This year the University of Oxford had a high number of applicants for Computer Science, Computer Science and Philosophy, and Maths and Computer Science. Many of the candidates who applied made very good applications and, as every year, many difficult decisions had to be made.

Throughout the process, contextual data for UK candidates, including school performance and postcode data, were used when assessing applications. You can find more information about contextual data on the Oxford University website here.

Unfortunately, not every applicant can be interviewed. The purpose of shortlisting for interview is to identify those applicants who are most likely to succeed in the rest of the selection process and give interviewers time to consider each shortlisted candidate carefully. Decisions about which candidates to shortlist were based on exam results and predictions, the UCAS form, and the MAT results. These decisions were made based on the stated admissions criteria (https://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/why_oxford/formal_admissions_criteria.html).

Only 18% of Computer Science applicants, 24% of Computer Science and Philosophy applicants, and 23% of Maths and Computer Science applicants were shortlisted for interview.

Given the number of shortlisted applicants and their uneven distribution between colleges, a number of shortlisted candidates are reallocated from oversubscribed colleges to colleges with a lower ratio of candidates to places. The aim of reallocation is to even out competition for places across the University. All shortlisted candidates were invited for interviews in Oxford. For those who came to interviews in Oxford, interviews were conducted at both their first and second colleges with some further interviews being organised. This gives each candidate the best chance of receiving a place.

Interviews are academic and subject-focused in nature. The applicant’s performance in each interview is judged according to the admissions criteria, codified on a numeric scale against agreed descriptors, and shared among all tutors involved in admissions. Interviews were assessed on the basis of the selection criteria: https://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/why_oxford/formal_admissions_criteria.html.

The competition for places was very high this year. Only 18% of Computer Science applicants, 24% of Computer Science and Philosophy applicants, and 23% of Maths and Computer Science applicants were invited for interviews and only 6% of Computer Science applicants, 10% of Computer Science and Philosophy applicants, and 10% of Maths and Philosophy applicants were offered a place.

Below are two graphs detailing outcomes by MAT score. The graphs do not include the 65 candidates who submitted a UCAS application but did not register for the MAT. None of these candidates were invited for interview.