

Undergraduate Admissions Statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2018/>



Year of Admissions cycle:
2018

Courses covered:
BDS Dentistry (A206)

1. Course specific:

1.1 Admissions process

Applications are scored and ranked based on their academic record, according to their achieved or predicted results with the following weightings:

GCSE 15% | A-level 15% | Personal statement 50% | UKCAT 20%

1.2 Academic criteria

Applicants are expected to complete three A-levels (or equivalent qualifications) within a single two-year exam period. Applicants' qualifications must include Chemistry and one other lab-based science to A-level (or equivalent), but the Dental School has no preference regarding the third A-level subject.

Applications are scored on a range of academic and qualitative criteria. Applications are then sorted into three categories, according to agreed thresholds:

- i) Interview
- ii) Hold
- iii) Unsuccessful.

- Applicants in category i) are invited for interview.
- Applicants not immediately selected for interview are put in category ii) 'Hold' until later in the application cycle when a review might result in some of these applicants then being invited for interview.
- Applicants in category iii) are notified through UCAS that their application has been unsuccessful. For questions regarding feedback, please see the University's Applicant Feedback and Complaint Procedures:
bristol.ac.uk/university/governance/policies/admissions/feedback-complaints.html

UKCAT

All applicants are required to take the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) in the current cycle. The score from this test will be used to form part of our selection process. There is no cut-off score for the UKCAT. We will also not take into account scores for the Situational Judgement subtest. Further information on the UKCAT, including details of their bursary scheme, can be found here: www.ukcat.ac.uk.

Occupational health clearance

All offers are made subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance. A form is issued in May with a specific deadline in early June. If this is not returned by the deadline, an applicant's place may be at risk.

1.3 Personal statement criteria

Given the very large number of applications we receive each year from applicants who have achieved or are predicted to achieve high grades, we necessarily place substantial emphasis upon the quality of the personal statement.

We look for:

- motivation and commitment to dentistry;
- amount and variety of dental work experience, paid or unpaid (where possible this should be within various fields of dentistry);
- evidence of manual dexterity (e.g. playing an instrument, car or bike maintenance, art and craft activities);
- evidence of teamwork and leadership;
- demonstration of voluntary, charitable and/or mentoring activities;
- extracurricular interests including sporting, musical and other personal achievements.

1.4 Interviews

We interview on the basis that we have limited information from the application, and need to establish that the applicant has the necessary qualities required to become a good dentist. Applicants who are invited to interview will be asked to complete a form detailing their work experience, including details of the practice/lab and dates of attendance, and provide this in advance of, or on the day of, the interview.

The University may contact the practices to verify the information provided, and interviewers may use the details given on the form as discussion matter during the interview.

Applicants will be assessed using the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) system. This is a robust and evidence-based method which has been proven to be objective and efficient. Interviewees will be assessed at ten different 'stations' covering different aspects of the skills and knowledge required to be a successful dental student and dentist.

The dental admissions tutor will provide more information about MMIs on the day of the interview, as well as an overview of the admissions procedure and the format of the BDS degree course. Interviewees will also receive a tour of the dental hospital and school. Please

note, photo ID will be required at interview.

Extra time in assessments

Sufficient time is built into our MMI sessions that additional extra time is not required.

After interview

Applicants' performance at the MMIs will be scored by assessors and ranked by the Admissions office. Those candidates with the strongest overall performance will receive offers.

1.5 Mature applicants

We welcome mature applicants, and assess such applications holistically, taking into account factors such as relevant work experience and personal circumstances that may have interrupted or prevented previous degree level study. Evidence of recent study and examinations is expected within the last 3 years.

1.6 Aspirational offers

Due to the competitive nature of these courses, we can only consider applicants that are predicted to achieve (or have already achieved) our entry requirements in full.

1.7 Alternative offers

If applicants are not qualified or have an unsuitable academic background for the course to which they originally applied, we may offer the opportunity to be considered for an alternative course in a related subject area. In such cases applicants will receive an email notification providing a list of the alternative options.

1.8 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (ie. applying in 2017/18 for 2019 entry) are accepted.

In fairness to the following cycle of applicants we can only make a limited number of deferred offers. Applicants who have not applied for deferred entry at the point of making their application, but who subsequently wish to defer after being made an offer, must request deferral by the 28th February 2018 or within 10 working days of receiving an offer (whichever is the latest date). We reserve the right to decline deferral requests (for example if we have an exceptionally high number of deferred offer holders). Late deferral requests after the 28th February 2018 or 10 day deadline will only be considered if there are exceptional circumstances

1.9 Resits

We will consider applicants who are completing resits of GCSEs and/or A-levels (or equivalent level 3 qualifications). A maximum of one resit is allowed in any one subject. We will only make an exception to this where there are mitigating personal circumstances (see 2.11 Extenuating Circumstances below); the decision to allow an exception will be made at the discretion of the University.

1.10 Transfers

We do not permit transfers into the BDS Dentistry course either from other courses at the University of Bristol, or from other institutions.

2. General

2.1 Admissions team

Applications are assessed by a centralised team in close co-operation with the School Recruitment and Admissions Officer(s).

2.2 Admissions process

When assessing an application the admissions team will consider whether the applicant's academic potential is such that it is likely they would be successful on the degree. The admissions team takes into account a wide variety of factors which include, but are not limited to, actual academic performance to date and predicted results for qualifications currently being studied.

Because of the very high number of applications we receive, and to ensure that all those applying on time are treated fairly, some applications may be held until May before a decision is made.

Applicants will be assessed on the basis of information within their application only; we will not take into account any additional information received from an applicant or institution, unless we have requested it.

All applications received are considered on an equal basis. Applications that are received before the October deadline set by UCAS are guaranteed equal consideration.

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

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 the applicant is currently taking. Predicted grades can only come from a 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 the applicant is studying.
- If predicted grades are not available, then we will accept a transcript showing the results of a previous year's courses or examinations.

2.3 Visit day

All UK candidates who receive an offer are invited to attend one of our visit days. Applicants are given an opportunity to learn more about the degree, and to view the Faculty, the wider University and the city of Bristol. Applicants are normally given a choice of dates to attend a visit day.

Information about the visit days can be found on our web page:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/>

2.4 Correspondence with applicants

All correspondence relating to an applicant's status will be sent by email.

All applications are acknowledged by email on receipt 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.

For applications that are submitted by 15 October, the final deadline by which applicants will receive a decision is 3 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.

2.5 Academic entry requirements

Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Bac, GCSEs) can be found in the undergraduate course finder:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/>

Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on an individual basis.

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

A-level General Studies and Critical Thinking are not considered towards offers or academic assessment.

We assess applications on predicted and/or achieved A-Level grades (or equivalent). We do not assess AS-level grades.

2.6 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, they should advise the applicant to complete an extenuating circumstances form (see 2.11 Extenuating Circumstances)

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 as well as mathematical and problem-solving capabilities. It should indicate the potential of the applicant for study at degree level.

The reference will be included in the assessment of the personal statement, with the following taken into account:

- predictions of examination results (and, where the qualifications are unusual, an explanation of their meaning);
- an overall assessment of the applicant, in particular their suitability for further study;
- a discussion of earlier exam results, especially if they were influenced by personal or medical circumstances (and are therefore a poor guide to ability);
- discussion of the applicant's intellectual curiosity, interests and suitability for the subject;
- discussion of the applicant's other interests.

2.7 International applicants

International applicants will be subject to the criteria as detailed on our International web page: <http://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.

2.8 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 degree course.

English Language requirements for each course can be found in the undergraduate course finder and are explained on our English Language web page: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/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.

As part of our commitment to the UK national agenda on widening participation, we consider the educational context in which grades have been achieved.

To be eligible for a contextual offer, applicants must meet the criteria set out on our web page: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entry-requirements-qualifications/contextual-offers/>

Further information about contextual offers can be found in the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures for Undergraduate Courses.

2.10 Typical offers

Typical offers for A-levels and other UK qualifications can be found in the entry data in the undergraduate course finder: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/>
Offers to applicants with non-standard qualifications will be made equivalent to the published A-level offer.

2.11 Extenuating circumstances

If an applicant's education has been significantly disrupted through health or personal problems, disability or specific difficulties with schooling they will need to submit an extenuating circumstances form to Undergraduate Admissions:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/your-application/extenuating-circumstances/>

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

2.12 Policies

All applications are considered in line with our Admissions policies and procedures:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2018/>

We are committed to the implementation 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.

2.13 Additional information

The University can only guarantee places if the exact terms of the offer are met; however offer holders will not automatically be unsuccessful if the terms of the offer are narrowly missed.

If offer holders do not meet the terms of their offers when exam results are released they may be considered as 'near miss candidates'. 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.

2.14 Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to our Enquiries team: choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 394 1649.