

Mansfield College

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Engineering Science Admissions Feedback 2023-24

Summary

Applications	1136
Shortlisted	431
Offers for 2024	201 (including 17 open offers)
Offers for 2025	2

Mansfield made seven offers for 2024 entry, including one open offer and one deferred from the previous cycle.

Shortlisting

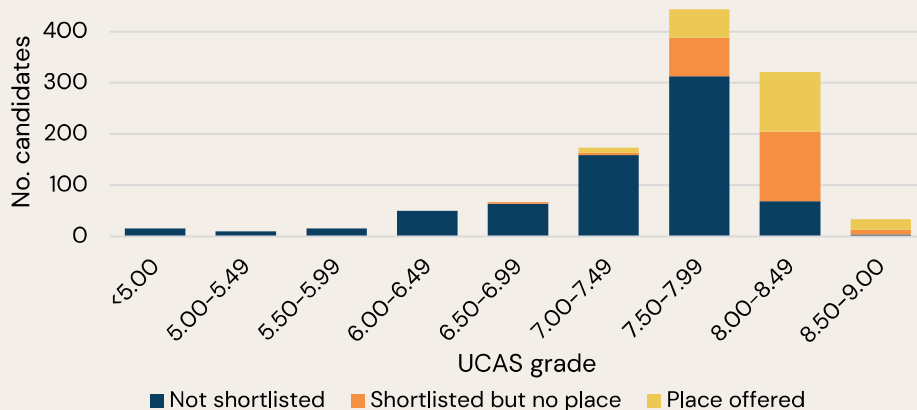
Candidates were shortlisted using their UCAS applications and their scores on the Physics Admissions Test, along with relevant contextual information. 431 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 2.1 candidates per offer made.

UCAS Application

All applications were assessed independently by tutors from two colleges. The forms were assessed “college blind” (i.e. choice of college was removed). Tutors graded candidates on their examination performance to date, examination predictions, personal statement, and reference, taking into account each applicant’s individual circumstances.

The mean UCAS grade for all applicants was 7.6. The mean grade for shortlisted applicants was 8.1, and 8.1 for those who went on to receive an offer.

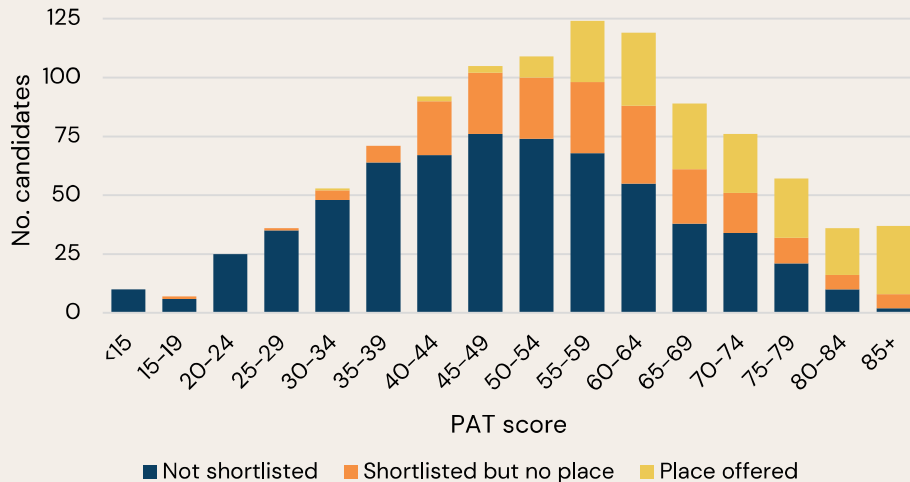
The distribution of grades was as follows:



Physics Admissions Test (PAT)

As part of the application process, candidates were asked to sit the PAT in October 2023. The PAT is a single two-hour paper combining maths and physics questions. The test is set to a defined syllabus and the content is checked by school teachers to ensure that it is set at an appropriate level. More information about the test can be found on the [University website](#).

The mean PAT score for all applicants (excluding those who did not sit the test) was 54.5. For shortlisted applicants the mean was 63.8, and 70.3 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 PAT (n=90).

PAT scores and UCAS grades were combined to create an initial shortlist, which was then discussed at a meeting of all Engineering tutors. A final list was agreed, and applicants were then notified about whether they had been shortlisted.

Interview

All shortlisted candidates were asked to attend two interviews remotely via Microsoft Teams with two different colleges. The interview were scheduled for 35 minute slots, including buffer time for any technical issues.

In the interviews tutors looked for evidence of:

- fluency in expressing core knowledge and ideas in physics and mathematics
- ability to apply existing knowledge methodically to new situations
- ability to assimilate and apply new concepts
- rapidity in thinking and reasoning
- commitment to intense and sustained learning
- interest in and enthusiasm for the engineered world

Offers

Offers were made to candidates who demonstrated the most potential to perform well on the course, on the basis of their UCAS grade, PAT score, interview performance and

any other relevant contextual information. The final list of offers was agreed at a meeting of all Engineering tutors.

As part of the process, some candidates were reassigned to a college other than the one they had applied to or been allocated: 19.2% 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 the [Engineering Department website](#).