

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:

Gateway to MB ChB Medicine (A108)

Gateway to BDS Dentistry (A208)

Gateway to BVSc Veterinary Science (D108)

1. Admissions process

1.1. Admissions team

Applications are assessed by a centralised team in close co-operation with the admissions tutor(s).

1.2. Application assessment methods

Please note that the Gateway courses are aimed at specific UK Widening Participation applicants only.

All applications that fulfil the specific widening participation entry requirements for the Gateway courses (see below), and that are received on time (in accordance with UCAS deadlines), receive equal consideration.

- Applicants must be resident in the target counties of Devon; Cornwall; Gwent; Somerset; Bath; Bristol; Gloucestershire; or Wiltshire at the time of application **and** must be taking (or have taken) their level 3 qualifications (eg. A-levels) at a secondary school or college in one of these areas that also fulfils the University of Bristol's Widening Participation criteria. This is defined as that in the previous year academic year it was ranked in the bottom 40 percent of all schools and colleges, according the average score per A-level student, the average score for each individual A-level taken there, and the percentage of students applying to higher education. A list of eligible schools can be found at bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/study/undergraduate/documents/contextual-offer-schools.pdf
- If these two essential criteria are met, priority will then be given to those who fulfil at least two of the following criteria:
 - i) in Local Authority care;
 - ii) mature (aged over 21 at the start of the course);
 - iii) neither parent attended university;
 - iv) applying from an address in a neighbourhood where few young people progress to higher education. This is defined using Polar3 data and a searchable database is available at <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/postcode>. Home postcodes with a Young Participation score of 1, 2 or 3 qualify.

Please note that graduates, or those who have already commenced a University degree, are **not** eligible to apply for the Gateway courses regardless of their previous A level grades or school attended.

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

1.3. Interview or visit day

Applicants who fulfil both the academic entry criteria **and** the additional widening participation criteria will be considered for interview. This will be a series of practical tests (knowns as MMIs) undertaken at the University of Bristol; Gateway to Veterinary Science applicants will also have a face-to-face interview. Applicants invited to interview will also be given an opportunity to see relevant academic departments and be given a guided tour of the main campus or the Langford campus as appropriate. It is envisaged that for Gateway applicants these Interview Days will be held in the Spring term following application. Please also read **2.5. Interview** below.

1.4. Correspondence with applicants

Applications should be submitted through UCAS (www.ucas.com) by the deadline of 15 October in the year preceding the start of the course (ie. by 15 October 2015 for entry in 2016). This is the deadline set by UCAS for all applications to undergraduate medicine, dentistry or veterinary science courses. Please note that UCAS only permits four out of five choices to be used for such courses; the other choice can be for any other course or subject.

All correspondence from the University relating to an applicant'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 and put on 'Hold' pending a decision later in the cycle.

If you submitted your application by the UCAS deadline of 15 October, the final deadline by which you will receive a decision is 7 May. Most decisions will be made well before this date although we may hold some applications until later in the cycle before a decision is made.

2. Criteria for assessing applicants

To assess an application we require:

- A full academic history from age 16 onwards, including any retakes or uncompleted qualifications.
- Predicted grades for any qualifications you are currently taking. Predicted grades can only come from your school or referee. These must include an overall grade (if applicable) AND where a particular subject is specified in the entry requirements, the achieved grades or predicted grades for that subject, and any related or major subjects you are studying.
- If predicted grades are not available, then we will accept a transcript showing the results of your previous year's courses or examinations.

The weighted score given to particular aspects of any application that fulfils both the stated academic requirements and the essential widening participation criteria is as follows:

- Personal Statement : 55%
- Extra Widening Participation criteria (as stated in **1.2 Application assessment methods** above) : 45%

The highest scoring applicants will be considered for interview.

2.1. Academic entry requirements

Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, IB, BTEC, Welsh Bac, and GCSEs) required for each Gateway course can be found in the [undergraduate course finder](#).

Other qualifications will be considered on their individual merits; please contact the Admissions office for more information,

All applications must be submitted through UCAS; we cannot consider any direct applications to the University.

Successful completion of a University of Bristol Gateway course would allow for progression onto the appropriate full 5 year degree course at the University of Bristol. The Gateway courses are not stand-alone courses and are intended only as a Widening Participation initiative for entry to the full degree offered by this University.

2.2. Additional academic criteria

Applications will only be considered from those with the specific achieved or predicted grades stated in the admissions requirements, who also fulfil the stated Widening Participation criteria. See section **1.2. Application assessment methods** above.

2.3. Personal statement criteria

The personal statement forms a crucial part of the selection process in assessing each applicant's motivation and suitability for the course. The personal statement is assessed to see if the applicant has demonstrated:

- Professional insight: a realistic understanding of, and interest in, medicine, dentistry or veterinary science both as an academic course of study and as a career;
- Life skills and personal determination: a range of personal interests and activities (including paid work) that display an understanding of the wider community, with the ability to overcome challenges and the determination to see a task or project to a successful conclusion;
- Altruism and commitment: a sense of altruism and community involvement as demonstrated by voluntary work both within and outside school, caring responsibilities or other personal circumstances, and/or paid work, that displays characteristics such as selflessness or a practical concern for the welfare of others;
- Communication skills: a range of personal interests and activities (including paid work) that display communication skills, leadership ability and a desire to seek realistic solutions to problems and conflicts.

Please also see section **2.8. Contextual Information** below.

2.4. Reference criteria

We would appreciate referee comments regarding favourable qualities possessed by the applicant such as motivation to study, tenacity, determination, and examples of how they have overcome any challenges during their life. We would also appreciate the referee's assessment of the applicant's suitability for the professional career they have chosen.

If the referee believes the applicant's performance does not reflect their ability, due to specific educational context and/or special circumstances, the applicant should complete an extenuating circumstances form at bristol.ac.uk/applicants/applied/extenuating-circumstances/. We are unable to consider extenuating circumstances without this form.

2.5. Interview

The purpose of the interview day is to provide the applicant with an opportunity to demonstrate evidence of skills and attributes that are appropriate to a career in medicine, dentistry or veterinary science and to display insight into a range of topics related to a career in these areas. It is also an opportunity to see the facilities (at Langford for veterinary science) and speak to academic staff and current students.

For Gateway to Medicine and Gateway to Dentistry, applicants will move around a series of ten MMI (multiple mini interview) stations, each taking 5 minutes, and will be assessed on a particular criterion at each. Each station will be directed by one or two interviewers as appropriate.

For Gateway to Veterinary Science, applicants will move around a series of five MMI (multiple mini interview) stations, each taking 4 minutes, and also have a face to face interview. Interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities. At least one member of the interviewing staff is trained in fair and effective recruitment, and at least one interviewer is a member of the appropriate Admissions Committee.

After interview, the applicants' performance on the MMIs (and face to face interview for Gateway to Veterinary Science) will be scored by assessors and ranked by the Admissions office. Those candidates with the strongest overall performance will receive offers. Decisions will be communicated to candidates online via UCAS.

2.6. Mature applicants

Mature applicants over the age of 21 at the start of the course are encouraged to apply. Those who are not applying straight from formal education would be expected to demonstrate recent academic study (ie. within five years of applying) or substantial relevant work experience. Please note that Access to HE courses are **not** accepted for admission to Gateway courses. Mature students are expected to fulfil the same academic criteria as school-leavers, including all GCSE and/or English Language requirements. Graduates are not eligible to apply for the Gateway courses.

2.7. English Language requirements

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 chosen course.

Applicants must be able to fulfil either the GCSE English Language requirement or the appropriate English Language profile if they are a non-native English speaker who was not able to take GCSEs at the appropriate time in their schooling.

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

2.8. Contextual information

The University of Bristol has been a pioneer in the field of widening participation for over a decade. The Gateway courses aim to recruit able students to the University from specific under represented backgrounds.

We take a holistic approach to assessing all applications, ensuring that an applicant's educational and social background is taken into consideration, where supported by clear evidence that this may have adversely affected academic performance, 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. The Gateway courses are aimed at applicants currently attending, or who completed their level three qualifications, at a school ranked in the lower 40 per cent nationally in any of the following categories: average Level 3 score per entry; average Level 3 score per entrant; percentage of students applying to higher education. A list of eligible schools can be found at bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/ under 'Typical and Contextual Offers'. Please note that only schools located in the target counties are included for the purposes of admissions to the three Gateway courses (see '**Admissions Process 2. Application assessment methods**', above)

3. Offers

3.1. Typical Offers

Typical offers for A-levels and other UK qualifications can be found in the entry data in the [undergraduate course finder](#). Offers to applicants with non-standard qualifications, or combinations of different qualifications (for instance A-levels and BTEC) will be made equivalent to the published A-level offer.

Please note that we are unable to consider applicants for the Gateway courses who are predicted A-level grades (or equivalent) *higher* than those specified in the admissions requirements; such applicants should instead apply for the appropriate 5 year course.

4. Other

4.1. Deferred applications

Deferred applications (ie. for 2017 entry) are **not** permitted.

4.2. Resits

We can accept resits for entry to Gateway courses, however the reasons for this should be clearly explained in the Reference. We would normally expect A-levels (or equivalent) to be

taken over a maximum period of three years. Any exception to this should be explained in the Reference. See section **4.4. Extenuating Circumstances** below.

4.3. Transfers

As this is a one-year Widening Participation initiative, applications are not accepted from those who have already started a degree program either at the University of Bristol or another institution.

4.4. Extenuating Circumstances

If your education has been significantly disrupted through health or personal problems, disability or specific difficulties with schooling, or there are particular circumstances related to your personal circumstances that you wish to be taken into account when considering your application, you will need to submit an extenuating circumstances form (bristol.ac.uk/applicants/applied/extenuating-circumstances/) to Undergraduate Admissions. This should be submitted to the University at the same time as you make your application through UCAS. Any circumstances that arise later in the year that may have an impact on your exam performance should also be brought to our attention using the same form. The deadline for receipt of the form and any supporting evidence is 31st July 2016.

The information provided on the form will be treated confidentially, and will help us to accurately assess your academic performance and potential in light of your situation.

4.5. Policies

All applications are considered in line with our [Admissions policies and procedures](#).

We are committed to the provision of high quality, fair and transparent admissions procedures for all our applicants. We recognise, however, that there may be occasions when applicants believe that they have cause for complaint. At this point applicants should follow our [Applicant feedback and complaints procedures](#).

Should an applicant believe that University admissions principles and procedures have been inconsistently or incorrectly applied, these complaints procedures provide a mechanism for objective review.

4.6. 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 narrowly missed.

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 in August after publication of A-level results.

4.7. Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to our Enquiries team: choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0) 117 394 1644.