Courses

Single Honours
BSc Applied Anatomy
three years B112

Why study applied anatomy at Bristol?

Anatomy is the study of structure from cell to tissue to whole organism. Applied anatomy examines structure-function relationships in the context of related subjects such as diagnostic imaging, pathology and other aspects of medicine. The initial broad basis of the degree and later specialisation will equip you for a wide variety of careers.

Our graduates may enter a variety of professions including research, education and graduate entry schemes or, with further study, professional programmes such as medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry.

The Centre for Applied Anatomy (CAA) at Bristol is unique in the UK in providing anatomy training for medical, dental, veterinary and science undergraduates within a single, purpose-built facility. The expertise of teaching staff and wealth of varied resources across these subject specialities offer a unique learning experience for aspiring anatomists. Additionally, the CAA encompasses the Vesalius Clinical Training Unit (VCTU), which is at the forefront of postgraduate applied and clinical anatomy training and research. This ensures a regular presence of clinical experts and allied health professionals to enrich your learning experience and collaborate with on final-year research projects. The CAA is a dynamic place to learn from a friendly team of experts passionate about the field of anatomy.

‘Those who have dissected or inspected many [bodies] have at least learnt to doubt; while others who are ignorant of anatomy and do not take the trouble to attend it are in no doubt at all.’

Giovanni Battista Morgagni (1682-1771)
Undergraduates develop a clear, three-dimensional, internal model of the anatomy of the human and animal body. We believe that a deep understanding and appreciation of body structure can only be achieved by a hands-on approach including dissection.

A vertical enrichment theme, ‘Personal and Professional Development’, runs throughout the programme. This equips you with essential transferable, professional skills suitable for employment in any environment and aids your transition from student to anatomist.

What will you study?

Year one
The first year introduces the principles of comparative anatomy and relates the structure to the function of the major mammalian body systems. Teaching involves dissection and study of human and animal specimens.

The first-year anatomy unit is Understanding Body Structure, in which you explore the core concepts of anatomy that underpin vertebrate design. Understanding Body Function, a first-year physiology unit, is compulsory, and aims to provide complete comprehension of inherently linked structure-function relationships.

You choose further complementary optional units from a list to tailor your degree to your own interests and career aspirations.

Year two
The second year allows you to specialise in medical or veterinary anatomy, although both units can be taken concurrently and we encourage you to do so. The units emphasise clinical relevance and application throughout. A highlight of the year is the dissection unit, which is an integral part of the course. Related optional anatomy units include: Visualising Anatomy Through Imaging, and The Evolving Human.

Year three
In the third year you follow a seminar-based course where you are actively involved in expert-led discussion of the latest anatomical research. A highlight of this year is an original research project, which can be clinically related anatomical investigation, laboratory-based scientific study, or anatomically themed educational research. Instruction in experimental design, statistical methods and scientific communication provides training for research alongside valuable transferable skills. Third year teaching explores two key themes: advanced function of, and aging and dysfunction of the mammalian body.

‘Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen, and thinking what nobody has thought.’
Albert Szent-Györgyi (1893-1986)
Careers and graduate destinations

With its emphasis on application and focus on professional development, Bristol’s Applied Anatomy degree is designed to appeal to employers while providing our graduates with a springboard for a variety of careers.

In addition to general and life science opportunities for graduates, where the skills you have obtained in our programme are of considerable benefit, anatomy is a popular route to postgraduate medicine, dentistry or veterinary programmes.

For those committed to a career as a research scientist, further study for a higher degree at the University of Bristol or elsewhere is the normal route. Aspiring educators may wish to follow a different training route to pursue teaching careers from school to university level.

In the public sector, life sciences graduates are in demand in research institutes, government departments and the National Health Service. There is also increasing demand for life scientists to contribute to the public understanding of science as journalists and information officers.

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Making your application

Typical offer for BSc Applied Anatomy*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug18-appliedanatomy for other qualifications.

A-levels ABB (contextual BBC†) including B in two science subjects.

IB Diploma 32 overall (contextual 29†) to include 16 points at Higher Level (contextual 14†) with 5 at Higher Level in two science subjects.

English Language profile E††

GCSEs Grade C in English Language, Mathematics and two sciences.

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-apply/#typical-contextual-offers.

††For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

Deferred entry Welcomed.

‘Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.’

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)
Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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**Photography**
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