Mansfield College
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Mathematics/Mathematics & Statistics
Admissions Feedback 2023-24

Summary

Applications	1961
Shortlisted	693
Offers for 2024	204 (including 13 open offers)
Offers for 2025	2

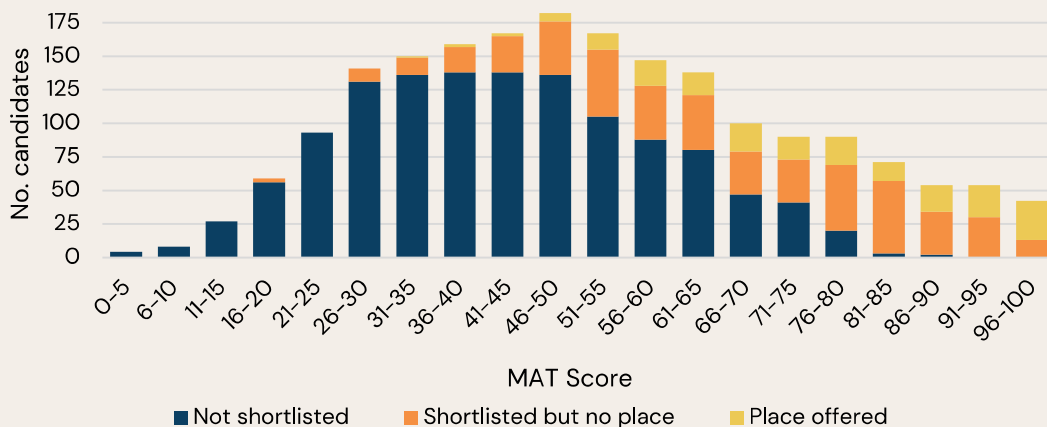Mansfield made nine offers for 2024 entry, including one open offer.

Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their scores on the Maths Admissions Test and their UCAS applications, including any relevant contextual information. Approximately 3.4 candidates were shortlisted per offer made.

Maths Admissions Test (MAT)
As part of the application process, candidates were asked to sit the MAT in October 2023. The MAT is a 2hr30 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. Information about the MAT can be found on the MAT section of 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 51.9. The mean score for shortlisted applicants was 68.7, and 76.0 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=18).

Many candidates experienced technical disruption with the online web platform for the MAT. Students for whom a special considerations form related to this technical disruption was submitted were invited to take an optional additional test on 14 November.

The additional test consisted of ten multiple choice questions. This additional test was taken by 1407 applicants for Mathematics or joint honours courses before shortlisting. The average score for Oxford applicants taking the additional mathematics test was 6.0.

<u>UCAS Application</u>
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. Tutors looked for: high marks or predictions at GCSE (A*/9/8s) and A level (A*A*A+) or equivalent; a reference recommending the applicant as outstanding among their peers; a personal statement suggesting strong evidence of interest and enthusiasm for mathematics. Each candidate's individual circumstances were taken into account when assessing their application.

Due to the disruption with the test, the Admissions Coordinator advised college tutors on shortlisting decisions based on MAT scores and additional test scores and special considerations forms. It was agreed to shortlist a higher number of applicants per place to mitigate the impact of the disruption (3.4, compared to 3.0 in previous cycles).

Those who performed better in the MAT and/or additional test were more likely to be shortlisted for interview, and those who scored lower were less likely to be shortlisted unless mitigating circumstances or contextual information suggested that their score might not be an accurate reflection of their potential.

Interview

All candidates shortlisted by Mansfield were asked to attend an interview online of around 30 minutes with Mansfield tutors, with some candidates having an additional interview with a different set of interviewers.

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 (and/or additional test), interview performance and any other relevant contextual information.

22.3% of Mathematics / 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 the [Mathematics Institute Website](#).