some candidates to account for oversubscribed/undersubscribed colleges.

The Law National Admissions Test includes multiple choice questions and essay questions. The mean score among Oxford applicants on the multiple choice section was 21.66, and the standard deviation was 5.14. The mean score among shortlisted applicants on the multiple choice section was 25.93, and the standard deviation was 3.65. The mean score among those made offers on the multiple choice section was 27.2, and the standard deviation was 3.63.

The multiple choice questions are designed to test powers of comprehension, interpretation, analysis, synthesis, induction, and deduction. The questions do not test (and do not require) knowledge of any subject except for the English language. The essay element requires the candidate to write one essay from a choice of five questions on a range of subjects. Although these typically require some rudimentary knowledge of everyday subjects, the point of the essay is to test the ability of the candidate to argue economically to a conclusion with a good command of written English. The multiple choice section is machine marked, and the essay section is marked by Law tutors at the University.

At Mansfield, shortlisted candidates coming to interview in Oxford had two interviews with our Law tutors. All overseas candidates offered interviews were given the choice of either attending interviews in Oxford or having a Skype interview. In selecting for Law we looked for: evidence of motivation and capacity for sustained and intense work; ability to analyse and solve problems using logical and critical approaches; ability to draw fine distinctions; ability to separate the relevant from the irrelevant; capacity for accurate and critical observation; capacity for sustained and cogent argument; creativity and flexibility of thought and lateral thinking; willingness and ability to express ideas clearly and effectively; ability to listen; ability to give considered responses.

Throughout the admissions process, tutors seek to detect the candidate’s future potential as a law student. Existing achievement (as revealed in official examinations, predicted examination results, and school reports), as well as performance in the test and interview, is relied upon mainly as evidence of future potential. Existing knowledge of Law is not a criterion of admission. The selection criteria for Law are published on the web at: www.ox.ac.uk/crit.

Across the University, approximately 255 offers were made, including 222 for Law and 33 for Law with Law Studies in Europe. Mansfield made 9 offers for 2018 entry, including two open offers, and one for Law with Law Studies in Europe. In addition, one deferred offer for 2018 entry was made during the 2016-17 admissions cycle.