

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
BVSc Veterinary Science (D100)

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:

A-level 30% | Work Experience and Personal and Professional Attributes form 70%

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/>

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

Due to overlapping content, we do not accept the following subject combination:

- Biology and Human Biology (Biology A + B)

1.3 Additional Criteria

Occupational health clearance

All offers are subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance. Applicants who accept our offer as their firm or insurance choice will be asked to complete and return the relevant paperwork by the specified June deadline.

Work Experience

Once we have received applications, we ask applicants to complete a Work Experience and Personal and Professional Attributes form. This form will enable applicants to declare their work experience and give them the opportunity to evidence their credentials. The form is not available prior to application. Applicants must return the form by the specified deadline otherwise your application will be unsuccessful.

Those applicants who fulfil our academic requirements will have their Work Experience and Personal and Professional Attributes form read and scored according to the duration and diversity of their work experience.

Applicants must have at least one week's (40 hours) work experience in a veterinary practice and one week's (40 hours) work experience in an animal-related setting before submitting their application. Maximum credit is given for more than four weeks' (160 hours) work experience in more than one veterinary practice and more than four weeks' (160 hours) in animal-related areas. Offers are made to the top-ranking applicants. Any work experience must be undertaken in the three years prior to entry (1 September 2015 to 31 October 2018 for 2019 entry).

Personal statement criteria

We do not use the personal statement to assess applications. Instead, we rank applicants who fulfil our academic requirements on the basis of their work experience and personal and professional attributes.

1.4 Interviews

For these courses, applicants are not routinely interviewed. In the majority of cases, admissions decisions will be made on the basis of the application information alone. In exceptional circumstances where an interview is deemed necessary, 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.

The criteria for assessing interview performance may include, for example, demonstrated interest in, suitability for, and commitment to the subject; evidence of clear thinking and understanding, and of problem-solving and analytical skills; standard of spoken English; appropriateness of the Bristol course in relation to the applicant's declared interests and aspirations; non-academic achievement and/or experience, or extra-curricular interests, that indicate the likely contribution an applicant will make to the life of the University; positions of responsibility held; other relevant skills.

1.5 Mature applicants

Mature applicants must provide evidence of study and examinations within the past five years.

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.

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 this course, we only consider applicants who are predicted to achieve (or have already achieved) our entry requirements.

1.7 Alternative offers

Applicants who are not qualified or have an unsuitable academic background for this course 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 2018/19 for 2020 entry) are accepted, and are treated in the same way as non-deferred applications.

In fairness to the following cycle of applicants, we only make a limited number of deferred offers. Applicants who did not apply for deferred entry initially, but who 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 who are resitting GCSEs and/or A-levels (or equivalent Level 3 qualifications). A maximum of one resit is allowed in any one subject. We only make exceptions where there are mitigating personal circumstances (see section 2.8).

1.10 Transfers

Requests for transfers into Bristol Veterinary School are not considered.

Graduates applying to the Veterinary School are expected to have completed or be in the final year of a degree. If an applicant has started a degree, and is in the first or second year of their studies, or if they do not intend to complete their degree, they will need to meet the standard A-level or equivalent entry requirements as laid out in the [course finder](#) in order to be considered.

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.