Why study veterinary science at Bristol?

Choose Bristol to study veterinary science and become a skilful and knowledgeable graduate who is a problem-solver, innovator and entrepreneur with an appetite for lifelong learning.

The School of Veterinary Sciences links with other areas of health sciences, including medicine, dentistry and anatomy, to give you an excellent pre-clinical education taught by academics considered world-leading in medical and scientific research. This allows you to become acquainted with current thinking in a range of scientific fields, giving you a broad base of knowledge for the start of clinical teaching.

Bristol has been training veterinary professionals for over 50 years. We are known for providing an outstanding education in animal science, animal welfare and veterinary public health, and for approaching veterinary science from a global perspective. Our curriculum is innovative and informed by current research, and delivered in a friendly and supportive environment.

Courses

Single Honours
BVSc Veterinary Science
five years D100

Gateway to Veterinary Science
one year (plus five years) D108 – see page 10

‘I was really nervous about starting vet school, studying on an intense course and living away from home but now I can’t imagine being anywhere but Bristol. The staff are all really engaging and I’ve met some friends for life. I definitely made the right decision coming here.’

Liz (BVSc Veterinary Science 2017)
What will you study?

**BVSc Veterinary Science D100, five years**

Our curriculum introduces you to the integrated structure and function of healthy animals, followed by the mechanisms of disease and their clinical management.

Year one starts with a six-week foundation course in animal health sciences, covering anatomy, physiology and biochemistry. You will continue to focus on animal health sciences for the remainder of year one and part of year two, and will have hands-on experience of animal management from your first year.

In years two and three you will study animal disease – immunology, microbiology, parasitology and pharmacology – followed by clinical management in years three and four. This covers basic clinical science, therapeutics, and farm and companion animal sciences.

Vertical themes run through the course to build your core competencies and subject-specific knowledge. These instil vital professional skills, and an understanding of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health across all disciplines.

Between years three and four you can choose to intercalate onto an additional degree, enhancing your career prospects and giving you the option to explore a developing interest. See [bristol.ac.uk/intercalate](http://bristol.ac.uk/intercalate) for details.

Most lecture-based teaching is complete by the end of year four, giving you an almost lecture-free final year. In year five you will work alongside clinical staff to provide veterinary care and demonstrate clinical cases to peers, to more junior years and to staff. The year includes employability workshops and a careers fair, and finishes with an elective period offering a diverse range of clinical, research and industry opportunities.
Teaching methods include lectures, tutorials, seminars, case-based learning and practical classes. We nurture lifelong learning skills through self-directed education, incorporating problem-based learning and individual and group projects. Teaching material is available online and many lectures are recorded, allowing you to review the content later.

Examinations normally take place in January and May of each year. During your time with us we assess a range of skills, which include knowledge and understanding, problem-solving, clinical reasoning, professionalism and practical skills. A high aggregate score across the course may result in a BVSc with Merit or Distinction.

What support can you expect?
The University’s support package includes a health service, disability services, counselling service and multi-faith chaplaincy. You will be allocated a personal tutor within the School of Veterinary Sciences who will offer support and guidance on academic issues and provide opportunities to reflect on your personal and professional development. We have an open door policy, which gives you easy access to feedback and guidance from academic staff.

Our veterinary students’ society, Centaur, organises a ‘parenting’ scheme, which supports new undergraduates before they come to Bristol and during their first year. Centaur also provides further support throughout the course, including welfare representatives for preclinical and clinical students. Students elect year representatives who are members of many vet school committees, enabling feedback on academic and pastoral issues. An annually-elected student represents the student body at national level.

Where will you study?
Our course offers you both lively city living and a beautiful rural setting in which to develop your understanding of veterinary science. For the first three years you will be based on the Bristol campus, with at least one day per week spent at Langford. Years four and five are based at Langford, although you will also spend time off-site at clinical placements. Most of our students move to Langford for years four and five.

Our Langford campus sits on the edge of the Mendip hills and is home to Langford Vets, which provides an extensive range of specialist services. It has two state-of-the-art referral hospitals for small animals and equines, a full diagnostic laboratory service, and equine, farm and small animal first opinion practices. The campus also has a 250-acre dairy and sheep farm. Clinics are supported by specialised clinicians, diagnostic imagers, anaesthetists, nurses and other support staff.

The campus is a hub for cutting-edge research, allowing you to gain insights into exciting new areas of veterinary science. Our research is focused on three areas:

- Animal behaviour and welfare
- Comparative and clinical research
- Infection and immunity.

Langford has many facilities on site, including accommodation, a café, gym and tennis courts. We arrange free transport between our Bristol and Langford campuses in years one to three. Langford and the surrounding villages are well served by shops and pubs, and many students enjoy getting involved in community life through local clubs and societies.
Extra-mural studies

Extra-mural studies (EMS) is a mandatory RCVS requirement for all veterinary programmes in the UK. You must complete 38 weeks of EMS during university vacations, which should consist of 12 weeks of pre-clinical placements in years one and two, and 26 weeks of clinical placements in years three to five.

We have good relationships with EMS providers across the UK and a dedicated, friendly EMS team at Langford. Your first placement at Easter, lambing, is arranged for you, and the team will help you to find subsequent placements. They will also arrange insurance cover for all placements and offer you support in completing your RCVS student experience log.

You will have opportunities for overseas EMS (a maximum of 13 weeks clinical) and research placements (up to six weeks clinical). Previous overseas placements have included the Hong Kong Jockey Club, the Blue Paw Trust in Sri Lanka and Mission Rabies in India.

Foster practice scheme

Most students spend 10-14 weeks of clinical EMS with a foster practice, first going in year three and returning in years four and five. This allows you to develop an ongoing relationship with the practice and to have greater opportunities to learn and contribute to its work than you can expect on shorter placements.

Some of our previous students have been offered jobs at the end of their course by foster practices and other EMS placement providers.

Gateway to Veterinary Science

Gateway to Veterinary Science D108, one year (plus five years)

Our one-year Gateway to Veterinary Science course is a widening participation initiative targeted at UK students who have the potential to become vets but do not meet the academic entry criteria to apply directly to the BVSc Veterinary Science. We have specific entry criteria for this course, which are available at: bristol.ac.uk/vetsci-gateway.

You will spend the year developing your knowledge of the basic sciences which underpin veterinary science at our Clifton campus. Veterinary and related animal work experience will form part of the course. Successful completion of the Gateway course will enable you to automatically progress to the five-year BVSc Veterinary Science degree.

‘I would definitely recommend this course to anyone who is serious about becoming a vet, but just needs a little more help to get there. It is an extra year, but I feel I have had an advantage. I’ve been able to have a taste of university life and all the University has to offer. It has helped me both academically and professionally.’

Cheyenne (Gateway to Veterinary Science)

Entry requirements

A-levels B in Chemistry and one of Biology, Maths or Physics, plus a grade C in any third subject (excluding Critical Thinking and General Studies).

GCSEs B in English Language, B in Maths, B in Double Science (or BB in two separate sciences).

Work experience is desirable but not essential. Other academic qualifications may be considered, please see our website for details.

For more information please visit bristol.ac.uk/ug18-vetscience.
Making your application

Typical offer for BVSc Veterinary Science*

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

A-levels AAA (contextual AAC†) including AA in Chemistry and Biology. Graduates are required to obtain a 2:1 in their degree and BBB at A-level including BB in Chemistry and Biology.

IB Diploma 36 points overall (contextual 32†) with 18 points at Higher Level (contextual 16†), including 6, 6 at Higher Level in Chemistry and Biology.

English Language profile B††

GCSEs Minimum of grade C in Mathematics and English Language.

†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.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2017); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

We are looking for students who are passionate about studying veterinary science and have the outlook and qualities needed to become an excellent vet. You will need to be able to demonstrate that you have:
• a realistic interest in veterinary science
• veterinary work experience (a minimum of one week, but ideally four or more weeks at more than one placement)
• other related work experience (a minimum of one week with a maximum score for four or more weeks in more than one setting)

Making your application

• interests outside veterinary science (these can include paid employment as well as volunteering, hobbies etc)
• contributed to school/college/community activities

We will also be looking for examples of your practical, analytical, problem-solving and communication skills.

References
These should ideally be from a school or college, confirming the academic potential of the applicant to study at degree level. Where this is not possible, a non-academic reference should confirm the relevant experience of the applicant and indicate the potential of the applicant for study at degree level.

Interview
We compile a shortlist for consideration after academic and personal attribute assessment (including work experience and interests). Some applicants may be made an offer directly after this first shortlisting and others may be invited to interview; both are at the discretion of the admissions tutor.

Interviews for UK/EU applicants are held on the Langford campus between November and March. The interview day also gives you the chance to tour the vet school, meet current students and ask questions about studying at Bristol. Overseas (non UK/EU) applicants can attend an interview in Langford. We also aim to provide some interview opportunities overseas. You are expected to be available throughout the interview period.

Interview candidates and offer holders will be invited to visit the campus before the UCAS deadline.

Further information
Due to the nature of the course, all offers are subject to clearance from the Occupational Health Service. See bristol.ac.uk/vetscience.

Why choose Bristol?

Top 10 UK university
(QS World University Rankings)

3rd most targeted university by top UK employers
(High Fliers Research)

Rated in top 50 universities worldwide
(QS World University Rankings)
Contact us

Enquiries Team
Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649
Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

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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