



## Undergraduate Admissions Statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures: [www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2021/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2021/)

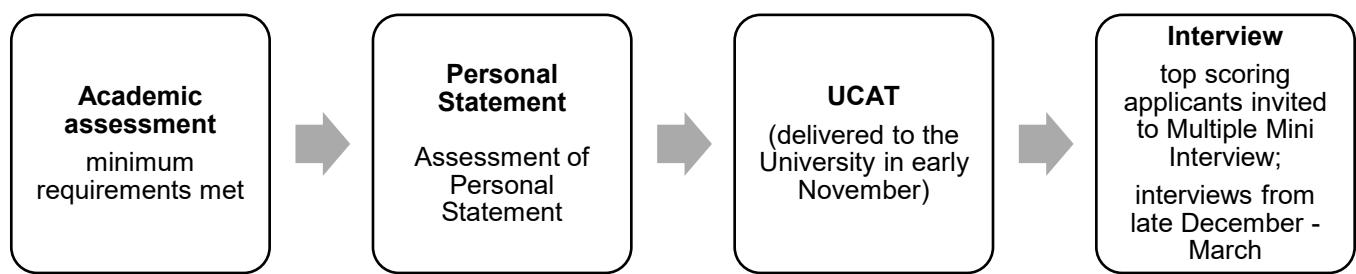
Year of Admissions cycle:

2021

Courses covered:

A206 Dentistry (BDS)

### 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 15%, A-Level 15%, Personal Statement 35%, UCAT 35%

#### 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:

[www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/)

Other qualifications will be considered on an individual basis. International applicants are subject to the criteria detailed on our international web page:

[www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries/)

All applicants are required to take the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) 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 UCAT. We will also not take into account scores for the Situational Judgement subtest. Further information on the UCAT, including details of their bursary scheme, can be found here: [www.ucat.ac.uk/](http://www.ucat.ac.uk/)

Due to overlapping content, the following subject combinations are excluded: Biology and PE, Biology and Zoology, Biology and Botany.

### **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:

- Evidence of work experience & motivation and understanding of dentistry
- Evidence of team work or non academic achievement
- Evidence of contribution to society

### **Work experience**

While not a requirement for the course, we would suggest that applicants have a minimum of two weeks' work experience. Suitable work experience and subsequent reflection is important to inform an applicant about their potential vocation and what a career in healthcare entails. Applicants may be asked to reflect upon work experience during MMIs.

We recognise that not all applicants are able to obtain clinical work experience, but encourage applicants to seek out opportunities to work with the public in a customer service role, or volunteering in a care or health environment (nursing home, local hospice, shelter for the homeless, working with people with disabilities or special needs), or youth group.

We are aware that many of applicants will have been unable to undertake work experience during the coronavirus crisis. Please be assured that we will be taking the situation into account and you will not be penalised should your ability to gain relevant work experience have been adversely affected. We encourage applicants to seek opportunities to develop their awareness of the role of a medical practitioner, and the skills and attributes required of such roles through means such as online research, supporting their families and communities, etc.

Should they be invited to interview, applicants are required to complete a form prior to attending which documents the type and duration of their work experience. The contents of this form can be used as a prompt during the relevant MMI station.

### **1.4 Interviews**

Interviews will form part of the selection criteria for this course for the 2021 admissions cycle. We appreciate, however, that the ongoing impact of COVID-19 may result in additional local or national restrictions to travel. If these occur, then we may need to alter the format of interviews and/or change arrangements at short notice. We hope to run the interviews in the current format, but we will keep applicants informed if we need to make any changes. If we decide it is necessary for them to take place remotely, every necessary step will be taken to ensure these interviews accurately reflect the normal interview process. Any changes to the format due to the remote nature of the interview will not disadvantage candidates in any way.

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 and Health Care Professional. 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. 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. Photo identification is also required.

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 a number of different 'stations' 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 Additional criteria

#### **Occupational health clearance**

All offers are made subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance. Applicants who accept our offer as their firm or insurance choice will be asked to complete the form. If this is not returned by the June deadline, an applicant's place may be at risk.

All offers are also subject to satisfactory checks against the MSC Excluded Students Database. These checks will be completed in August of the application cycle for applicants who are holding unconditional firm offers for entry in the coming intake. Any applicant who has previously been required to withdraw from a medical course elsewhere and is identified as an excluded student may not be allowed to register on their course of study at Bristol. The Faculty of Health Sciences will consider whether to allow registration on a case-by-case basis.

All checks must be completed satisfactorily in order for an applicant to register as a student on this course.

#### **Applicants with a disability**

A clear plan to enable a disabled student to achieve competency must be agreed before the student enters the course. Not all disabilities limit the experience of dentists in training in this way, but applicants should disclose any disability in their UCAS application and be prepared to release their medical details in order for the University's Disability Services team to assess the situation.

Failure to disclose a disability which might impinge upon an applicant's capacity to ultimately carry out their required duties in full will be considered unprofessional. This could put at risk their fitness to practise and might jeopardise their place on the dentistry course.

The procedure for dealing with health and/or disability issues is set out below:

1. All applications are acknowledged on receipt; Those who have declared a disability on their application are invited to complete a questionnaire for the University's Disability Services; this has no bearing on selecting applicants for interview or offer. Disability Services can also offer appropriate and accessible support, plus provide advice about funding available for disabled students.
2. Applicants with a declared disability who have been selected for interview using the University's admissions criteria for interview (as described above) will be invited, irrespective of the health issue/disability they have declared. Applicants should contact the university's Disability Services to discuss any support requirements they may need at interview.
3. If, following the interview, it is agreed that the applicant should be offered a place on the course, the applicant will be made an offer subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance.
4. If the applicant has declared a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D, the applicant will be advised to contact Disability Services, who may request additional information (e.g. post-16 educational psychologist report). Any concerns identified by Disability Services in relation to student support and alternative arrangements and/or any fitness to practise concerns for an individual student will be referred to the Faculty Disability and Health Panel via the Faculty Disability Officer.

5. For all other disabilities, a pre-course health questionnaire will need to be completed and returned to the Occupational Health Service. The Occupational Health Service will be responsible for assessing the health questionnaire according to recognised clinical and professional standards. The Occupational Health Adviser or Physician will forward their report to the Faculty Disability Officer who will present it, if necessary, to the Disability and Health Panel for the consideration of any health issues which could impact on fitness to practice. The panel membership may include the Faculty Education Manager, Director of Student Affairs, Pre-Clinical Programme Director, Chairman of the Medical Admissions Committee, Occupational Health representative, Disability Services representative, Clinical Dean, Equality and Diversity Manager, Faculty Disability Office, Psychiatrist, GP and Medical Admissions Co-ordinator. If the panel is satisfied that the applicant is capable of undergoing standard Foundation training, correspondence confirming any support, requirements or conditions will be sent.
6. If the panel is not satisfied that the applicant is capable of undergoing standard Foundation training, correspondence explaining the reasons will be sent, and the offer will be withdrawn.
7. If appropriate, an application would be submitted to the General Dental Council on the applicant's behalf, to request approval of an alternative pattern of training. If this request were to be turned down, the applicant's application to the medical course would also have to be turned down.

For further information on the available support arrangements, please visit  
[www.bristol.ac.uk/disability-services/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/disability-services/)

### **1.6 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.

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. Please contact the Admissions team regarding the suitability of your intended programme.

Applicants are required to provide evidence of study and examinations within the last three years.

Further information can be found on our web pages: [www.bristol.ac.uk/study/mature/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/mature/)

### **1.7 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.

### **1.8 Alternative offers**

If applicants are not qualified, have an unsuitable academic background for Dentistry, or did not score highly enough at interview, 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.

Courses offered as alternatives in the past included (but were not limited to):

- [Applied Anatomy](#)
- [Biomedical Sciences](#)
- [Cellular and Molecular Medicine](#)

## 1.9 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (ie applying in 2020/21 for 2022 entry) are accepted, and are treated in the same way as non-deferred applications.

## 1.10 Resits

We will consider applicants who are completing resits of GCSEs and/or A-levels (or equivalent level 3 qualifications). Each subject can only be retaken once.

Applicants who did not achieve the minimum required GCSE Profile results in their first sitting can apply with resits achieved or with results pending.

We will only make an exception to this where there are extenuating personal circumstances (see **2.6 Extenuating Circumstances** below); the decision to allow an exception will be made at the discretion of the University. We are not able to provide guidance on if applicants would be considered due to extenuating circumstances in advance of an application.

## 1.11 Transfers

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

Please refer to our web page for further information on transfers:

[www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/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). The team have received training in fair admissions and unconscious bias.

### 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.

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.

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. Academic 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, where applicable, 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 2.6 Extenuating Circumstances).

### **2.3 Correspondence with applicants**

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

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

Applicants will 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 6 May. Most decisions are made before this date.

### **2.4 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:

[www.bristol.ac.uk/study/language-requirements/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/language-requirements/)

### **2.5 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; having spent three months or more in care.

Full details of the contextual offer scheme can be found here:  
[www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entry-requirements-qualifications/contextual-offers/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entry-requirements-qualifications/contextual-offers/)  
and within the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures for Undergraduate Courses.

## 2.6 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:

[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.

## 2.7 Policies

All applications are considered in line with our Admissions principles and procedures:  
[www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2021/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2021/)

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.

## 2.8 Results

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.

Please see our results web page for further information: [www.bristol.ac.uk/results/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/results/)

## 2.9 Contacts for enquiries

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