Biomedical Sciences (BC98)
Admissions exercise 2022

How we reached our shortlisting decisions

Overview
We received 490 applications. Of these applicants 463 successfully registered for the BMAT.

- 67% of these applicants were studying A-levels.
- Approximately 60% of these applicants applied from a school in the UK.
- 35% of these applicants resided outside the EU.
- 71% of applicants were female. 68% of those short-listed and 72% of those made offers were female.
- 117 applicants (25%) were invited to interview.
- 45 offers were made for 2023 entry. 1 offer was made for 2024 entry.

GCSE performance
Most of our applicants for 2023 entry did not sit GCSE examinations, but were awarded GCSE grades on the basis of teacher assessment in 2021. To arrive at our initial shortlist, therefore, we used contextualised BMAT performance instead of performance at GCSE and BMAT combined as used in pre-pandemic years.
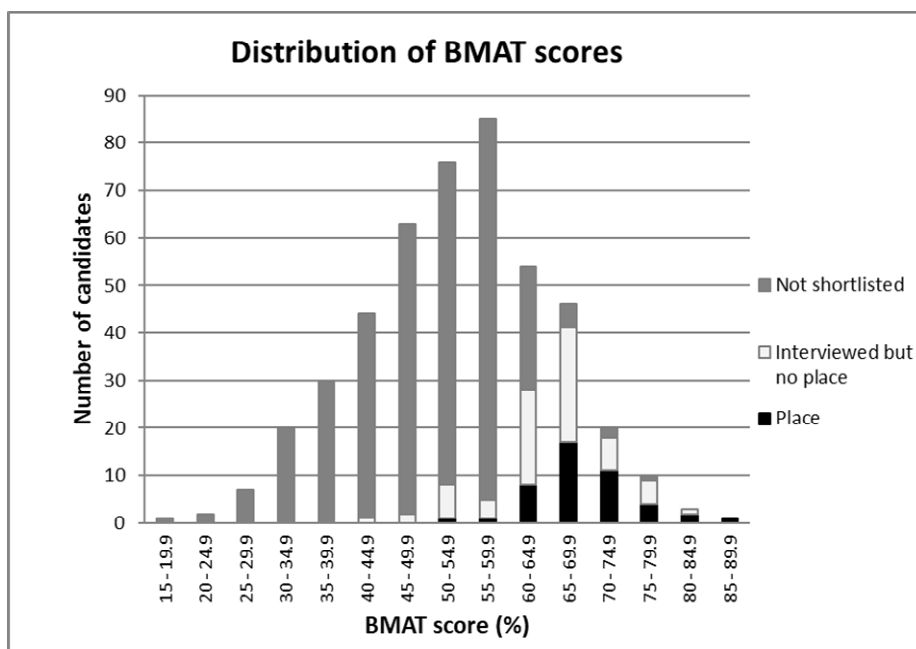
BMAT performance
The average raw score for all applicants on Section 1 was 5.0, on Section 2 was 4.7 and Section 3 was 3.1A.

An overall BMAT score (out of 100) was calculated using the weighting 40% Section 1, 40% Section 2 and 20% Section 3.

The mean overall BMAT score for all applicants was 53.6 ± 11.6.

For shortlisted applicants, the mean overall BMAT score was 66.4 ± 7.6.

For successful applicants, the mean overall BMAT score was 69.3 ± 6.4.

Shortlisting

Initial short-listing was based on BMAT score.

Contextual data (see https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/decisions/contextual-data) were used to assess whether an applicant's BMAT score likely reflected an under- or over-performance within the context of the candidate's socio-economic and school environment.

All non-shortlisted applicants were then reviewed to identify if their GCSE and/or BMAT performance was likely to have underestimated their potential. As a result of this process, additional applicants were added to the short-list.

Interviews

Colleges were not aware at the time of interview whether or not the candidate had applied to them. Colleges ranked candidates based on interview performance. Colleges then compared rankings of candidates and received BMAT scores before making final decisions.

Selection

Applications were considered against the following criteria:

- A competitive overall BMAT score and ranking.
- Motivation and capacity for sustained and intense work.
- A strong track record of academic achievement, and particular ability and potential in science and/or mathematics. An excellent record at GCSE (or equivalent).
- Evidence that the academic terms of a conditional offer are likely to be met.
- Intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm and readiness to cope with the academic demands of the course.
- Reasoning and problem solving ability: use of a logical and critical approach, and strong powers of analysis.
- Communication: Good command of the English language. Ability to express ideas clearly and effectively. Ability to listen.
- Ability to generate own ideas and proposals. Originality and creativity of thought, lateral thinking and hypothesis-generation.
- A demonstrable commitment to the study of biomedical sciences and/or neuroscience at university.

More detailed analysis on the admissions process can be found at
https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/bms/applying/admissions-statistics