



Mansfield College

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Physics Admissions Feedback 2023-24

Summary

Applications	1518
Shortlisted	494
Offers for 2024	182 (including 9 open offers)
Offers for 2025	2

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

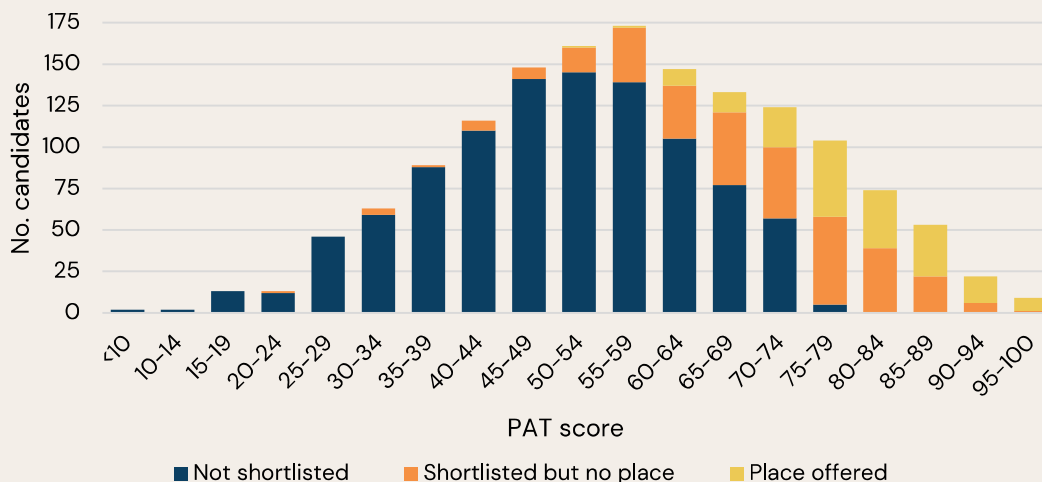
Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their scores on the Physics Admissions Test, the contextualised GCSE score (where applicable) and their UCAS applications, including any relevant contextual information. 494 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 2.7 candidates per offer made.

Physics Admissions Test

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 57.4. For shortlisted applicants the mean was 73.0, and 79.3 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=26).

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 PAT and UCAS application were given more weighting during the shortlisting process.

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 Physics to degree level. Each candidate's individual circumstances were considered when assessing their application.

An initial ranking was created using the PAT score. Candidates who came higher in the ranking were more likely to be shortlisted for interview, and those lower in the ranking 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 interviews remotely. Candidates had at least one interview at their first college, and one at another college that had been assigned to them.

In the interviews tutors looked for evidence of:

- a real interest and strong desire to learn physics
- ability to express physical ideas using mathematics
- mathematical ability
- ability to analyse and solve problems using logical and critical approaches
- ability to see how one part of a physical system connects with another
- ability to predict what will happen in a given physical situation
- ability to give precise explanations both orally and numerically

Offers

Offers were made to candidates who demonstrated the most potential to perform well on the course on the basis of their UCAS application, performance in the PAT, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information.

26.6% of candidates who were made offers for Physics 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 [Physics Department website](#).