



Mansfield College

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Geography Admissions Feedback 2023-24

Summary

Applications	290
Shortlisted	256
Offers for 2024	94 (including 10 open offers)
Offers for 2025	4

Mansfield made 10 offers for 2024 entry, including two open offers. One offer was made for 2025 entry.

Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their UCAS applications and contextualised GCSE score (where applicable). 256 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 2.7 candidates per offer made.

Geography Admissions Test

As part of the application process, candidates were asked to sit the GAT in October 2023. The GAT is a 1hr45 test which consists of two multiple-choice sections on critical thinking and problem solving, and a writing exercise in response to a passage of text. More information about the test can be found here: [Geography Admissions Test](#).

This year it was not possible to use the GAT as part of the shortlisting process due to technical problems with the delivery of the test. As a result, the test was not marked.

UCAS Application

Tutors assessed candidates on the basis of their qualifications and predicted grades, personal statement, and reference. Tutors looked for: high marks or predictions at GCSE (A*/9/8s) and A level (A*AA+) or equivalent; a reference recommending the applicant as outstanding among their peers; a personal statement suggesting a strong interest in the study of Geography at degree level. Each candidate's individual circumstances were considered when assessing their application.

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 UCAS application was given more weighting during the shortlisting process.

A departmental admissions panel drew up an initial shortlist based primarily on contextualised GCSE score (where applicable) and UCAS application. The shortlist was

discussed by Geography tutors from across the colleges and a final list was agreed. Applicants were then notified about whether they had been shortlisted.

Candidates with strong UCAS applications and contextualised GCSE scores (where applicable) were more likely to be shortlisted for interview. Candidates with lower scores and weaker applications were less likely to be shortlisted unless mitigating circumstances or contextual information suggested that their scores might not be an accurate reflection of their potential.

Some 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 remote interviews. At Mansfield, each candidate had two interviews: one on Physical Geography and one on Human Geography.

In the interviews tutors looked for:

- potential for independent thinking
- ability to follow an argument
- comprehension
- problem-solving
- spirit of enquiry
- evidence of ability to respond in a thoughtful way to unpredictable questions and ideas
- evidence that the candidate's interest goes beyond their current academic training
- ability to able to deploy knowledge in ways that show initiative 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 application, contextualised GCSE score, and interview performance, and any other relevant contextual information.

Colleges were able to make offers to strong applicants whom they had not interviewed if their first-choice college was unable to offer them a place. Overall, 24.5% 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 [Geography Department website](#).