

Undergraduate admissions statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the University's admissions principles and procedures.

Year of admissions cycle: 2014

Courses covered:

Animal Behaviour & Welfare D390

Admissions process

1. Admissions team

Applications assessed by centralised team in close co-operation with Admissions Tutor/s.

2. Application assessment methods

All applications are considered on an equal basis. Applications are not segregated by the type of educational institution attended. All applications are acknowledged by email on receipt (starting in mid-September), to establish contact and inform the applicant of the process to be followed.

All applications are allocated scores on the academic record. The respective weightings ratio out of 100 is as follows:

A level score: 75%

GCSE score: 25%

Applicants are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, or age.

3. Interview or visit day

A Visit Day is held at the Veterinary School, Langford in March. This is only for applicants to whom an offer of a place has been made. Visit Day attendance is optional but we hope students will take the opportunity of visiting the University.

4. Correspondence with applicants

All correspondence relating to an application's status will be sent by email. All applicants will be contacted when we receive their application, to establish contact and inform the applicant of the process to be followed. Applicants will then be notified if their application has been successful or unsuccessful, or to inform them that their application has been assessed but that we will not be able to make a final decision until later in the cycle. Applicants who receive an offer will receive an invitation to a visit day.

5. Deferred applications

Applications from students seeking deferred entry are treated in the same way as for those seeking direct entry.

Criteria for assessing applicants

1. Academic entry requirements

Academic assessments are based on several criteria, the most important being A-level subjects and actual/predicted grades. Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Bacc, 14-19 Diploma, GCSEs) can be found in the online Undergraduate Prospectus:

http://www.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014/sections/XABW/dept_intro

Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on their individual merits; further information is available at:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/study-at-bristol/how-to-apply/country-specific/>

2. Additional academic criteria

Not applicable.

3. Personal statement criteria

We will check the personal statement and reference for evidence of mitigating circumstances. In some cases we may need to refer to the personal statement and reference to differentiate between applicants with very similar academic profiles. If this is the case, then Personal Statement and Referee's Report are taken into further consideration.

We are particularly keen to see evidence that the applicant appreciates the scientific nature of a degree in Animal Behaviour and Welfare Science, rather than just being interested in their own companion animals. Whilst an interest in companion animal behaviour is important (clinical work with companion animals is a relevant part of the programme) it is only one of many aspects to the programme. Applicants who can demonstrate an interest in farm animals, or animals kept for other purposes in zoos, or in sport or entertainment, will strengthen their application. Applicants who have thought about the political and ethical issues relating to the use of animals in society or who have a commitment to the rational improvement of animal welfare standards will also be regarded favourably. Participation in relevant extra-curricular activities is useful, and evidence for general intellectual and practical skills and non-academic experience is also noted.

4. Reference criteria

When assessing the School Reference assessors note the following:

- Accuracy and consistency of the predicted grades in the light of previous GCSE and AS level achievement.
- Evidence for application of effort and attitude to studies.
- Any educational or other special circumstances.

Any positive (and indeed negative) comments by the referee concerning the applicant's potential as a University student are of course noted.

5. Additional Tests

Additional tests are not part of the selection process for the degree in Animal Behaviour & Welfare Science.

6. Interview

Interviews are not normally used as part of the selection process for the degree in Animal Behaviour & Welfare Science.

7. Mature applicants

Applications from mature students taking an Access course or with a limited range of A-levels are considered individually. In judging this we look for evidence that the candidate has attempted to find out something about animal behaviour and welfare, perhaps by gaining relevant work experience on a farm, zoo, stables, kennels etc., or with an animal welfare organisation.

8. International applicants

International applicants will be subject to the criteria as detailed here:

www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries

We also consider applications through the Common Application system, and the same criteria and assessment used for UCAS applicants are applied.

9. English Language requirements for non-native speakers

All applicants are required to demonstrate that they have sufficient ability to understand and express themselves in both spoken and written English in order to benefit fully from their degree course.

English Language requirements can be found in the Undergraduate Prospectus and at: www.bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements

The specific IELTS standard required for this programme can be found in our online prospectus:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014/sections/XABW/338/admissions>

10. Contextual information

We take a holistic approach to all applications, ensuring that the educational and social context in which an applicant applies is taken into consideration, where supported by clear evidence that this may have adversely affected academic achievement. This may include time spent in Local Authority care, information about which is provided in the UCAS application. Such applications will have one grade lifted for their academic score: e.g. an AAB applicant will be awarded the same academic score as an AAA applicant. Applicants still need to satisfy specific subject requirements.

We also consider evidence of clear motivation to study. This may include attendance at a University summer school, a targeted Access Scheme (such as Access to Bristol or Realising Opportunities), or participation in other higher education outreach activities.

We do not take the following into consideration when making admissions decisions: the school type attended by an applicant, or whether an applicant's parent has any experience of higher education.

Offers

Typical offers for A-levels and other UK qualifications can be found in the entry data in the online [Undergraduate Prospectus](#). Offers to applicants with non-standard qualifications will be made equivalent to the published A-level offer.

We may make lower offers based on whether an applicant is deemed to have experienced educational disadvantage, as defined in section 7.5 of the [University's admissions principles and procedures](#).

Other

1. Transfers

Please note that transfer from the degree in Animal Behaviour & Welfare Science into Veterinary Science is not possible.

2. Additional information

Applicants with sufficient background may be considered for entry into year 2 of the program. The decision is made on an individual basis.

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to the Undergraduate Admissions Office: medsciences-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 928 8153.