

## 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:

B130 BSc Cellular and Molecular Medicine  
B131 BSc Cancer Biology and Immunology  
BC15 BSc Pathology and Microbiology  
C521 BSc Medical Microbiology  
C540 BSc Virology and Immunology

## 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-level 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 normally 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 early January.

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**

All UK applicants who receive an offer will be strongly encouraged to attend one of our School of Cellular and Molecular Medicine visit days. Visit days are designed to give applicants more information about the courses on offer, to give them the opportunity to meet with current student and staff and to show them our teaching facilities.

Applicants who are invited to attend a visit day will be asked to register and be sent a link to the schedule for the day and a map of the University campus.

At the visit days, applicants are given an opportunity to view the school, the wider University and the city of Bristol. In addition, applicants have a one-to-one meeting with a member of staff, which gives them the chance to discuss any queries that they have.

Applicants are normally given a choice of dates to attend a visit day; if they cannot come on any of them, an individual visit may be offered. We do not normally expect international applicants living overseas 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 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 or Critical Thinking are not counted as part of offers, nor are they considered in the academic assessment of applicants.

Mathematics is acceptable as a science subject for CMM courses.

### **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 personal statement will be examined to find evidence of:

- interest in and commitment to the subject;
- appropriateness of the chosen Bristol course in relation to the applicant's declared interests and aspirations;
- standard of written English;
- the applicant's attitude to studies and their wider interests.

The personal statement might also provide a framework for the one-to-one discussion at a visit day (see **Admissions process: 3. Interview or visit day** above).

### **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. It should indicate the potential of the applicant for study at degree level.

We look for accuracy and consistency of the predicted grades in the light of previous GCSE and AS level achievement, evidence of effort and positive attitude to studies. The reference is also checked for evidence of educational disadvantage or reasons for apparent inconsistencies in academic performance (eg A-level predictions not consistent with GCSE or AS grades).

### **5. Additional tests**

Not applicable.

### **6. Interview**

Applications from mature students and others offering non-standard qualifications are treated on an individual basis. Sometimes interviews will be used to help establish the academic ability, particularly in chemistry, of such applicants. In these cases the applicant would be told what we are looking for.

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**

When assessing mature students and/or those with non-standard qualifications, the major consideration is that a level of chemistry equivalent to A-level is required. In general, we should expect that courses (particularly chemistry) would have been studied recently.

In some cases, we may invite some mature applicants to interview as part of our assessment (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).

## Other

### 1. Transfers

It is possible to transfer between the various degrees offered by the School of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, allowing students to follow their interests as they develop.

Applicants who have previous academic experience similar to that undertaken in year one of our degrees may be considered for entry into year two.

### 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.

All the school's degrees are offered with the option of Study in Industry. Students who have successfully obtained a suitable placement will transfer to the appropriate course with 'Study in Industry' at the end of year two.

## 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.