

# Mansfield College

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## English Language and Literature Admissions Feedback 2023–24

### Summary<sup>1</sup>

Applications	865
Shortlisted	607
Offers for 2024	234 (including 20 <a href="#">open offers</a> )
Offers for 2025	2

Mansfield made 10 offers for 2024 entry, including two open offers and two deferred from the previous cycle.

### Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their UCAS applications, written work, and contextualised GCSE score (where available). 607 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 2.6 candidates per offer made.

#### English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT)

As part of the application process, candidates were asked to sit the ELAT in October 2023. The ELAT is a 90-minute test, marked out of 60, that consists of a single writing exercise in response to passages of literary material.

This year it was not possible to use the ELAT as part of the shortlisting process due to technical problems with the delivery of the test and an issue with the rubric. For further information, please see the [English Faculty website](#). As a result of these circumstances, the test was not marked.

We are grateful to all applicants who sat the ELAT for the effort they put into preparing for the test, and we were sorry not to be able to use the essays as part of the admissions process.

#### UCAS Application

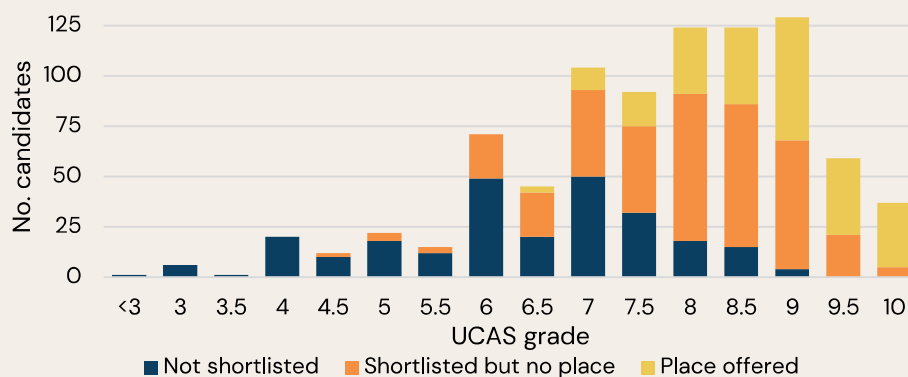
Each candidate's UCAS application was marked on a scale of 1–10. Tutors assessed candidates on the basis of their qualifications and predicted grades, personal statement and reference. Each candidate's individual circumstances were considered when assessing their application.

The mean UCAS grade for all applicants was 7.7. The mean grade for shortlisted applicants was 8.2, and 8.8 for those who went on to receive an offer.

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<sup>1</sup> Shortlisting and offer figures include a small number of applicants who applied for English and a joint school (e.g. History and English) who were shortlisted or made an offer for English Language and Literature only.

The distribution of grades was as follows:



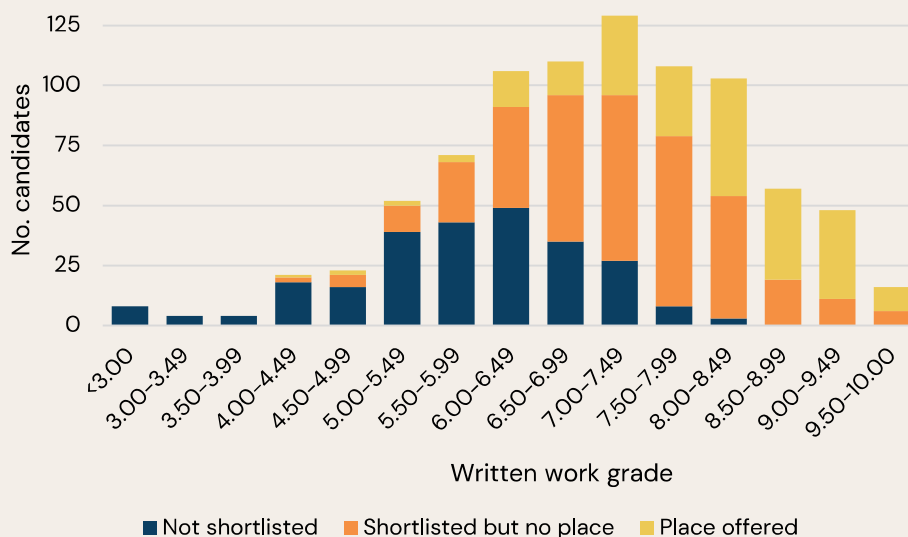
### Written Work

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. Each piece of work was double-marked. Work was graded on a scale of 1–10, using the following criteria:

- Attention to the literary aspects of chosen texts
- Sensitivity to the creative use of language
- Evidence of careful and critical reading
- An analytical approach
- Coherence and structure of argument and articulation of expression
- Precision in the handling of concepts and in the evidence presented to support points
- Relevance to the question
- Independence of thought

The mean written work score for all applicants was 6.9. The mean for shortlisted applicants was 7.4, and 7.9 for those who went on to receive an offer.

The distribution of grades was as follows:



### Contextualised GCSE score (UK applicants)

The contextualised GCSE score provides information on how well an applicant performed at GCSE, given the performance of the school at which they sat their GCSEs.

For candidates who did not do GCSEs, or for whom it was not possible to calculate a score, the written work and UCAS grade were given more weighting during the shortlisting process.

UCAS grades, written work scores and contextualised GCSE scores (where available) were combined to create an initial grouping which put candidates in one of ten bands. The banding was then used to help shortlist candidates, with those who fell into the higher bands more likely to be shortlisted for interview, and those in the lower bands less likely to be shortlisted unless mitigating circumstances or contextual information suggested that their scores might not be an accurate reflection of their potential.

Since it was not possible to use the ELAT as part of the shortlisting process this year, it was agreed to shortlist a higher proportion of applicants: 70% of applicants were selected for interview this year, compared to 60% in 2022–23.

A number of candidates were reallocated to a different college at this point, to ensure that the ratio of shortlisted applicants per place was approximately the same at each college.

### **Interview**

All shortlisted candidates were asked to attend interviews remotely via Microsoft Teams. At Mansfield, each candidate had one longer interview of 45 minutes. The time allowed for the interview and for the pre-reading were both increased this year to allow applicants more time to demonstrate evidence of the selection criteria, in the absence of the ELAT.

The interviews centred on the candidates' written work, general reading and a piece of unseen poetry. Tutors looked for:

- Evidence of independent reading
- Capacity to exchange and build on ideas
- Clarity of thought and expression
- Analytical ability
- Flexibility of thought
- Evidence of independent thinking about literature
- Readiness and commitment to read widely with discrimination

A number of candidates were also interviewed at a second college, and a small number at a third or fourth college. Approximately 100 additional interviews took place. 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, contextualised GCSE score (where

applicable), submitted written work, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information. The list of candidates to be made [open offers](#) was agreed at a meeting of English tutors from all colleges.

25.8% 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 'How to Apply' section of the English Faculty website](#).