

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:

F100 BSc Chemistry
F103 MSci Chemistry
F104 MSci Chemistry with Study in Continental Europe
F105 MSci Chemistry with Industrial Experience
F107 MSci Chemistry with Study Abroad
F108 BSc Chemistry with a Preliminary Year of Study
F320 BSc Chemical Physics
F322 MSci Chemical Physics
F323 MSci Chemical Physics with Industrial Experience

Admissions process

1. Admissions team

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

2. Application assessment methods

All applications must be submitted through UCAS; we cannot consider any direct applications.

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.

- Academic score: 100%

Applications will be assessed on the basis of their UCAS application form only; we cannot take into account any additional information received from an applicant or institution, unless we have requested it.

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

3. Interview or visit day

Applicants to whom an offer is likely to be made are invited to attend one of our School visit days; candidates are given the choice of several alternative dates for this visit. The schedule

for the School visit day includes an introductory talk covering the various programmes by the Admissions Tutor, lunch in the company of current undergraduates, a tour of the Chemistry, and where appropriate Physics, buildings. At all times, applicants are encouraged to ask questions about any aspect of the degree programmes on offer.

The visit schedule also includes the chance to have an informal 10–15 minute meeting with a member of academic staff. Only in rare cases will the outcome of the informal meeting influence a decision about making an offer. Notes made by the member of staff will be used in making the case for admission of a “near miss” applicant in the final selection process.

Offers are usually only made to applicants after they have visited as part of our programme of School visit days.

Applications for our F108 BSc Chemistry with a Preliminary Year of Study programme, mature students and others offering non-standard qualifications are treated on an individual basis. Normally interviews will be used to help establish the level of background knowledge and academic ability of such applicants.

4. Correspondence with applicants

All correspondence relating to an application’s status will be sent by email.

All applicants should 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 Baccalaureate, GCSEs) can be found in the [Undergraduate Prospectus](#). Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on their individual merits; [further information](#) is available.

2. Additional academic criteria

Preferred subjects & subject weightings:

We initially rank applicants according to the A Level subjects offered and predicted/actual grades. We will be looking to see that you have or are predicted a grade A in Mathematics and Chemistry (plus an A grade in Physics for Chemical Physics courses) and whilst all other A Level subjects are fully considered as well (with the exception of Critical Studies and

General Studies) applicants with preferred subjects will score higher than those without preferred subjects.

This is the list of weightings we use to rank A-level subjects:

- Weighting 1:
Chemistry; Maths; Further Maths (or Higher Level IB Maths)
Physics (for Chemical Physics courses)
- Weighting 0.7:
Biology; Physics (for Chemistry courses)
- Weighting 0.5:
Everything else

Whilst we do not score GCSEs as part of the application assessment we do expect you to have a broad range of GCSE subjects at grades A*-B to include English Language and Mathematics.

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:

In reading and assessing personal statements, we look for evidence of a strong motivation and enthusiasm to study either Chemistry or Chemical Physics. This may be demonstrated in many ways. We are interested to find out which areas of science interest an applicant most and why. We would also like to find out more about other, non-academic interests and activities. We do not require students to have completed relevant work experience, although we would be delighted to hear about it if they have managed to do so.

4. Reference criteria

The academic reference, along with associated predictions of performance in forthcoming qualifications, forms an essential part of the selection process. The reference can provide valuable information about an applicant's motivation and their ability to work independently. Where a candidate has not yet demonstrated their true academic potential, a reference may provide the evidence on which an offer might still be made, by highlighting any mitigating circumstances or special factors.

5. Additional Tests

Not applicable.

6. Interview

Applications for our F108 BSc Chemistry with a Preliminary Year of Study programme, and mature students and others offering non-standard qualifications are treated on an individual basis. Normally, interviews will be used to help establish the level of background knowledge and academic ability of such applicants. 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

In some cases, interviews may be used to help establish the level of background knowledge and academic ability of such applicants. 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.

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/CHEM/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

Our courses are designed to be flexible and share a common first-year structure. This allows transfer between individual Chemistry programmes and between individual Chemical Physics programmes during year 1. For students choosing appropriate first-year units, it may also be possible to transfer between Chemistry and Chemical Physics programmes.

Applications from students seeking entry directly into year 2 are considered on an individual basis.

2. Additional information

Not applicable.

Contacts for enquiries

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