

Undergraduate admissions statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the [University's admissions principles and procedures](#).

Year of admissions cycle: 2015

Courses covered:

C700 BSc Biochemistry

C720 BSc Biochemistry with Medical Biochemistry

C790 BSc Biochemistry with Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

Admissions process

1. Admissions team

Applications are assessed by a 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. Applications that are received on time (in line with UCAS deadlines) are guaranteed equal consideration.

All applicants are allocated scores based on their academic record, which forms 100 per cent of our assessment (80 per cent A-levels or equivalent qualifications, 20 per cent GCSEs).

Applicants will be assessed into the following categories:

- Immediate offer
- Hold
- Unsuccessful

Unless also applying for Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry, applicants in the 'Immediate offer' category will receive an offer. 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. 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.

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 of Biochemistry visit days. Visit days are designed to give applicants more

information about the courses on offer, to give them the opportunity to meet current students and staff and to show them our teaching facilities.

4. Correspondence with applicants

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

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.

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 for deferred entry (ie 2016) 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 course finder](#). Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on their individual merits; [further information](#) is available.

2. Additional academic criteria

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

3. Personal statement criteria

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 and commitment to biochemistry or a related science, which may be demonstrated by appropriate work experience or participation in relevant events, etc. We recognise that not all applicants will have equal opportunities in these respects; interest may also be demonstrated by evidence of relevant reading or research beyond the A-level (or equivalent) syllabus and a general interest in science.
- appropriateness of the chosen course to the applicant's declared interests and aspirations;
- wider interests including sport, music, community action, contribution to school or wider society, etc.;
- standard of written English.

4. Reference criteria

References should ideally be from a school or college, from a personal tutor confirming the academic potential of the applicant to study at degree level. Where this is not possible, a non-academic reference should confirm the relevant experience of the applicant as well as mathematical and problem-solving capabilities. It should indicate the potential of the applicant for study at degree level

When assessing the reference, assessors note the following:

- accuracy and consistency of the predicted grades in the light of previous GCSE and AS-level achievement.
- evidence for application of effort and attitude to studies.
- any educational or other special circumstances.

5. Additional tests

Not applicable.

6. Interview

Applications from those offering non-standard qualifications are treated on an individual basis; sometimes interviews will be used to help establish the level of academic ability of such applicants. The interview seeks to identify evidence of commitment to the course and to determine the level of relevant scientific knowledge.

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

We welcome applications from mature candidates.

We normally require evidence that their level of chemistry knowledge and academic ability is equivalent to our standard requirements. Suitable candidates may, therefore, be invited to interview (see **6. Interview** 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 for these courses through the Common Application system, and the same criteria and assessment used for UCAS applicants are applied. Applicants can only be considered through one application route; we cannot consider applicants through the Common Application who have also applied to Bristol and/or other institutions through UCAS.

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 for each course can be found in the [undergraduate course finder](#) and are explained at www.bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

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 can be provided in the application.

As part of our commitment to the UK national agenda on widening participation, we consider the educational context in which grades have been achieved, particularly if there is evidence that an applicant's current school or college performs below a defined threshold.

When assessing whether applicants meet our academic requirements, contextual criteria may be applied to those who attend and apply from a school or college which in the previous year ranked in the bottom 40 per cent in any of the following categories:

- average score per A-level entry
- average score per A-level entrant
- percentage of students applying to higher education.

If an applicant meets one of these criteria, we will raise their predicted/achieved grades by one grade in our rankings; ie an AAB applicant will be awarded the same academic score as an AAA applicant. Applicants still need to satisfy specific subject requirements. Contextual offers are usually one grade lower than the standard offer.

The University reviews its definition of educational disadvantage and low-performing schools each year and each case is considered on an individual basis.

We also consider evidence of clear motivation to study. This may include participation in higher education outreach activities, attendance at a University summer school or a targeted Access Scheme (such as Access to Bristol or Realising Opportunities where applicants receive special consideration and in some cases, guaranteed and/or lower offers; please see the [University's admissions principles and procedures](#) for more information). We do not take the following into consideration when making admissions decisions: the school type attended by an applicant (e.g. independent school, state school, academy), 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 course finder](#). Offers to applicants with non-standard qualifications will be made equivalent to the published A-level offer.

We recognise that some applicants may achieve higher than their predicted grades, and so we may also consider applicants who are predicted to achieve one grade below the entry requirements (as long as this is in a non-specified subject). Any offer made would be at the standard level.

We may make lower 'contextual' 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](#) (see also **Criteria for assessing applicants: 10. Contextual information** above).

Other

1. Transfers

Students may transfer between the different biochemistry courses, provided that they have taken the correct units.

Transfer at the end of year one to other degrees outside biochemistry may be possible but will depend on the units taken by the student and on availability of places. Transfer onto the Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science degrees at the end of year one is not possible.

Applicants seeking entry into year two of any of the biochemistry degrees should contact the admissions team for further information.

2. Additional information

The University can only guarantee places if the exact terms of the offer are met, however offer holders would not automatically be unsuccessful if the terms of the offer are missed by one grade.

If offer holders do not meet the terms of their offer when exam results are released they may be considered as a 'near miss candidate'. All near miss candidates are reviewed mid-August after those who have met the terms of their offer have been confirmed. International offer holders may be reconsidered earlier depending when their exam results are released.

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to the Undergraduate Admissions Office: medsciences-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 928 8154.