

FAQs re Intercalation in Academic Year 2021 - 22

1. Why do students intercalate?

Students intercalate for a variety of reasons. For many students, intercalation offers the opportunity to study a subject area in greater depth. Intercalation can also provide the chance to explore current trends in research alongside international experts, as well as focus on a research project that can lead to opportunities to present your work at conferences or result in a publication. In addition to these academic benefits, intercalation will allow you to further develop transferable skills such as critical thinking, evaluating evidence, researching literature and academic writing. Intercalating will also enable you to make friends away from your professional programme and experience life as a student away from the extensive timetable.

2. When can I intercalate?

Medical Students can only intercalate between Year 3 and 4.

Veterinary students can only intercalate between Year 3 and 4.

Dental students can only intercalate after Year 4

3. Will everyone who applies get to intercalate?

We cannot guarantee a place to every student who applies for intercalation. Past academic performance may be considered where there is competition for places.

4. What are the grade requirements (and/or any other requirements) for each programme?

There are no specific grade requirements, and the requirements will vary from programme to programme. Schools offering intercalated degrees may want to consider your unit or year marks to date. For example, some programmes offered by the Faculty of Life Sciences make their decisions based on marks and will offer places to the highest scoring applicants. Some programmes require a supplementary application form to be completed – these are specified on the intercalation website (see Section 20).

5. Do any courses comprise intercalators only?

Some programmes are unique to intercalation. These are 1 year programmes and only have intercalating students on them. They are: Global Health, Bioethics, Genomic Medicine, Medical Humanities, Functional and Clinical Anatomy, Clinical Sciences & Child Health Research.

6. How many students does each intercalation programme take on average?

There is a wide variation in numbers per intercalation programme and it isn't meaningful to calculate an average. It can also vary from year to year. For one-year entry onto the 3-year courses it will depend upon how many of their own students are progressing from Year 2 to the final year. They may also have applications from dental, veterinary and external students. For the single year courses numbers tend to remain more stable, but may vary year on year according to staff availability.

7. Do I need to write application essays or be interviewed for all the courses?

Some programmes (e.g. Bioethics, Global Health, Medical Humanities) have additional requirements which might include review of written work you have submitted or a short personal statement. Please refer to the intercalation website for which programmes require this, and to download an application template. Applicants are not routinely interviewed but a Programme Director may contact you to discuss your application if there are any questions arising from your application.

8. How many internal applications can I make? Do I need to list them in order of preference on the form? What happens if I change my mind about my first choice later and want to switch them around?

You can make three internal applications. You must list them in order of preference on the application form. It is not possible to change your preferences after the deadline unless there are exceptional circumstances, in which case you are advised to discuss this with the intercalation administrator by emailing intercalation-admin@bristol.ac.uk.

9. How many external applications (to other universities) can I make? Who should I speak to about making an external application?

You are permitted to apply to intercalate at another university provided the course you are interested in is **not** also offered at Bristol. There are no restrictions on the number of external applications you can make. It is up to you to research the application processes, deadlines etc. Please keep the intercalation administrator informed and complete a UOB application form even if you are not applying to intercalate here.

If you are a medical student, please discuss your plans with Dr Nicola Taylor, Senior Tutor for Medicine. If you are a veterinary student, detailed information will be made available through Blackboard and you will have the opportunity to talk with the administrative team and the local head of intercalation, Professor Mick Bailey, if you wish. Dental student, please discuss your plans with your programme director.

You will need documents to support your application.

- Ask the intercalation administrator for a transcript of your marks.
- Ask for a letter of permission to study elsewhere from the person you are discussing your plans with. Make sure you tell that person which university and which course you are applying to.
- Ask your academic mentor or personal tutor for a reference (if needed).

If you accept an offer from another university, you will be required to suspend your studies for one academic year. This will require the signature of the appropriate Programme Director.

10. Can I apply to Bristol programmes and externally at the same time?

You may make internal and external applications at the same time. However, when an offer on a Bristol programme is made to you, you will need to make a decision to accept the Bristol place (and forfeit external intercalation) or decline the Bristol offer (thus forfeiting their place to intercalate within Bristol). For external applications, please see above.

11. What if I accept an offer to intercalate and then decide that I actually don't want to do it?

By signing the acceptance form on an intercalation programme, you are **committed** to intercalating.

12. Can I intercalate and get a Masters degree?

Students need to have completed the third year of their programme to be eligible for Masters degree programmes. The one-year masters degrees available to intercalators are:

- Public Health (MSc)
- Epidemiology (MSc)
- Health Sciences Research (MRes)
- Health Sciences Research (Renal) (MRes)
- Health Sciences Research (Cardiovascular) (MRes)
- Translational Cardiovascular Medicine (MSc)
- Health, Law, and Society (LLM)
- Global Wildlife Health and Conservation (MSc)

The MRes/MSc degree will be awarded at the same time as the MB ChB, BDS or BVSc degree and not immediately after completion of the intercalation year. All of these degrees will finish in time to allow you to return to your clinical programme. If you choose to apply for a Master's degree elsewhere you are responsible for ensuring that it will finish in time for your return to your clinical programme.

13. What bursaries/funding support are available?

Please refer to the Student Funding office for detailed financial advice.

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/students/support/finances/med-dent-vet/intercalation/>

14. Is it better for me career-wise to do X or Y?

There is no evidence-based answer to this question and any answer would be personal opinion. Perhaps what is most important are the skills that you develop by undertaking the degree. You may wish to read the following articles:

Should an intercalated degree be compulsory for undergraduate medical students? Philip AB, Prasad SJ, Patel A. (2015) Med Educ Online. 20:29392. doi:10.3402/meo.v20.29392. eCollection 2015. PMID: 26434986

Intercalated degrees, learning styles, and career preferences: prospective longitudinal study of UK medical students. IC McManus, P Richards, BC Winder. (1999) BMJ 319(7209): 542–546. PMCID: PMC28204

Why I'd encourage every dental student to intercalate. Black, E. (2020). BDJ student, 27, 32. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41406-020-0118-x>

The benefits of intercalation. Shiotnes, H. (2017). Vet Times. <https://www.vettimes.co.uk/article/the-benefits-of-intercalation/>

15. What is an Academic Foundation Programme? Do I need an intercalated degree to apply? (medical students only)

Please see: <https://foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/programmes/2-year-foundation-programme/academic-training/> for more information on this.

16. How many points will I get for intercalation when I apply for FY1 jobs? (Medical students only)

The best source of information on this is the UK Foundation programme website. They have an FAQ, which answers the question [“How many points are available for additional educational achievements?”](#)

They also refer you to the [applicant’s handbook](#), which has detailed information on the difference points you get for different additional degrees.

17. 'I've had to resit exams. Will that affect my application to intercalate?'

If you had extenuating circumstances that were accepted by the panel and resat an exam as a first attempt your unit mark will not be capped. If your resit examination was a second and final attempt your unit mark will be capped at 50. You can still apply to intercalate in either case (see also question 4).

18. Further information?

Please visit the intercalation website for further information on intercalating programmes that are available at Bristol (www.bristol.ac.uk/intercalate). Applicants are welcome to contact the intercalation administrator (intercalation-admin@bristol.ac.uk) to request further information.

19. Deadlines?

Deadlines vary depending on whether you are a Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary student. You will be contacted directly by your School to detail the application process.

If you have any queries, please visit the [Intercalation Webpage](#) or contact intercalation-admin@bristol.ac.uk

20. Supplementary Forms

Courses which require a supplementary form to be completed are highlighted in Section 21. Supplementary forms are available from the [Intercalation Webpage](#). Once completed please email to intercalation-admin@bristol.ac.uk.

21. Programme Contact Details

Course	Supplementary form required	Course Contact	Email address
Biochemistry with Medical Biochemistry	No	Professor Jan Frayne	Jan.Frayne@bristol.ac.uk
Bioethics	Yes	Dr Zuzana Deans	zuzana.deans@bristol.ac.uk
Cancer Biology and Immunology (BSc)	No	Dr Darryl Hill	Darryl.J.Hill@bristol.ac.uk
Cellular and Molecular Medicine (BSc)	No		
Medical Microbiology (BSc)	No		
Virology and Immunology	No		
Child Health Research (BSc)	Yes	Esther Crawley Robin Marlow	esther.crawley@bristol.ac.uk robin.marlow@bristol.ac.uk
Childhood Studies	Yes	Dr Nadia Aghtaie	nadia.aghtaie@bristol.ac.uk
Clinical Sciences (BSc)	No	Dr Liang-Fong Wong Dr Gavin Welsh	L.Wong@bristol.ac.uk G.I.Welsh@bristol.ac.uk
Epidemiology	Yes	Dr Penny Whiting	penny.whiting@bristol.ac.uk
Functional and Clinical Anatomy	Yes	Dr Scott Paterson	scott.paterson@bristol.ac.uk
Genomic Medicine (BSc)	No	Dr Sarah Lewis Dr Oliver Davis	S.J.Lewis@bristol.ac.uk oliver.davis@bristol.ac.uk
Global Health (BSc)	Yes	Mrs Pauline Lowrey	bsc-globalhealth@bristol.ac.uk
Global Wildlife Health and Conservation (MSc)	No	Dr Nicola Rooney	Nicola.Rooney@bristol.ac.uk
Health, Law and Society (LLM)	Yes	Dr Sheelagh McGuinness	sheelagh.mcguinness@bristol.ac.uk
Medical Humanities	Yes	Dr John Lee	J.Lee@bristol.ac.uk
MRes in Health Sciences	Yes	Dr Fiona Holmes	healthsciences-mres@bristol.ac.uk
MRes in Health Sciences (Renal)	Yes	Dr Becky Foster	healthsciences-mres@bristol.ac.uk
MRes in Health Sciences (TCM)	Yes	Dr Fiona Holmes	healthsciences-mres@bristol.ac.uk
Neuroscience (BSc)	No	Dr Andrew Doherty	a.doherty@bristol.ac.uk
Physiological Science (BSc)	No	Dr Phillip Langton	phil.langton@bristol.ac.uk
Pharmacology (BSc)	No	Dr Mike Ashby	m.c.ashby@bristol.ac.uk
Public Health	Yes	Dr Ruth Kipping	ruth.kipping@bristol.ac.uk
Social Policy	Yes	Dr Sebnem Eroglu-Hawksworth	sps-ugadmin@bristol.ac.uk
Translational Cardiovascular Medicine (MSc)	No	Dr Fiona Holmes	F.E.Holmes@bristol.ac.uk
Zoology (BSc)	No	Dr Sheila Amici-Dargan	anzsld@bristol.ac.uk