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:
BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science (DC37)

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
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.

All applications are allocated scores based on their academic record, which forms 100 per cent of our pre-interview assessment (65 per cent A-levels and 35 per cent GCSEs).

Applications are assessed pre-interview 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.

1.3. Interview or visit day
All candidates who are selected for interview must attend in order to be considered. No offers for veterinary courses are made without the applicant first attending an interview. This does not mean that we interview all applicants (see 2.5. Interview below).

1.4. Correspondence with applicants
All correspondence 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 15th January then the final deadline by which you will receive a decision is 7th May. Most decisions are made well before this date. We monitor the number of offers we make carefully and may hold some applications until later in the cycle. Invitations to attend an interview are sent to applicants via email.

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.

2.1. Academic entry requirements

Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Bac, 14-19 Diploma, 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 through the International Office.

All applications must be submitted through UCAS or Common Application; we cannot consider any direct applications.

Applications that are received on time are guaranteed equal consideration.

2.2 Additional academic criteria

Not applicable.

2.3. Personal statement criteria

In cases where we refer to the personal statement and reference to differentiate between applicants, the criteria will include the following:

- Evidence of an understanding of the role of the qualified veterinary nurse, both at undergraduate and professional level;
- Work experience within veterinary practice as well as animal-related experience;
- Interest in and commitment to the subject;
- Evidence of clear thinking and understanding;
- Problem-solving, analytical and practical skills’
- Communication skills;
- Appropriateness of the course to the applicant’s declared interests and aspirations;
2.4. Reference criteria

References will be assessed for information on the applicant’s motivation, ability to work independently, powers of analysis and expression. If the referee believes the applicant’s performance does not reflect their ability, due to 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.

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. Assessors will want to consider the accuracy and consistency of the predicted grades in the light of previous achievement, evidence of effort and a positive attitude towards studies. 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.

2.5. Interview

All applicants who meet the academic criteria are invited to attend an interview at the School of Veterinary Sciences at Langford. The event will include a presentation from the Programme Director, the opportunity for students and their parents to tour the facilities and ask questions of staff, as well as a short interview which will be conducted by two members of the admissions team (at least one of whom will have been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques). The interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University’s policy on equal opportunities.

At the interview, you can expect to discuss your reasons for your proposed choice of career, and how your work experience has informed this choice. You should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the demands and opportunities that you would encounter as a veterinary nurse, and also be able to make intelligent comments about current issues in veterinary nursing science.

You should also be able to talk about your reasons for applying to our veterinary school, and what appeals to you about studying at Bristol. Following the interview, the admissions team will make a final decision on applications and interviewees will be notified in due course.

Applicants will need to have obtained relevant experience within a small animal veterinary practice to develop their understanding of the veterinary nurse’s role before they begin their course. This should be at least two weeks in total and may be spent in one or more practices. If invited to interview, applicants will be asked to complete a work experience form to bring to the interview. If, after interview, we would like to make an offer to an applicant who has not completed sufficient work experience at the time of their interview, we may ask for evidence of additional work experience within the conditions of the offer.

2.6. Mature applicants

Mature students are considered against the same criteria as all other candidates.
2.7. International applicants
International applicants will be subject to the criteria as detailed here: bristol.ac.uk/international/countries

International applicants who are invited to interview will be expected to attend in Bristol; no interviews will be conducted away from the School of Veterinary Sciences.

2.8. 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 bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

2.9. Contextual information
We take a holistic approach to assessing all applications, ensuring that an applicant’s educational and social contexts are taken into consideration, where supported by clear evidence that this may have adversely affected academic performance. 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.

Applicants may be eligible for a contextual offer if they are currently applying from (or in the 15/16 academic year were in full-time education in) a school ranked in the bottom 40 percent in any of the following categories for the: 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 during the scoring process; i.e. 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.

To be eligible for a contextual offer, applicants currently attending school must apply from a school in the list below:

2016 cycle list here

Applicants not currently attending school must have been in full-time education in one of the following schools in the academic year 15/16:

2015 cycle list here

Please note that we use the "applying from" school code or the education history listed on the UCAS form to determine an applicant's eligibility for a contextual offer. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure these are correct.
The University reviews its definition of educational disadvantage 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, comprehensive school, academy) or an applicant’s parents’ experience of higher education.

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 will be made equivalent to the published A-level offer.

We may make lower 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.

3.2 Aspirational Offers
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.

4. Other

4.1. Deferred applications
We welcome applications for deferred entry. However deferred applicants should be aware that, in fairness to other applicants in the following cycle, we can only make a limited number of deferred offers in each cycle.

4.2. Resits
The School of Veterinary Sciences will consider applicants who resit their qualifications in order to be eligible for this course.

4.3. Transfers
Transfers are not considered. Due to the nature of our course, applicants from veterinary nursing courses elsewhere will not have sufficient science, and applicants from science courses will not have taken the required nursing units.

Please note transferring from this degree into BVSc Veterinary Science is not possible.
4.4 Extenuating Circumstances
If your education has been significantly disrupted through health or personal problems, disability or specific difficulties with schooling you will need to submit an extenuating circumstances form (available at bristol.ac.uk/applicants/applied/extenuating-circumstances/) to Undergraduate Admissions.

The information provided on the form will be treated confidentially, and will help us to accurately assess your academic performance 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. International offer holders may be reconsidered earlier depending when their exam results are released.

4.7. Contacts for enquiries
Any enquiries should be addressed to our Enquiries team: choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 331 7203.