



Mansfield College

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Materials Science Admissions Feedback 2024-25

Summary

Applications	224
Shortlisted	122
Offers for 2025	49 (includes 8 open offers)
Offers for 2026	1

Mansfield has made 7 offers for 2025 entry, including one open offer and one deferred from the previous cycle.

Shortlisting

Candidates were shortlisted using their UCAS applications and their scores on the Physics Admissions Test. 122 applicants were shortlisted, which was approximately 2.5 candidates per offer made.

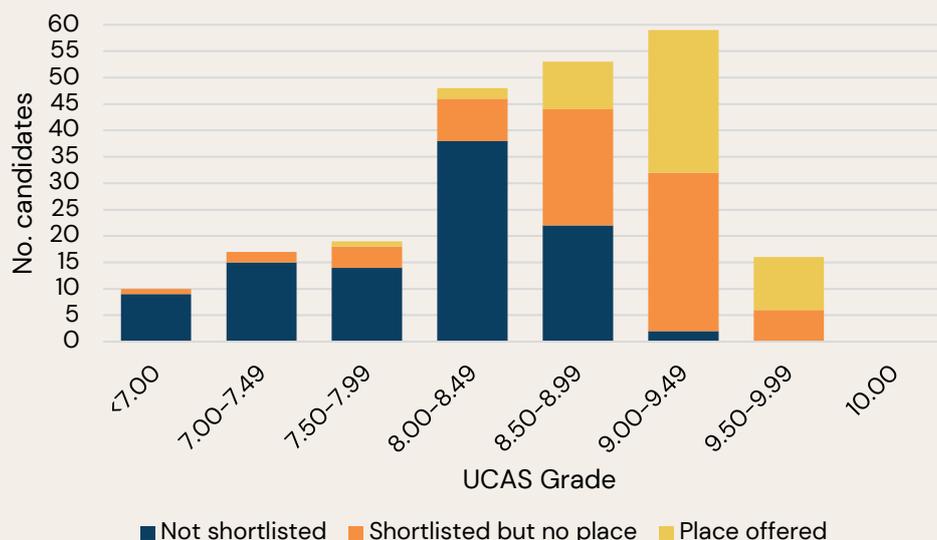
UCAS Application

Each application was assessed by tutors from the college the candidate had applied to or been assigned to, and by the Admissions Co-ordinator.

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 Materials at degree level.

Each application was given a mark on a scale of 1-10. Each candidate's individual circumstances were considered when assessing their application.

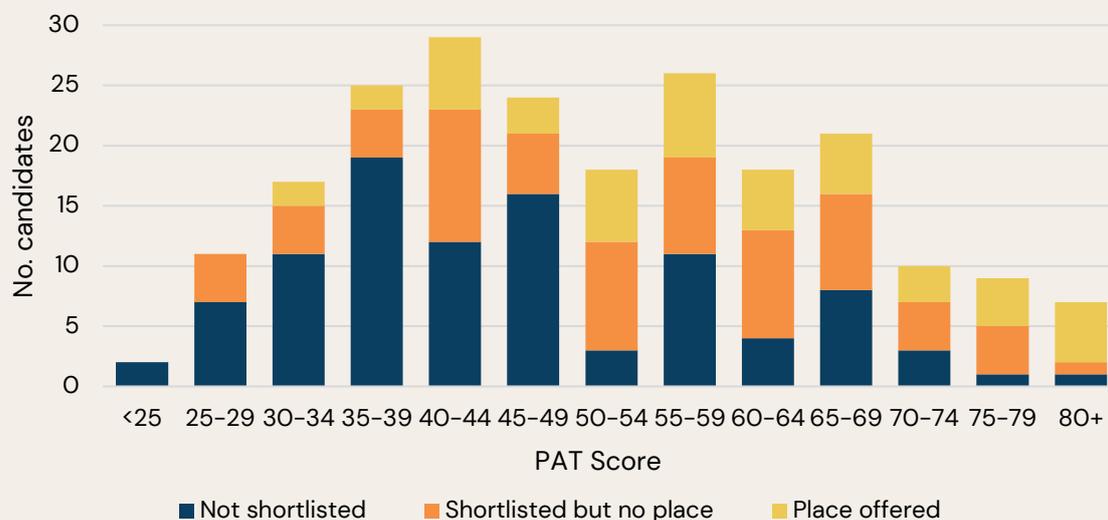
The mean UCAS grade for all applicants was 8.4. The mean grade for shortlisted applicants was 8.9, and 9.1 for those who went on to receive an offer. The distribution of grades was as follows:



Physics Admissions Test

As part of the application process, candidates were asked to sit the PAT in October 2024. The PAT is a two-hour multiple choice 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 51.3. For shortlisted applicants the mean was 55.8, and 59.6 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.

An initial ranking was created using PAT scores (20%) and UCAS grades (80%), which was then discussed at a meeting of Materials tutors from all colleges. 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.

A shortlist was agreed, and applicants were then notified about whether they had been invited to interview.

Interview

All shortlisted candidates were asked to attend interviews remotely. Candidates had 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:

- academic ability
- interest in Materials Science and the relevant parts of Physics, Chemistry and Maths, including an appreciation of some aspects outside the confines of A Level (or equivalent)
- motivation and perseverance
- independent working and communication

Offers

Offers were made to candidates who demonstrated the most potential to perform well on the course, on the basis of their UCAS grade, PAT score, interview performance and any other relevant contextual information. The final list of offers was agreed at a meeting of all Materials tutors.

As part of the process, some candidates were reassigned to a college other than the one they had applied to or been allocated: 18.4% 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 [Materials Department Website](#).