

Undergraduate admissions statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the University's admissions principles and procedures.

Year of admissions cycle: 2016

Courses covered:

Companion Animal Welfare and Behavioural Rehabilitation

Admissions process

1. Admissions team

Admissions Tutors: Dr Emily Blackwell and Dr Nicola Rooney.

The above tutors are responsible for admissions to the Certificate of Higher Education in Companion Animal Welfare and Behavioural Rehabilitation (D390).

2. Application assessment methods

All applications have to be submitted by 31st May.

All applications are considered independently by both members of the admissions team. All applications are considered on an equal basis and are not segregated by the type of educational institution attended.

Applications are initially screened on the basis of educational achievements as well as the following:

- Work experience in a rehoming centre environment
- Degree of interest in animal behaviour and welfare

This information is obtained from the Personal Statement and the Reference.

Finally the admissions tutor makes a judgment as to whether the application has been:

1. Unsuccessful
2. Successful – interview

All applicants are informed of the admissions team's decision in writing. The aim is to respond to all candidates within 4 weeks of receipt of application, in order to establish contact and inform the candidate of the process to be followed.

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

3. Interview or visit day

Applicants will be given an opportunity to meet teaching staff and have a guided tour of the Langford site when they attend for interview.

4. Correspondence with applicants

Applicants will be given an opportunity to meet teaching staff and have a guided tour of the Langford site when they attend for interview.

5. Deferred applications

Yes students can defer their application

Criteria for assessing applicants

1. Academic entry requirements

UK/EU applicants

The normal entry requirement for the certificate is qualification at Level 3 or above, for example, NVQs at Level 3, Level 3 diplomas, A Levels, BTEC Animal Management, Access to Higher Education (Science).

The GCSE record of the applicant is also noted; we normally require GCSE Grade C in English, Maths and the Sciences.

Due to the diverse nature of the qualifications held by applicants (rehoming centre staff) it is impossible to specify exact subject and grade combinations that are likely to result in offers.

Mature students with relevant experience will also be considered.

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

The personal statement and referee's report are always studied carefully. We are particularly keen to see evidence of

- An appreciation of the importance of science in applied animal behaviour
- A willingness to challenge established or traditional theories and methods in companion animal behaviour
- A willingness to critically evaluate their own working practices and beliefs
- A commitment to the improvement of the welfare of the animals in their care
- Non-academic achievements and extra-curricular interests

- Positions of responsibility; either in their current working role, voluntary work, or previous / other roles
- Team working, interpersonal and communication skills
- Motivation and commitment to distance learning
- Practical animal handling and training skills

4. Reference criteria

The preference is for an academic or employer's reference rather than a personal one. It should support the applicant's personal statement, but avoid repetition. The applicant's academic performance and abilities should be discussed along with any extenuating circumstances known to have affected progress. The ability of the applicant to interact with work colleagues, along with positions of responsibility held is valuable information.

5. Additional Tests

Additional tests are not part of the selection process for the certificate in Companion Animal Welfare and Behavioural Rehabilitation.

6. Interview

Interviews are held from November through to June. All applicants are interviewed by individuals trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques. Interviews will last approximately 30 minutes. Interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

7. Mature applicants

Applications from mature students with relevant work experience for an animal welfare charity are considered individually and treated in a manner similar to above. Reapplications are considered using the same criteria.

8. International applicants

Similar to the criteria above.

English Language requirements can be found in the UG prospectus and at:

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/university/governance/policies/admissions-english-lang-reqs.html>

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.bris.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/>

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 UG prospectus. Offers to applicants with non-standard qualifications will be made equivalent to the published A-Level offer.

We may make lower offers based upon whether an applicant is deemed to have experienced educational disadvantage, as defined in section 7.5 of the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures.

These may be one or two grades lower than the standard offer published in the Undergraduate Prospectus.

Other

1. Transfers

Progression into year 2 of another science degree is at the discretion of the individual schools/universities involved.

2. Additional information

Not applicable

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to Georgina Francis or Tracey Jarvis, Veterinary
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