Oriental Studies Admissions Feedback 2019-20

Summary¹

<table>
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<th>Applications</th>
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<td>Offers²</td>
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Mansfield made three offers for 2020 entry. In addition, one offer for 2020 entry was made in the previous cycle.

Shortlisting
Candidates were shortlisted using their UCAS applications and written work, and any relevant contextual information. 123 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 3.0 applicants per place.

Written Work
All candidates were asked to submit a piece of work as part of the assessment, usually a marked essay written as part of their normal school or college work. Candidates were assessed on their ability to construct an argument and express their ideas in English.

UCAS Application
Candidates were assessed on the basis of their past and predicted examination results, their personal statement, their teacher’s reference and any relevant contextual information. Each candidate’s individual circumstances were considered when assessing their application.

Candidates were shortlisted for interview if their UCAS application and written work showed sufficient evidence of academic potential for the intended course of study.

OLAT
Candidates for Hebrew, Persian, Turkish, Arabic or Jewish Studies (and EMEL courses including those languages) were required to sit the Oriental Languages Aptitude Test on 30 October 2019. The OLAT was not used as part of the shortlisting process, but scores were made available to tutors after shortlisting had been completed.

The OLAT is a 30-minute test designed to assess ability to analyse how languages work. The OLAT tests aptitude for learning a new language rapidly, and is not dependent on knowledge of a particular language. The mean score for applicants who sat the OLAT was 59.2. The mean score for shortlisted applicants was 60.0, and 61.4 for those who went on to receive an offer. The distribution of marks was as follows:

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¹ Oriental Studies courses included in these figures: Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Arabic and Islamic Studies, Arabic with subsidiary language, Chinese, Egyptology, Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Hebrew, Japanese, Jewish Studies, Persian, Sanskrit.

² Includes applicants who applied for European and Middle Eastern Languages (EMEL) but were shortlisted or made an offer for Oriental Studies only.
Note: graph excludes candidates who did not sit the test (n=2).

**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. Candidates who came to interview in Oxford were interviewed at the college and at the Oriental Institute.

In the interviews tutors looked for evidence of: potential for the intended course of study; motivation; capacity for hard and well-organised work; capacity for tackling languages; skills of analysis, argument and description.

A number of candidates were also interviewed at a second college. These interviews were carried out as part of the movement of candidates between colleges, 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 OLAT, submitted written work, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information.

28.3% of 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](#).