

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:

BSc Biochemistry (C700)

BSc Biochemistry with Medical Biochemistry (C720)

BSc Biochemistry with Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (C790)

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.

Applicants will be assessed into the following categories:

- Immediate offer
- Hold
- Unsuccessful

Applicants in the "Immediate offer" category will receive an offer and will be invited to attend a School Visit Day. Applicants in the "Hold" category will normally have to wait until the deadline for parity applications is past, so that all such candidates can be treated in a similar fashion. Hold Applicants are reviewed in January/early February and are either given an offer and invited for one of the visit days, or informed that they have been unsuccessful at that stage. Applicants in the "Unsuccessful" category receive an email outlining in general terms why they have not been offered a place to study Biochemistry.

The applications are scored and ranked according to their achieved or predicted A2 results and their GCSE results (or equivalent), with the following weighting:

- A level: 80%
- GCSE score: 20%

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

3. Interview or visit day

All UK candidates who receive an offer will be strongly encouraged to attend one of our School Visit Days. Visit Days are designed to give candidates more information about the programmes on offer, to give them the opportunity to meet with current students and staff and to show them our teaching facilities.

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.

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 entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Bacc, GCSEs) can be found in the [Undergraduate Prospectus](#). Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on their individual merits; [further information](#) is available.

Applicants should only have one of Maths or Further Maths and one of Biology or Human Biology.

A levels in General Studies and Critical Thinking are not included in the terms of conditional offers.

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 the criteria will include the following:

- Interest and commitment to Biochemistry or a related science. Commitment may be demonstrated by appropriate work experience or participation in relevant symposia, etc. It is, however, recognised that not all students will have equal opportunities in these respects. Interest may be demonstrated by evidence of relevant reading or research beyond the A-level syllabus and a general interest in science. Where the Personal Statement shows a lack of commitment or a preference for a clinical

programme (for example, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry or Pharmacy) candidates are unlikely to be successful.

- Appropriateness of one of the Biochemistry programmes at Bristol to the candidate's declared interests and aspirations.
- Wider interests including sport, music, community action, contribution to school or wider society etc.
- Standard of written English.

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.

5. Additional Tests

Not applicable

6. Interview

Applications from mature students and others offering non-standard qualifications are treated on an individual basis. Sometimes interviews will be used to help establish the level of Chemistry and academic ability of such applicants. In these cases the applicant would be told what we are looking for. Interviews used in the selection process will be conducted by two people who have been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques and are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

7. Mature applicants

We welcome applications from mature candidates but normally require evidence that their level of Chemistry knowledge and academic ability is equivalent to our standard requirements. Suitable candidates may, therefore, be invited to interview. All interviews are conducted by 2 people, at least 1 of whom will have been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques, and are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities. The interview seeks to identify evidence of commitment to the programme and to determine the level of relevant scientific knowledge.

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/BIOC/dept_intro

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

Students may transfer between the different Biochemistry programmes provided that they have taken the correct units.

Transfer at the end of Year 1 to other programmes outside Biochemistry may be possible but will depend on the units taken by the student and on availability of places. Transfer onto the Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science programmes at the end of Year 1 is not possible.

Candidates seeking entry into Year 2 of any of the Biochemistry programmes should contact the Admissions Tutor for further information.

2. Additional information

Not applicable.

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.