

## 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:

B120 – BSc Physiological Science

MSci Physiological Science with Study in Industry (4 Years) – transfer at end of Year 1

B140 – BSc Neuroscience

MSci Neuroscience with Study in Industry (4 Years) – transfer at end of Year 1 (pending approval)

B210 – BSc Pharmacology

B211 – BSc Pharmacology with Study in Industry

## 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 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.

For courses B120, B210 and B211 the applications are scored and ranked according to their achieved or predicted A2 results and their GCSE results (or equivalent) with the following weightings:

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

For B140 BSc Neuroscience the applications are scored and ranked according to their achieved or predicted A2 results and their GCSE results (or equivalent), taking into account the reference and personal statement with the following weighting:

- Academic score: 90%

- Personal Statement/Reference score: 10%

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 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. Candidates are given a choice of possible dates.

At the Visit Days, applicants are given an opportunity to view the facilities available in the School, the wider University and also the city of Bristol. In addition, applicants experience a session with our human patient simulator and have the opportunity to talk to current undergraduates and members of staff, giving them the chance to discuss any queries that they have.

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, offers will not usually be made until January or February. There will be Visit Days available for such applicants in March.

We obviously do not expect international candidates to attend a Visit Day, unless they are resident in the UK.

### **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:

Physiological Science:

[http://www.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014/sections/PYSI/dept\\_intro](http://www.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014/sections/PYSI/dept_intro)

Pharmacology:

[http://www.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014/sections/PHAR/dept\\_intro](http://www.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014/sections/PHAR/dept_intro)

Neuroscience:

[http://www.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014/sections/XNRS/dept\\_intro](http://www.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014/sections/XNRS/dept_intro)

For candidates taking A-levels, two Science subjects are required, one of which must be Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths or Further Maths. For Pharmacology applicants Chemistry is a required subject.

The second science can be any of Biology, Chemistry, Further Maths, Human Biology, Maths, PE, Physics, Psychology, Zoology.

We make no specification about the third A level to be taken but have a slight preference for science based subjects.

Applicants should only have one of Maths or Further Maths, one of Biology or Human Biology and one of PE, Zoology or Sports Science.

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

Equivalent offers will be made to candidates taking Scottish Highers, International Baccalaureate or similar examinations.

We will give additional consideration to candidates who have had challenges to overcome such as educational or personal disadvantage, disability etc. and will also give additional weight to local candidates.

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 criteria will include the following:

- Interest in and commitment to the subject
- Appropriateness of Physiology/Pharmacology/Neuroscience at Bristol in relation to the candidate's declared interests and aspirations
- Non-academic achievements and/or experience, or extra-curricular interests, positions of responsibility
- Standard of written English
- Responses to challenges faced

#### **4. Reference criteria**

The following are taken into account:

- GCSE results or equivalent
- Predicted A level grades or equivalent
- Overall assessment of the candidate's academic progression and potential
- Applicants motivation and ability to work independently
- Overall assessment of the candidate's personal qualities

Criteria for assessing mature students, or those not applying directly from school or college or with non-standard qualifications:

- Evidence of academic potential
- Applicants motivation and ability to commitment to study

#### **5. Additional Tests**

Not applicable.

#### **6. Interview**

We would normally interview mature applicants or those with non-standard qualifications, and in those cases the following criteria for assessing performance at interview are applied:

- Interest in the subject
- Evidence of motivation and commitment
- Evidence of clear thinking and understanding

Please note that such interviews would be informal, involving 2 members of academic staff and would be run in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities. At least one of the interview panel would be trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques.

#### **7. Mature applicants**

Please see section 6 above.

#### **8. International applicants**

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

[www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries](http://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](http://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/>

## **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**

Transfer to related programmes is possible up to the end of the second year subject to performance, availability of spaces and completion of mandatory units.

Entry to second year is not normally possible however in exceptional circumstances individual cases are judged on merit.

### **2. Additional information**

Not applicable.

### **Contacts for enquiries**

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