Mathematics Admissions Feedback 2020-21

Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Maths and Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
<td>1850</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortlisted</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 entry</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[inc. 8 open offers]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022 entry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
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Mansfield made nine offers for Mathematics for 2021 entry.

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 3.2 candidates were shortlisted per place for Mathematics, and 4.4 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 58.3. The mean score for shortlisted applicants was 76.0, and 82.1 for those who went on to receive an offer. The distribution of marks was as follows:

Note: graph excludes candidates who did not sit the MAT (n=42).
Contextualised GCSE score
All candidates who had sat GCSEs were also given a contextualised GCSE score. The contextualised GCSE score provides information on how well an applicant performed at GCSE compared to other applicants to Oxford, given the performance of the school at which they sat their GCSEs.

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 contextualised 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 attend an interview online of around 30 minutes with Mansfield tutors. Most candidates also had an interview at a second college, and a small number at a third or fourth college. These interviews were carried out as part of the movement of candidates from oversubscribed to undersubscribed colleges.

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.

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. 28.9% 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.