

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/>



Year of Admissions cycle:
2018

Courses covered:

Gateway to Medicine (A108)

Gateway to Veterinary Science (D108)

Gateway to Dentistry (A208)

1. Course specific information:

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 10% | A-level 10% | Personal statement 60% | UKCAT 20%

1.2 Eligibility criteria

Please note that the Gateway courses are a University of Bristol widening participation initiative aimed at applicants from specific state schools in England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland only.

These selected schools and colleges are those with a lower progression to Higher Education and/or a lower average attainment in A-levels, International Baccalaureate, Pre-U and Extended Projects qualifications.

To be eligible, applicants for the Gateway program must be attending (or have attended in the academic year immediately prior to their application) a secondary school or college on one of the following lists.

England and Wales 2016/17

Level 3 qualification completed in academic year 2016/17 : http://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/study/undergraduate/documents/Final%202017%20list%20LPS%20schools%20for%20website_v5.pdf

England 2017/18

Level 3 qualification completed in academic year 2017/18 : <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/study/undergraduate/documents/English-aspiring-state-schools-2018-cycle.pdf>

Wales 2017/18

Level 3 qualification completed in academic year 2017/18 : <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/study/undergraduate/documents/Welsh-aspiring-state-schools-2018-cycle.pdf>

Northern Ireland 2016/17 or 2017/18

Level 3 qualification completed in either academic year 2016/17 or 2017/18 :

www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/study/undergraduate/documents/northern-ireland-schools-for-gateway-2018-entry.pdf

Scotland 2016/17 or 2017/18

Level 3 qualification completed in either academic year 2016/17 or 2017/18 :

www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/study/undergraduate/documents/scottish-schools-for-gateway-2018-entry.pdf

If an applicant has achieved or is predicted to achieve *above or below* the A level (or equivalent) grade range as stated on the relevant online course page on the University's website, they will not be eligible for the Gateway program, regardless of the type of school or college attended. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the person providing any predicted grades is aware of this. No later revision of predicted grades will be permitted.

Please note that applicants will not be considered for both the Gateway program and a 5 year course in Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary at Bristol. Applicants who are above the academic requirements for the Gateway program or in any other way ineligible for the Gateway program, will not automatically be considered for the corresponding 5 year course. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they apply for the program or course most appropriate to their educational circumstances and academic profile.

Applicants who are applying from an eligible school or college (see above), and who fulfil the academic requirements in full, and whose application is received on time (in accordance with the published UCAS October deadline for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary courses) will receive equal consideration.

If necessary, priority for interview may be given to those who fulfil at least two of the following criteria:

- in Local Authority care;
- mature (aged over 21 at the start of the course);
- neither parent attended university;
- 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 www.hefce.ac.uk/postcode.

Please note that those taking an Access course, all graduates, and those who have already commenced a University course, are not eligible to apply for the Gateway courses regardless of their previous A-level grades or school attended.

Please note that applicants liable for International tuition fees are not eligible for the Gateway program, regardless of school or college attended.

All applicants to Gateway to Dentistry and Gateway to Medicine are required to take the UKCAT test. Details of the test, and the deadlines for application/test, can be found online at www.ukcat.ac.uk. Applicants to Gateway to Veterinary Science are not required to take the UKCAT.

A DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check will be required for all successful applicants to Gateway to Dentistry and Gateway to Medicine. This is not required for applicants to Gateway to Veterinary.

Applicants who are made an offer for a place on any of the Gateway courses and make it either their Firm or Insurance choice will be required to complete an Occupational Health questionnaire.

1.3 Personal statement criteria

- Evidence of commitment to and realistic interest in a career in Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary.
- Life skills such as team player; organiser/leader; time management; problem-solving; communication skills, personal resilience
- Evidence of altruism/voluntary work, enjoys helping others, experience in caring roles, community/school involvement

1.4 Interviews

Applicants who fully satisfy both the academic requirements and have attended an eligible school, will be considered for interview. This is a series of practical tests (known as Multiple Mini Interviews, or 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 note, photo ID will be required at interview.

1.5 Mature applicants

Mature students are considered against the same criteria as all other candidates.

Please note that Access to HE courses are not accepted for admission to Gateway courses. Graduates, or those who have already commenced any course of University study, are not eligible to apply for the Gateway courses.

1.6 Applying with grades below the entry requirements

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

1.7 Alternative offers

Applicants who are interviewed, but are not subsequently made an offer for the Gateway program, may (where possible) be offered an alternative course at the University of Bristol. This decision will be at the discretion of the University.

1.8 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (ie. applying in 2017/18 for 2019 entry) are not permitted.

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

This is a one year program where successful completion allows applicants to transfer to year one of the appropriate 5 year course at the University of Bristol only. Transfers into a mid-point in the Gateway year are not permitted.

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 take 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.

Due to 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

Applicants who are interviewed will have the opportunity to tour the campus and relevant departments. There is no other post-offer Visit Day offered to Gateway applicants.

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/>

All applications must be submitted through UCAS; 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.

If an applicant has achieved or is predicted to achieve *above or below* the stated A level (or equivalent) grade range as stated on the relevant online course page on the University's website, they will not be eligible for the Gateway program. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the person providing any predicted grades is aware of this. No later revision of predicted grades will be permitted.

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 (those deemed liable for International tuition fees) are not eligible to apply for the Gateway program, regardless of the school or college attended.

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 and eligibility

The Gateway program is a 'widening-participation' initiative established as part of our commitment to the UK national agenda on widening University participation.

To be eligible to apply for the Gateway program, applicants must have attended a school or college in the academic year 16/17 or 17/18 as included on the relevant lists of schools and colleges in section 1.2 above.

Please note that we use the school code entered on the education history section on the UCAS application to determine an applicant's eligibility. It is the applicant's

responsibility to ensure this is correct. Applicants still at school should apply to UCAS through their school portal. Applicants who are no longer at school should ensure that they apply through UCAS Apply Online to avoid any confusion regarding their school eligibility.

As part of the assessment for the Gateway program, we also consider evidence of clear motivation to study. This may include participation in higher education widening participation or outreach activities, attendance at a University summer school or college or a targeted Access Scheme (such as Access to Bristol or Insight into Bristol) where applicants receive special consideration; please see the University's admissions principles and procedures for more information).

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 fairly assess academic performance in light of an applicant's circumstances.

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/>

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.