Mathematics Admissions Feedback 2019-20

Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Maths and Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
<td>1828</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortlisted</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 entry</td>
<td>204(^1)</td>
<td>12 [inc. 1 open offer]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 entry</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Mansfield made eight offers for Mathematics for 2020 entry, and no offers for Mathematics & Statistics.

Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their scores on the Maths Admissions Test, their GCSE grades (where applicable), their UCAS forms and any relevant contextual information. Approximately 3.1 candidates were shortlisted per place for Mathematics, and 2.6 candidates per place for Mathematics and Statistics.

Maths Admissions Test

The MAT is a 2.5 hour test of mathematical ability and understanding. The test contains both a multiple choice question and a series of longer questions for which candidates need to show their working. Candidates received their MAT scores from the Mathematical Institute in January. Information about the MAT - including the syllabus, past papers, solutions, and reports - can be found on the Oxford Maths website.

The mean MAT score for all Mathematics and Mathematics and Statistics applicants (excluding those who did not sit the test) was 44.9. The mean score for shortlisted applicants was 64.4, and 69.9 for those who went on to receive an offer. The distribution of marks was as follows:

![Graph]

Note: graph excludes candidates who did not sit the MAT (n=34).

\(^1\) Includes two Mathematics and Computer Science applicants made an offer for Mathematics only.
UCAS Application
Tutors assessed the motivation and ability of each candidate (including appropriate mathematical background) on the basis of their qualifications and predicted grades, personal statement and reference. Each candidate’s individual circumstances were taken into account when assessing their application.

Applicants received a pre-shortlisting score based on their MAT mark and GCSE score (where applicable). The scores were 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.

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. Each candidate who came to interview in Oxford had at least one interview at the College they had been shortlisted by, and one at a second college.

In the interviews tutors looked for: mathematical aptitude and technical skills; a capacity to absorb and use new ideas; the ability to think and work independently; perseverance and enthusiasm.

A number of candidates were also interviewed at a third college. Approximately 85 additional interviews took place. These interviews were carried out as part of the movement of candidates from oversubscribed to undersubscribed colleges.

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 MAT, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information. 33.3% of Mathematics and Mathematics & Statistics 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.