

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:

B130 – BSc Cellular and Molecular Medicine
B131 – BSc Cancer Biology and Immunology
BC15 – BSc Pathology and Microbiology
C521 – Medical Microbiology
C540 – Virology and Immunology

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 that are received on time (in accordance with the deadlines of the UCAS application cycle) are guaranteed equal consideration. 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.

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%

Unless also applying for Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry, highly ranked applicants are made an offer and invited to a visit day. The remaining applicants who are predicted to meet our normal conditions are notified that their applications will be held until January, after which a decision will be made as to how many offers to make, and, thus, whom else to invite to a Visit Day. In the case of a high ranking applicant whose personal statement makes it obvious that they are primarily aiming for Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry, an offer will not usually be made until January or February and is made via UCAS. There will be a Visit Day available for such applicants in March.

When assessing mature students and/or those with non-standard qualifications, the major consideration is that a level of Chemistry equivalent to A-level is required. In general, we should expect that courses (particularly Chemistry) would have been taken recently. 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

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

At the Visit Days, applicants are given an opportunity to view the School, the wider University and the city of Bristol. In addition, applicants have a one-to-one meeting with a member of staff, which gives them the chance to discuss any queries that they have.

Applicants are normally given a choice of dates to attend a Visit Day; if they cannot come on any of them, an individual visit may be offered. We do not normally expect international applicants living overseas to attend a Visit Day unless they are resident in the UK.

Applicants who are invited to attend a Visit Day will be asked to register and be sent a link to the schedule for the day and a map of the University precinct.

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, 14-19 Diploma, 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

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 personal statement will be examined to find evidence of interest in and commitment to the subject, and the appropriateness of the chosen Bristol course in relation to the candidate's declared interests and aspirations. We also take account of the standard of written English and the applicant's attitude to studies and their wider interests. The personal statement might also provide a framework for the one-to-one discussion at a Visit Day. The personal statement is also checked for evidence of mitigating circumstances or reasons for apparent inconsistencies in academic performance (e.g. A-level predictions not consistent with GCSE or AS grades).

4. Reference criteria

Assessment of the UCAS form is mainly on predicted (or achieved) results given in the Reference. We look for accuracy and consistency of the predicted grades in the light of previous GCSE and AS level achievement, evidence of effort and positive attitude to studies. The reference is also checked for evidence of educational disadvantage, mitigating circumstances, or reasons for apparent inconsistencies in academic performance (e.g. A-level predictions not consistent with GCSE or AS grades).

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

Please see information in section 6.

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/PANM/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

There is a great degree of flexibility and it is possible to transfer between the various programmes offered by Cellular and Molecular Medicine, allowing students to follow their interests as they develop.

Applicants who have previous academic experience similar to that undertaken in Year 1 of our programmes may be considered for entry into Year 2.

2. Additional information

All the school's programmes are offered with the option of Study in Industry. Students who have successfully obtained a suitable placement will transfer to the appropriate programme with Study in Industry at the end of Year 2.

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to the Undergraduate Admissions Office: medsciences-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 331 7203.