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:
BVSc Veterinary Science (D100)

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 20% | A-level 30% | Questionnaire 50%

1.2 Academic criteria
• We require three A Levels including Chemistry, another lab based science and any third subject.
• There is no preference given to applicants offering either Biology or Physics as the other lab based science.
• There is no preference regarding the third A-level and no priority is given to a student studying Maths as the third subject.
• We normally expect applicants to complete three A Levels (or equivalent Level 3 qualifications) within a single two-year exam period.
• There is no further credit given for applicants offering more than three A Levels (e.g. EPQ’s/ Advanced Extension exams or 4th A-levels).

Due to overlapping content, we are unable to consider the following subject combination:

• Biology and Human Biology (Biology A + B)

Credit is also given for the best eight GCSE subjects. Applicants who did not achieve the minimum required GCSE results in their first sitting can apply with resits achieved or with results pending.

1.3 Personal statement criteria
We will not be using the Personal Statement in assessing applications in 2018.

Instead we will be sending out a questionnaire that will enable applicants to declare their work experience and give them the opportunity to evidence their credentials. The questionnaire will be sent out by the University and is not available prior to application. Only applicants that meet our academic requirements will be emailed this questionnaire.
questionnaire must be returned by the specified deadline otherwise your application will be unsuccessful.

Applicants must have at least one week’s (40 hours) work experience in veterinary practice and one week’s (40 hours) work experience in animal related settings for their application to be considered. This work experience must be undertaken in the three years prior to the application.

1.4 Interviews
We reserve the right to make any offer conditional to an interview however in 2018 we do not plan to interview for home applicants. The overall scores for all applicants who pass the academic scoring will be ranked according to the following criteria.

GCSE 20% | A-level 30% | Questionnaire 50%

Offers will be made to the top ranking applicants.

In exceptional circumstances where it is deemed necessary to interview a home fee status applicant, it will be conducted by at least two people, with at least one of whom has been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques, and undertaken in accordance with the University’s policy on equal opportunities.

International Applicants
International students will be interviewed for this programme and no offers will be made without an interview. The University has a duty of care to ensure that our International applicants will be supported and successful on the veterinary programme and experience has demonstrated that an interview provides a fuller opportunity to establish whether an applicant would thrive on the programme. Interviews will occur at the Veterinary School in Langford and also overseas in SE Asia. International applicants invited to interview will be offered a choice of dates/venues as appropriate. Information about the interview format will be provided once an applicant has been invited to interview.

Occupational health clearance
All offers are made subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance. No student may enter a professional healthcare programme within the Faculty of Health Sciences without satisfactory occupation 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

1.5 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 5 years.
Mature applicants who do not meet our standard entry requirements and who cannot demonstrate recent study, relevant employment history or life experience will usually be advised to gain some academic experience before reapplying.

In some cases mature applicants may be invited to interview (see ‘1.4 Interview’ above).

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.

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 (which ever 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 2 week deadline will only be considered if there are exceptional circumstances.

1.9 Resits
Applicants are expected to study a full course load of three A-levels over a two-year period. Following the A-level reforms we will consider resits as long as these are taken no later than one calendar year after the examinations were originally sat.

If an applicant has taken three A-levels within one two year sitting but fails to attain the grades required we will accept A-Level resits. A maximum of one resit is allowed in any one subject. We will also accept GCSE resits

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
It is not possible to transfer from another course into the BVSc Veterinary Science course at Bristol. Applicants currently studying on another degree course would be expected to have completed, or be in the final year of, their current degree when they apply.

Transfers into the second or successive years of the course 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 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 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 should include:

- 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/](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/](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/](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/](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/](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.