

How we reached our shortlisting decisions

Overview

We received 530 applications. Of these applicants, 497 successfully registered for the BMSAT.

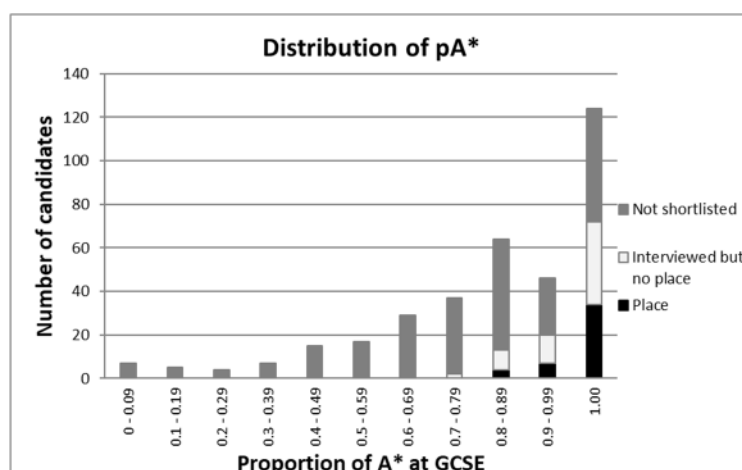
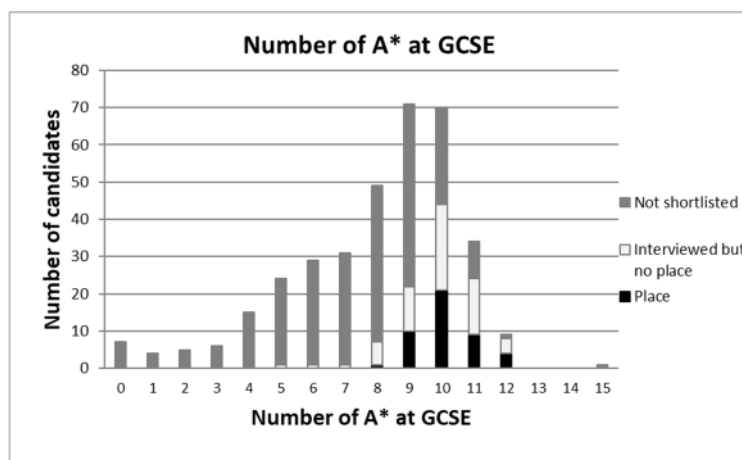
- 69% of these applicants were studying A-levels.
- 64% of these applicants applied from a school in the UK.
- 38% of these applicants resided outside the UK.
- 75% of applicants were female.
- 140 applicants (28%) were invited to interview. 69% of those shortlisted were female.
- 51 offers (48 quota and 3 open) were made for 2026 entry. 70% of those made offers were female.

GCSE performance

The average number of GCSEs offered was 9.9 and the average number of A*s (or grades 8 or 9) was 8. The mean proportion of A* for all applicants (number of A* at GCSE divided by total number of GCSEs, pA*) was 0.80.

For shortlisted applicants, the mean number of A* was 9.9 and pA* was 0.96.

For successful applicants, the mean number of A* was 10.1 and pA* was 0.97.



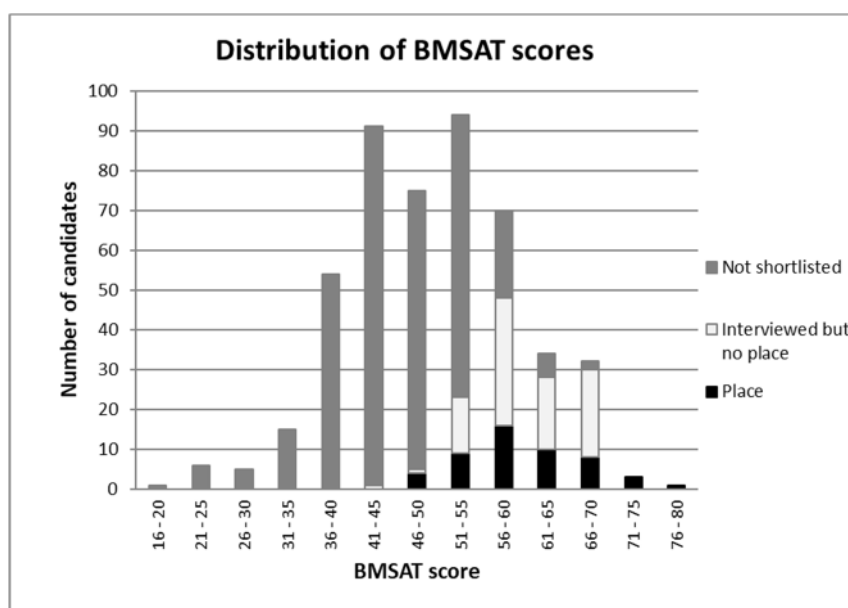
GCSE performance data for schools in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was used to assess whether an applicant's grades at GCSE reflected an under- or over-performance within the context of the school at which they were taken.

BMSAT performance

The mean BMSAT score for all applicants was 49.9.

For shortlisted applicants, the mean BMSAT score was 60.2.

For successful applicants, the mean BMSAT score was 60.3.



Shortlisting

Initial shortlisting was based on a combined BMSAT and GCSE score (the latter if available).

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

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 BMSAT scores before making final decisions.

Selection

Applications were considered against the following criteria:

- A competitive overall BMSAT 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>