

Mansfield College

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

History Admissions Feedback 2024-25

Summary¹

Applications	803
Shortlisted	651
Offers for 2025	255 (including 26 open offers)
Offers for 2026	2

Mansfield made 10 offers for 2025 entry, including one open offer.

Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their UCAS applications, contextualised GCSE score (where applicable), their scores in the History Admissions Test, and other relevant contextual information. 651 applicants were shortlisted for History, which was approximately 2.6 candidates per offer made.

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

History Aptitude Test

As part of the application process, candidates were asked to sit the HAT in October 2024. The HAT is a one-hour History skills test, marked out of 100, that consists of a single writing exercise in response to an extract from a primary source. More information about the test can be found on the [University website](#).

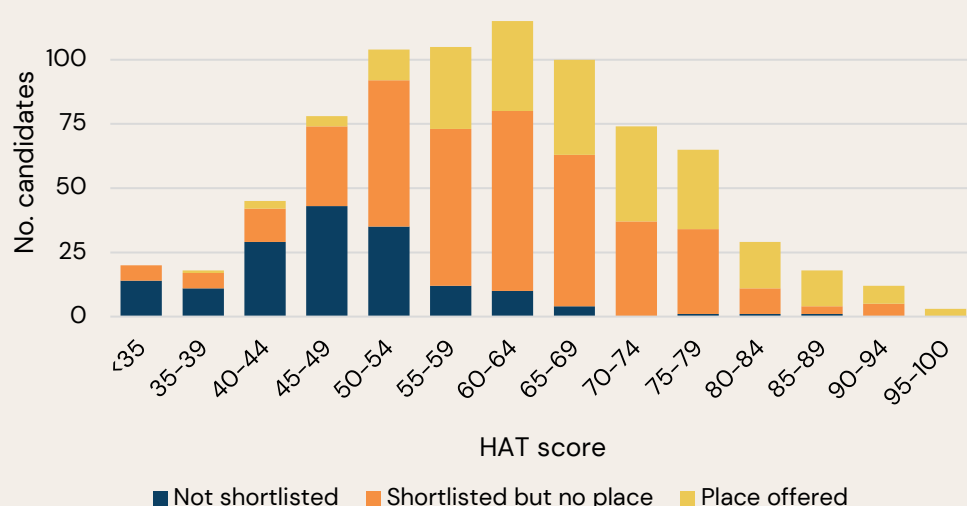
The HAT assesses the following skills:

- the ability to read carefully and critically
- the adoption of an analytical approach
- the ability to answer a question relevantly
- the ability to handle concepts and select evidence to support points
- originality and independence
- precision and clarity of writing

The mean HAT score for applicants for History was 60.0 (excluding those who did not sit the test). The mean score for applicants shortlisted for History was 63.5, and 68.6 for those who went on to receive an offer for History.

¹ Shortlisting and offer figures include a small number of applicants who applied for History and a joint school (e.g. History and Politics) who were shortlisted or made an offer for History only.

The distribution of marks was as follows:



Note: graph excludes candidates who did not sit the HAT (n=73).

UCAS applications

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 (AAA+) or equivalent; a reference recommending the applicant as outstanding among their peers; a personal statement demonstrating strong evidence of interest and enthusiasm for the course, extending beyond what they had done at school. Each candidate's individual circumstances were considered when assessing their application.

HAT scores and contextualised GCSE scores (where available) were used to create an initial ranking. The ranking was then used to help shortlist candidates, with those who came higher in the ranking more likely to be shortlisted for interview, and those lower in the ranking 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.

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. After candidates had been notified of whether or not they had been shortlisted, written work was graded for those who had been shortlisted.

Essays were graded on a scale of 1-10, using the following criteria:

- evidence of careful and critical reading
- an analytical approach
- coherence of argument
- precision in the handling of concepts and in the evidence presented to support points
- relevance to the question
- historical imagination

- originality
- precision, clarity and facility of writing

The mean written work score for all shortlisted applicants for History was 6.6, and 7.0 for those who went on to receive an offer. The distribution of written work grades for applicants shortlisted or made an offer for History was as follows:



Interview

All shortlisted candidates were asked to attend remote interviews. At Mansfield, each candidate had one longer interview of 30–40 minutes. The interviews centred on the candidates' UCAS application, written work, and an unseen source.

In the interviews tutors looked for:

- clarity of thought and expression
- analytical ability
- flexibility
- enthusiasm and commitment
- historical imagination
- use of appropriate historical knowledge

A number of candidates were also interviewed at a second college. Approximately 130 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 application, performance in the HAT, submitted written work, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information. The list of candidates to be made offers and open offers was agreed at a meeting of History tutors from all colleges.

28.4% 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 History Faculty website](#).