

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/2019/>

Year of Admissions cycle:
2019

Courses covered:
BDS Dentistry (A206)

1. Course-specific information

1.1 Admissions process

Applicants are scored and ranked 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

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/>

Excluded subject combinations are Biology and Physical Education, Biology and Zoology, and Biology and Botany.

Other qualifications, including international qualifications, are considered on an individual basis.

All applicants are required to take the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) in the current cycle. Scores, with the exception of the Situational Judgement sub-test, are used to form part of the selection process. Further information on the UKCAT, including details of their bursary scheme, can be found here: www.ukcat.ac.uk.

All offers are made subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance. Applicants receive the relevant paperwork in May and must return the completed form by the specified deadline in early June.

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 (for example, playing an instrument, car or bike maintenance, art and craft activities)
- Evidence of teamwork and leadership
- Evidence 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 to become a good dentist.

Interviewees must provide evidence of their work experience, including details of the practice/lab and dates of attendance, in advance of, or on the day of, the interview. This information may be used as a basis for discussion at interview. Photo identification is also required.

Applicants are assessed using an evidence-based Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) system, covering different aspects of the skills and knowledge required to be a successful dental student and dentist. Interviewees also receive a tour of Bristol Dental School and Hospital.

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

1.5 Mature applicants

Applicants must provide evidence of study and examinations within the past three years.

Further information can be found on our web pages: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/mature/>

1.6 Aspirational offers

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

1.8 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (those made in 2017/18 for 2019 entry) are accepted. In fairness to applicants in the following year, we can only make a limited number of deferred offers.

Applicants who do not apply for deferred entry initially, but wish to defer after receiving an offer, must request deferral by 28 February 2019 or within 10 working days of receiving their offer (whichever is the later date). Requests received after the deadline are only considered in exceptional circumstances. We reserve the right to decline deferral requests (for example, if we have an exceptionally high number of deferred offer holders).

1.9 Resits

We consider applicants resitting GCSEs and/or A-levels (or equivalent level 3 qualifications). A maximum of one resit is allowed in any one subject, unless there are mitigating personal circumstances.

1.10 Transfers

Transfers into years two and three are not considered in any circumstances.

Please refer to our web page for further information on transfers:
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/transfers/>

2. General information

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

Because we receive such a high number of applications, and to ensure that all those applying on time are treated fairly, we may hold some applications until May before making a decision.

We assess applicants on the basis of their application only; we do not take into account any additional information received from an applicant or institution, unless we have requested it.

Applications received before the 15 October deadline set by UCAS are guaranteed equal consideration.

We do not discriminate against applicants on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

To assess an application, we require the following information:

- a full academic history from age 16 onwards, including details of any retakes or uncompleted qualifications;
- predicted grades for any qualifications the applicant is currently taking. These must be provided by the applicant's school or referee, and must include an overall grade (if applicable), *and*, where a particular subject is specified in the entry requirements, the achieved or predicted grades for that subject, and any related or major subjects being studied;
- in cases where predicted grades are not available, a transcript showing the results of a previous year's courses or examinations.

2.3 Correspondence with applicants

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

We monitor the number of offers we make and may hold some applications until later in the cycle.

We email applicants to tell them whether 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 submitted by 15 October, the final deadline by which applicants receive a decision is 2 May. Most decisions are made before this date.

2.4 Reference criteria

References should be provided by a personal tutor from the applicant's school or college. Where this is not possible, a non-academic reference should confirm the applicant's relevant experience and indicate their potential for degree-level study.

The reference is considered alongside the personal statement, taking into account the following:

- predictions of examination results (including, if necessary, an explanation of any non-standard qualifications);
- an overall assessment of the applicant, in particular the suitability and academic potential of the applicant to study at degree level;
- discussion of earlier exam results, especially those influenced by personal or medical circumstances (and therefore a poor guide to ability);
- discussion of the applicant's intellectual curiosity, interests and suitability for the subject.

Referees who believe the applicant's performance does not reflect their ability, because of educational context and/or special circumstances, should advise the applicant to complete an extenuating circumstances form (see section 2.8 Extenuating Circumstances).

2.5 International applicants

International applicants are subject to the criteria detailed on our international web page: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries/>

We also consider applications through the Common Application system, using the same assessment criteria as for UCAS applicants.

2.6 English language requirements

All applicants must demonstrate 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/>

2.7 Contextual information

As part of our commitment to the UK national agenda on widening participation, we consider the context in which grades have been achieved and make contextual offers. Contextual offers are usually two grades lower than the typical offer. Applicants may receive a contextual offer for the following reasons: attendance at an aspiring state school or college; residence in an area with low progression to higher education; completion of a University of Bristol outreach programme; time spent in care.

Full details of the contextual offer scheme can be found online:

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entry-requirements-qualifications/contextual-offers/> and within the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures for Undergraduate Courses.

2.8 Extenuating circumstances

Applicants whose education has been significantly disrupted through ill health, personal problems, disability or specific difficulties with schooling may submit an extenuating circumstances form: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/your-application/extenuating-circumstances/>

The information provided in the form is treated confidentially, and helps us to assess academic performance fairly in light of individual circumstances.

2.9 Policies

All applications are considered in line with our Admissions Principles and Procedures for undergraduate courses: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2019/>

We are committed to implementing high-quality, fair and transparent admissions procedures for all our applicants. However, applicants who believe they have cause for complaint should consult our applicant appeals, complaints and feedback policy.

This policy provides a mechanism for objective review in cases where an applicant believes that the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures have been inconsistently or incorrectly applied.

2.10 Additional information

The University only guarantees places to applicants who meet the exact terms of their offer; however, applicants who narrowly miss the terms of their offer may still be considered as 'near-miss' candidates.

All applications from such candidates are reviewed in August after publication of A-level results. Applications from international near-miss candidates may be reconsidered earlier, depending on when their exam results are released.

2.11 Contacts for enquiries

If you have any questions, please contact our Enquiries team: choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 394 1649.