

Frequently asked questions

Information on applications, entry requirements and accommodation can be found on the online [undergraduate prospectus](#)

1. I have taken an A2 Level subject early is this ok?

We would expect applicants to complete three full A-levels in one sitting. The examinations for veterinary science are demanding, and applicants need to demonstrate that they are able to cope with the workload of taking three full examination subjects together. If an A-level has been taken early and a grade A achieved, this may be taken into account if the terms of our offer are not quite met (e.g. AAB achieved rather than AAA).

2. What clinical experience will I get on the course?

Animal contact occurs from the start of year 1 with animal management courses and continues throughout the course becoming progressively more clinical. The final year is a lecture-free, clinical year. Extramural studies are part of the RCVS requirement for any UK veterinary course and consist of 12 weeks at animal establishments in years 1 and 2 and 26 weeks in veterinary practices in years 3 onwards. All EMS is undertaken in the university vacations.

3. What should I do if English is not my first language?

If your first language is not English, you need to reach a suitable standard in an approved test of, English as a foreign language. Bristol has a strong preference for the IELTS (International English Language Testing Service) which is available through local offices of the British Council; you must normally achieve a score of at least 7.0 overall with a minimum of 6.5 in each part. The Admissions Office can give you advice on other acceptable tests.

4. What evidence do I need to show my motivation for Veterinary Science?

You need to show that you have an idea of what is involved in the career and be motivated to the demands of the career and long periods of study. We would expect all applicants to have considerable amounts of work experience in a variety of veterinary practices and animal establishments. We are not prescriptive in our work experience requirements but when scoring the UCAS form personal statement, top marks are given if candidates have spent more than 4 weeks (i.e. more than 20 days) in more than 1 veterinary practice and more than 4 weeks in a good spread of animal establishments (e.g. dairy, beef, poultry, pig, sheep farms, kennels, cattery, rescue centre, wildlife park, zoo, abattoir, laboratory). We do understand that it may be difficult to get placements in some establishments (e.g. due to bio security concerns) or that placements may be for a short period such as an afternoon (e.g. at abattoirs and zoos). We do count placements that you will be doing in forthcoming vacations within our count of time spend undertaking work experience.

5. Will I be disadvantaged if I take a Gap Year?

The Veterinary School encourages deferred entry applications from students who wish to broaden their experience further by taking a year away from formal education. The Veterinary Admissions Team would look for plans for your year out. You should be aware that if you do not defer your entry and apply during your gap year, you will still be expected to be available for interview throughout the period November to March.

6. What if I have a disability or health problems?

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons require all students at UK vet school to complete all of the veterinary course, this will include time spent working with all species of animals from rodents to cattle. You should consider if you would be able to undertake this if you have a disability or health problem. Please contact the admissions office if you have any queries in this area prior to applying. Veterinary students are required to complete a health questionnaire. All offers are subject to obtaining Occupational Health Clearance.

7. Will I need to have any immunisations to join the programme?

There is a high incidence of tuberculosis in the South West. We are currently awaiting advice as to whether we should change the requirement for TB and tetanus vaccination from advisable to mandatory. Additional vaccinations may be required if students chose to undertake extramural study abroad – the occupational health service would advise on this on a case by case basis.

8. I have applied before and was unsuccessful, can I apply again?

We would consider any application afresh and in competition with this year's candidates provided you have met our minimum academic requirements. However, please be aware that there can be no guarantee of a more favourable outcome even with the highest grades.

9. Can I transfer onto the Veterinary programme at Bristol?

Unfortunately, due to the integrated nature of the Veterinary programme at Bristol, it is not possible to transfer from another course at Bristol or another University. In exceptional circumstances (family or health problems) we may consider transfers, but this could entail having to repeat a year of study.