

## 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 Physiological Science (B120)  
MSci Physiological Science with Study in Industry\*  
BSc Neuroscience (B140)  
MSci Neuroscience with Study in Industry\*  
BSc Pharmacology (B210)  
MSci Pharmacology with Study in Industry (B211)

*\*Transfer at the end of year one*

## 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.

All applications that are received on time (in accordance with UCAS deadlines) are guaranteed equal consideration. We do not consider any direct applications to the University.

For courses B120, B210 and B211, applicants are allocated scores based on their academic record, which forms 100 per cent of our assessment (A-level 80 per cent and GCSEs 20 per cent, or equivalent qualifications).

For B140, applications are allocated scores 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 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 UK candidates who receive an offer will be strongly encouraged to attend one of our School of Physiology and Pharmacology visit days. Applicants 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 applying for medicine, veterinary science or dentistry courses, 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 applicants 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**

For applicants taking A-levels, two science subjects are required, one of which must be biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics or further mathematics. For pharmacology applicants, chemistry is a required subject.

The second science can be any of biology, chemistry, mathematics, further mathematics, human biology, PE, physics, psychology or zoology. We make no specification about applicants' third A-level subject, but have a slight preference for science-based subjects.

Applicants should only have one of:

- mathematics or further mathematics
- biology or human biology
- PE, zoology or sports science.

A-levels in General Studies and Critical Thinking are not included in our assessment of applicants or 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.

## **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 in and commitment to the subject;
- Appropriateness of physiology/pharmacology/neuroscience at Bristol in relation to the applicant's declared interests and aspirations;
- Non-academic achievements and/or experience, extra-curricular interests or positions of responsibility;
- Standard of written English;
- Responses to any challenges faced.

## **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.

The following are taken into account:

- Overall assessment of the applicant's academic progression and potential;
- Applicant's motivation and ability to work independently;
- Overall assessment of the applicant's personal qualities;

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

- Evidence of academic potential;
- Applicant's 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. 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 two 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 **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

Students at Bristol can transfer to related degrees up to the end of the second year, subject to performance, availability of spaces and completion of mandatory units.

Direct entry to the second year of our courses is not normally possible; however, in exceptional circumstances individual cases will be 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.