

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:

MBChB Medicine (A100 – standard entry, 5 years)

MBChB Medicine (A101 – graduate entry, 4 years)

Admissions process

1. Admissions team

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

2. Application assessment methods

The following procedure applies to all applicants who meet the UCAS application deadline of 15th October. We cannot consider any applications submitted after this date.

Each application is considered independently by the Medical Admissions Team.

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

Applications are scored on a range of academic and qualitative criteria (see section 2 - Criteria for Assessing Applicants). Applications are then sorted into 3 categories: i) Automatic Interview ii) Hold or iii) Unsuccessful, according to agreed thresholds.

- Applicants in category i) are invited for interview.
- Applications in category ii) not selected for automatic interview are put “on hold” until later in the application cycle when a review of the thresholds and the number of interviewees might result in some of these applicants being invited for interview.
- Applicants in category iii) are notified through UCAS that their application has been unsuccessful. For questions regarding feedback, please see the University's Applicant Feedback and Complaint Procedures:
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/university/governance/policies/app-comp-proc.html>

UCAS applications from applicants who are deemed to have experienced ‘educational disadvantage’, as defined in section 7.5 of the Admissions principles and Procedures, may also be passed to a member of our Widening Participation Group for second reading.

Applicants are not discriminated against on grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion, disability (other than the nationally-set requirements of “fitness to practise”) or age (although it is unlikely that applicants who will be under 17 on entry would be able to demonstrate sufficient life experience to fulfil the selection criteria).

All applications are allocated scores on the academic record and the personal statement/reference; the combined score determines which applicants will be invited to attend an interview. The weighting is as follows:

Academic score: 20%

Personal Statement/Reference score: 80%

Applicants for A101 (graduate entry, 4 years) who have been unsuccessful cannot transfer their application to the A100 (standard entry, 5 years) programme, and will not be considered for the 5-year programme instead by default. Applicants may apply for both programmes, but if successful, would only be made an offer for one.

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

3. Interview or visit day

No offers for Medicine are made without the applicant first attending an interview. This does not mean that we interview all applicants (see Section 6).

4. Correspondence with applicants

The University sends all applicants an e-mail to acknowledge receipt of their UCAS form. If a disability has been declared, a questionnaire is also sent.

Applicants will be contacted by email to inform them of any of the following changes to their application status:

- Application is unsuccessful before interview stage
- Application is ‘on hold’ and may be invited to an interview at a later date
- Applicant is being invited to attend an interview
- Applicant has received an offer post-interview
- Applicant is ‘on hold’ after interview
- Applicant has been unsuccessful at interview

The email inviting applicants to interview will direct applicants to an online booking facility allowing them to register themselves for an available date.

5. Deferred applications

Applicants can apply for deferred entry for the 5 year (A100) course, but in fairness to the following cycle of applicants we can only make a limited number of deferred offers in each cycle. We do not consider deferred applications for the 4 year graduate entry (A101) course.

It will not be possible to defer an application once it has been submitted, either before or after a decision has been made.

Criteria for assessing applicants

1. Academic entry requirements

Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Baccalaureate, EB and GCSEs) can be found in the online Undergraduate Prospectus: www.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014

Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on their individual merits; further information is available at: www.bristol.ac.uk/international/study-at-bristol/how-to-apply/country-specific

2. Additional academic criteria

Credit is given for 3 full A-levels taken within a two-year period; a fourth A-level will not confer an advantage, but applicants are expected to have studied 4 distinct subjects to AS-level.

Please note the Medical School does not accept General Studies and Critical Thinking.

Credit is also given for the best 8 GCSE subjects at A*/A. Applicants who did not achieve the minimum required GCSE results in their first sitting can apply with resits achieved or pending.

Applicants who do not fulfil the entry criteria, or who are re-sitting their A-levels, are unlikely to be invited for interview.

A101 (graduate entry, 4 years) only

A101 students at the University of Bristol are exempt from the following two A100 modules:

- Molecular Basis of Medicine MCBoM Unit:
www.bris.ac.uk/esu/unitprogcats/UnitDetails.jsa?ayrCode=13%2F14&unitCode=MEDI11120
- Student Selected Component SSC 1 & 2:
www.bris.ac.uk/esu/unitprogcats/UnitDetails.jsa?ayrCode=13%2F14&unitCode=MEDI22130

We therefore need to assess A101 applicants' undergraduate degree content to ensure they have already covered equivalent subject matter. Applicants who have not studied this content within their undergraduate degree will not be eligible for the 4-year programme, but may apply for the 5-year A100 programme. We do not consider degrees taken outside the UK or applications from international fee-payers.

Applicants for A101 (graduate entry, 4 years) will be expected to supply their degree module results in full, either within their UCAS application or sent directly to the Admissions Office at the time of submitting their application. The Selection team will then assess whether their grades to date and degree content are suitable. We aim to select a diverse range of suitable degree subjects and previous experiences. Applicants are expected to reach 2.1 standard in all relevant modules.

3. Personal statement criteria

Has the applicant demonstrated:

- a realistic interest in Medicine?
- life skills?
- a wide range of interests?
- acts of altruism and voluntary work?
- communication and interaction skills?

Each of these is scored on 0-4 scale.

For detailed information on what each criterion includes and how it can be evidenced in your personal statement, see the course profile on the UCAS website (via course search).

4. Reference criteria

References are read in conjunction with the personal statement and used as supporting information.

Applicants with an adverse comment from their referee are unlikely to be successful.

5. Additional Tests

We do not require applicants applying to our Medical programmes in the 2014 cycle to take any additional admissions test (e.g. UKCAT, BMAT, GAMSAT) and scores from these tests are not used in our selection processes.

6. Interview

The purpose of the interview is to provide the applicant with an opportunity to demonstrate evidence of skills and attributes that are appropriate to a career in Medicine and to display insight into a range of topics related to a career in medicine. Applicants are invited to attend a multiple mini interview (MMI) assessment, and in addition usually a tour of the Medical School and the University Precinct and Halls of Residence.

The assessment will use MMIs. Applicants will move around a series of 10 MMI stations, each taking 5 minutes, and will be assessed on a particular criterion at each. Each station will be directed by one or two interviewers as appropriate. Interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities. At least one member of the interviewing staff is trained in fair and effective recruitment, and at least one interviewer is a member of the Medical Admissions Committee.

Applicants to whom an offer of a place will be made are selected from the top-rated interviewees.

All interviews in the 2014 cycle will take place at the University of Bristol.

7. Mature applicants

Mature applicants who are not applying straight from formal education would be expected to demonstrate recent academic study (ie. within 5 years of applying).

8. International applicants

All interviews in the 2014 cycle will take place at the University of Bristol.

Currently, 19 places (7.5% of the total intake) are available for applicants liable to pay "Overseas fees". Only the highest rated applicants are selected for interview. "Overseas" fee-payers and/or holders of non-UK degrees are not eligible to apply for A101 (the Graduate Entry programme).

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:

www.bristol.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014/sections/MDYF/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

It is not possible to transfer to Medicine from another course or other university.

It is not possible to enter year 2 of a Medicine programme.

2. Additional information

Criminal Records Check

All medical students are required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, in line with most applicants for health-related programmes in the United Kingdom.

Occupational Health Clearance

All offers are made subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance, and a form is issued in May with a specific deadline in early June. If this is not returned by the deadline, an applicant's place may be at risk.

It is the responsibility of the Medical School to ensure that students accepted on the course are able to complete the training and achieve the competencies required by the General Medical Council (GMC) for full registration after the first year of the foundation programme. The Medical School must consult the GMC if there is doubt and if it proposes a modification of experience to achieve the competencies. A clear plan to enable a disabled student to achieve competency must be agreed before the student enters the course. Not all disabilities limit the experience of doctors in training in this way, but applicants should disclose any disability on their UCAS application forms and be prepared to release their medical details, in order for us to assess the situation. Failure to disclose a disability which might impinge upon an applicant's capacity to ultimately carry out their required duties in full will be considered unprofessional. This could put at risk their fitness to practise and might jeopardise their place on the medicine programme.

Applicants with a disability

The sequence of events during the assessment process is as follows:

- i) All applications are acknowledged
- ii) Applicants with a declared disability who have been selected for interview should contact the university's Disability Services to discuss any support requirements they may need at interview. Disability Services can also offer appropriate and accessible support, plus advice about funding available for disabled students. Please note that during the admissions interview, the applicant's disability will not be considered or discussed.
- iii) If following the interview, it is agreed that the applicant should be offered a place on the programme, the applicant will be made an offer subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance.
- iv) If the applicant has declared a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D, the applicant will be advised to contact Disability Services, who may request additional information (e.g. post-16 educational psychologist report). Any concerns identified by Disability Services in relation to student support and alternative arrangements and/or any fitness to practise concerns for an individual student will be referred to the Faculty Disability and Health Panel via the Faculty Disability Officer.
- v) For all other disabilities, a Pre-course health questionnaire will need to be completed and returned to the Occupational Health Service. The Occupational Health Service will be responsible for assessing the health questionnaire according to recognised clinical and professional standards. The Occupational Health Adviser or Physician will forward their report to the Faculty Disability Officer who will present it, if necessary, to the Disability and Health Panel for the consideration of any health issues which could impact on fitness to practice.
- vi) The Panel membership may include the Faculty Education Manager, Director of Student Affairs, Pre-Clinical Programme Director, Chairman of the Medical Admissions Committee, Occupational Health representative, Disability Services representative, Clinical Dean, Equality and Diversity Manager, Faculty Disability Office, Psychiatrist, GP and Medical Admissions Co-ordinator.
- vii) If the Panel is satisfied that the applicant is capable of undergoing standard Foundation training, correspondence confirming any support, requirements or conditions will be sent.
- viii) If the Panel is not satisfied that the applicant is capable of undergoing standard Foundation training, correspondence explaining the reasons will be sent, and the offer will be withdrawn.

However, if appropriate, an application would be submitted to the General Medical Council on the applicant's behalf, to request approval of an alternative pattern of training. If this request were to be turned down, the applicant's application to the medical course would also have to be turned down.

For further information on the available support arrangements, please see <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/disabilityservices>

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to the Undergraduate Admissions Office: med-admissions@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 928 7679.