

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:

Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science (DC37)

Admissions process

1. Admissions team

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

2. Application assessment methods

All UCAS applications are considered by the Undergraduate Admissions Team. All applications are considered on an equal basis and 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. The respective weightings ratio out of 100 is as follows:

A level score: 75%

GCSE score: 25%

Applications will be assessed on the basis of their UCAS application 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 applicants who meet the initial criteria are invited to a selection process at the School of Clinical Veterinary Science, Langford House, Langford, Bristol, BS40 5DU (NB: this is 14 miles from Central Bristol). This will include a presentation from the Programme Director, the opportunity for students and their parents to tour the facilities and ask questions of staff, as well as a short interview which will be conducted by two members of the admissions team (at least one of whom will have been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques). The interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

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

- Application is unsuccessful before interview stage
- Applicant is being invited to attend an interview
- Applicant has received an offer post interview
- Applicant has been unsuccessful at interview

5. Deferred applications

Applications for deferred entry are welcome.

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 online Undergraduate Prospectus: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014/sections/XVTN/164/admissions#entry>.

Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on their individual merits; further information is available at:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/study-at-bristol/how-to-apply/country-specific/>

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:

- Work experience within veterinary practice as well as related experience.
- Evidence of an understanding of the role of the qualified veterinary nurse both at undergraduate and professional level.
- Non-academic achievement/experience, extra-curricular activities, positions of responsibility
- Interest in and commitment to subject
- Evidence of clear thinking & understanding
- Problem-solving, analytical & practical skills
- Appropriateness of chosen University course to declared interests & aspirations

- Your personal statement should explain your reasons for wanting to study the course and why you think that you would make a good veterinary nurse. You will need to be able to demonstrate that you fully grasp what is involved and have a realistic view of what it is to be a veterinary nurse. You will need to have obtained relevant experience within a small animal veterinary practice, which should be of at least 2 weeks in total and may be spent in one or more practices. This work experience should give you an understanding of the veterinary nurse's role. We will expect you to be able to demonstrate that you have a sound underpinning knowledge of the various procedures that you have observed, and be able to discuss related ethical questions and the nurse's role in any decisions that were made.
- Good communication skills are essential. Can you explain complex information simply and coherently?
- You will need to have a logical mind, so that you will be able to formulate questions and solve problems.
- You will need to be self-motivated. Can you set your own goals and show independence of thought? However, you will also need to be able to work well in a team.
- Veterinary nurses must develop a high standard of professional responsibility. You should show that you are a reliable and conscientious person. • You will need to be interested in the welfare of animals and people. Can you reassure people and animals in order to put them at their ease?
- We are also interested to hear about your extra-curricular activities, and general interests, especially where this provides evidence of collaborative engagement with the wider community. How do you contribute to your school or community? Do you have any positions of responsibility? Have you done any voluntary or paid work? What do you do to relax? You should explain what skills you have gained, rather than simply listing them. It is essential that you are able to work well with others.

4. Reference criteria

Evidence of the following:

- An interest in the welfare of animals and people
- Demonstration of commitment to veterinary nursing as a potential career path
- A strong background in Chemistry and Biology
- Ability to work as part of a team as well as on their own
- Good communication skills
- Reasons for unexpectedly low academic performance

5. Additional Tests

All applicants who are invited for interview are given the opportunity to expand upon their personal statement by means of a number of written questions relating to their proposed career choice and reasons for choosing this degree as well as their relevant work experience.

6. Interview

At the interview, you can expect to discuss your reasons for your proposed choice of career, and how your work experience has informed this choice. You should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the demands and opportunities that you would encounter as a veterinary nurse, and also be able to make intelligent comments about current issues in veterinary nursing science. You should also be able to talk about your reasons for applying to our Veterinary School, and what appeals to you about studying at Bristol. Following the interview, the admissions team will make a final decision on applications and the decision will be available on UCAS Track in due course.

7. Mature applicants

Mature students are treated in a manner similar to the above.

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/XVTN/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

Transfers are not considered, as ours is a Veterinary Nursing & Bioveterinary Science course. Applicants from Veterinary Nursing courses will not have sufficient science, and applicants from Science courses will not have taken the required nursing units. Please note that transfer from the degree in Veterinary Nursing & Bioveterinary Science into Veterinary Science is not possible.

2. Additional information

Certain health conditions may be incompatible with a career in veterinary nursing. If you have a chronic health problem or a physical disability, you should contact the admissions office who will, in most cases, be able to reassure you that a career in veterinary nursing is possible.

In determining who to admit and who to graduate from this programme the veterinary school must follow the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' (RCVS) professional, prescribed standards as well as our own academic standards and regulations. We do not have the discretion to offer individuals dispensation from parts of the course as graduation leads to automatic inclusion on the RCVS Register and the legal right to practise as a registered veterinary nurse within the UK. Students should therefore expect to discuss any factors that may influence their ability to meet the requirements of the RCVS for veterinary nursing. This will enable us to discuss the clinical nursing competencies set by the RCVS and to make an informed decision regarding the applicant's ability to cope with the requirements of the programme as well as possible coping strategies that may be employed to enable the applicant to be able to gain sufficient clinical nursing competence at the end of the course.

Applicants should be able to carry out all the tasks normally undertaken by veterinary nurses. If this is in doubt, then such a case will be addressed on an individual basis and additional expert advice may be sought to inform our decision.

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.