

## 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:

BSc Chemistry (F100)  
MSci Chemistry (F103)  
MSci Chemistry with Study in Continental Europe (F104)  
MSci Chemistry with Industrial Experience (F105)  
MSci Chemistry with Study Abroad (F107)  
BSc Chemistry with a Preliminary Year of Study (F108)  
BSc Chemical Physics (F320)  
MSci Chemical Physics (F322)  
MSci Chemical Physics with Industrial Experience (F323)

## 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.

Applications will be assessed on the basis of their application only; we will not take into account any additional information received from an applicant or institution, unless we have requested it.

We do not consider any direct applications to the University.

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

### 3. Interview or visit day

Applicants to whom an offer is likely to be made are invited to attend one of our School of Chemistry visit days; applicants are given the choice of several alternative dates for this visit.

The schedule for the school visit day includes an introductory talk covering the various courses by the admissions tutor, lunch in the company of current undergraduates, a tour of

the chemistry, and where appropriate physics, buildings. At all times, applicants are encouraged to ask questions about any aspect of the degree courses on offer.

The visit schedule also includes the chance to have an informal 10–15-minute meeting with a member of academic staff. Only in rare cases will the outcome of the informal meeting influence a decision about making an offer. Notes made by the member of staff will be used in making the case for admission of a 'near miss' applicant in the final selection process.

Offers are usually only made to applicants after they have visited as part of our programme of school visit days.

#### **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**

We rank applicants according to the subjects offered at A-level (or equivalent) and predicted/actual grades. We will be looking to see that you meet the entry criteria as published in our [undergraduate course finder](#).

Applicants with preferred subjects will score higher than those without preferred subjects, though applicants without preferred subjects are given full consideration as well.

The weightings we use to rank subjects at A-level (or equivalent) are:

Weighting = 1:

Biology, Chemistry; Mathematics; Further Mathematics (or IB Higher Level Mathematics)  
Physics

Weighting = 0.6:

All other subjects.(except General Studies and Critical Thinking).

We do not score GCSEs as part of the application assessment, but we do expect applicants to have a broad range of GCSE subjects at grades A\*-B including English Language and Mathematics.

A-levels in General Studies or Critical Thinking are not counted as part of offers, nor are they considered in the academic assessment of applicants.

### **3. Personal statement criteria**

In some cases we may refer to the personal statement and reference to differentiate between applicants with very similar academic profiles.

If this is the case, when reading and assessing personal statements we will look for evidence of a strong motivation and enthusiasm to study either Chemistry or Chemical Physics. This may be demonstrated in many ways. We are interested to find out which areas of science interest the applicant most and why. We would also like to find out more about other, non-academic interests and activities. We do not require applicants to have completed relevant work experience, although we would be delighted to hear about it if they have done so.

### **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

References will be assessed for information on the applicant's motivation, ability to work independently, powers of analysis and expression. We will also consider information which suggests the applicant's performance does not reflect their ability, such as educational context and special circumstances.

### **5. Additional tests**

Not applicable.

### **6. Interview**

Applications for our F108 BSc Chemistry with a Preliminary Year of Study course, mature students and others offering non-standard qualifications, may be invited to interview to help establish the level of their background knowledge and academic ability.

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 may interview mature applicants to help establish their level of background knowledge and academic ability (see **6. Interview** 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 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](http://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).

If you are not qualified or have an unsuitable academic background for the course to which you originally applied, we may offer you the opportunity to be considered for an alternative course in a related subject area. In such cases applicants will receive an email notification providing a list of the alternative options. Please note that receipt of this email does not guarantee that an offer will be made.

## Other

### 1. Transfers

Our courses are designed to be flexible and share a common first-year structure. This allows transfer between individual Chemistry degrees and between individual Chemical Physics degrees during year one. For students choosing appropriate first-year units, it may also be possible to transfer between Chemistry and Chemical Physics degrees.

Applications from students seeking entry directly into year two are considered on an individual basis.

### 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: [sci-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:sci-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk) or +44 (0)117 928 8153.