

## 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/)

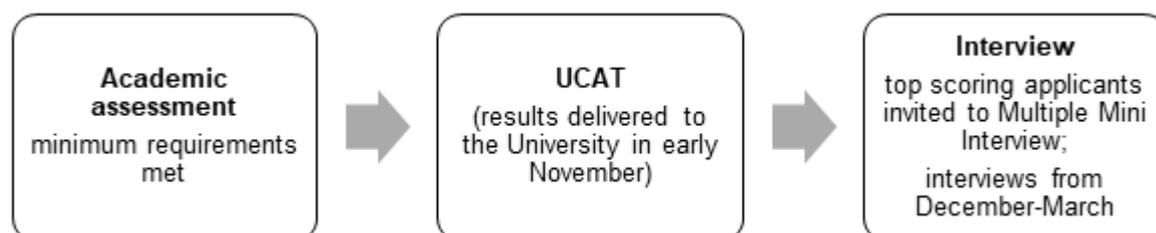
Year of Admissions cycle:  
2021

Courses covered:  
A100 Medicine (MBChB)

### 1. Course specific information:

#### 1.1 Admissions process

Applications are assessed on their academic record, according to their achieved or predicted results, then scored on additional criteria as follows:



As we do not weight A-levels or GCSEs (or equivalent qualifications), applicants who are predicted to, or have already achieved our minimum academic entry requirements will then have their application scored with a 100% weighting on the UCAT result, which will be used to select candidates for interview.

#### 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/)

Applicants at University studying subjects other than Medicine, and in the first year or second year of their studies, can apply for Medicine if they meet all the entry requirements (GCSE, A-level or equivalent) specified in the course finder:

[www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/). Applicants can continue with their studies while applying. If they do not meet the entry requirements, they will need to complete their degree and apply as a graduate.

Applicants who started University studies but did not complete their degree, or who withdrew from their studies, can apply for Medicine if they meet all the entry requirements (GCSE, A-

level or equivalent) specified in the course finder:  
[www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/).

Applicants who have started a Medicine degree at another institution but will not complete for good reason, may be considered for first year entry if all other standard entry requirements are met. An academic reference must be provided from this previous institution.

We do not require three A-levels to be taken in one sitting. Please see section 1.8 below regarding resits.

Due to overlapping content, we are unable to consider a subject combination of A Levels in both Biology and Human Biology.

### 1.3 Additional criteria

#### **Minimum Age Requirement**

Students must be at least 18 years of age by 1 October in their year of entry in order to undertake clinical experiential learning in our teaching (general) practices and clinical academies, which requires that students have the legal capacity to be bound by the rules of confidentiality of our NHS partners

#### **UCAT**

All applicants are required to take the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) in the current cycle. The combined score from all subtests, with the exception of Situational Judgement, will be used to select applicants for interview.

While the UCAT score will be used to select applicants for interview once all academic requirements have been met, there is no cut-off score for the UCAT.

The number used as a threshold for interview is subject to change year-on-year depending on the strength of the cohort, therefore a specific score cannot be used with certainty to predict the likelihood of receiving an invite to interview for the current cycle.

Further information on the UCAT, including practice tests and details of their bursary scheme, can be found here: [www.ucat.ac.uk](http://www.ucat.ac.uk).

We strongly advise candidates to take the test as early as possible as the ongoing impact of COVID 19 may result in additional local or national restrictions affecting access to test centres. If these occur, then Pearson test centres will have to reschedule candidates and/or advise them to test at home. The best way of avoiding this is to take the test early.

Applicants should think carefully about where they think they will perform better when taking the test as there is the option to complete the UCAT at home or at a Pearson test centre. The University of Bristol will treat all test scores equally (whether taken at home or in a test centre) when assessing applications. If any problems occur when taking the test, you must contact Pearson (UCAT) directly.

Applicants sitting the UCATSEN are no longer required to provide the University with evidence of their eligibility. This must be submitted directly to UCAT. Further information can be found on the [UCATSEN website](#).

#### **Criminal records check**

All medical students are required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, in line with most applicants for health-related courses in the UK. This process begins in August prior to registration.

### **Occupational health clearance**

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

It is the responsibility of the Medical School to ensure that students accepted on the course are able to complete the training and achieve the competencies required by the General Medical Council (GMC) for full registration after the first year of training. The Medical School must consult the GMC if there is doubt and if it proposes a modification of experience to achieve the competencies.

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.

### **Work experience**

While not a requirement for the course, we encourage applicants to obtain a minimum of two weeks' work experience. This enables the applicant to gain some insight into their potential vocation. Applicants may be asked to reflect on their work experience at interview.

We understand it may be difficult to obtain clinical work experience, so we encourage applicants to seek out opportunities to work with the public in a customer service role, or volunteer in a care or health environment (nursing home, local hospice, shelter for the homeless, or facility supporting people with disabilities or special needs), or a youth group. Should they be invited, applicants are required to complete a form prior to attending the interview which documents the type and duration of their work experience. This information may be used as a basis for discussion.

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.

### **Personal statement**

We no longer use the personal statement as a weighted component of our selection criteria. Should we need to differentiate between applicants that have identical scores at interview when making offers, the personal statement may be used to do so. UCAT scores will be used as our primary differentiator.

## **1.4 Interviews**

Interviews will form part of the selection criteria for Medicine 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, and we will keep applicants informed if we need to make any changes. If we decide it is necessary for them to take place remotely, we will 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 applicants in any way.

All applicants who are selected for interview must attend in order to be considered. No offers for Medicine are made without the applicant first attending an interview within the current cycle, unless there are exceptional circumstances involved. This does not mean that we interview all applicants. We do not consider previous interview performance for those applicants who were interviewed in previous cycles.

The purpose of the interview is to provide the applicant with an opportunity to demonstrate evidence of skills and attributes that are appropriate to a career in medicine and to display insight into a range of topics related to a career in medicine. Photo identification will be required at interview.

### **At the interview**

Applicants move around seven Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) stations, assessing a particular criterion. One MMI lasts six minutes with one minute for reading instructions and five minutes for completing the task. Each station is supervised by one or two interviewers as appropriate. Interviews are conducted in accordance with the University's Equality and Diversity Policy. At least one member of the interviewing staff is trained in fair and effective recruitment, and at least one is a member of the Medical Admissions Committee.

### **Extra time in assessments**

If you have sat UCATSEN or a variant that allows extra time, we will allow extra time to read the instructions for each MMI station. Specific MMI events will be arranged to accommodate this, so please ensure you are booked onto an appropriate event if you wish to receive extra time.

Further information on how to request an extra-time interview is available on our interviews website: [www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/interviews/medicine/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/interviews/medicine/)

### **After the interview**

Applicants' performance at the MMIs is scored by assessors and ranked by the Admissions office. Those applicants with the strongest overall performance receive offers. We aim to make offers as soon as possible, but to ensure fairness, applicants may not receive a decision until all the interviews have been completed. The UCAT score is our primary differentiator for distinguishing between applicants with identical MMI scores.

### **Applicants with a disability**

We follow GMC guidance in supporting disabled learners in medical education and training: [www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/guidance/welcomed-and-valued](http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/guidance/welcomed-and-valued).

We make no reference to any information disclosed regarding disability when reviewing applications and inviting applicants to interview. If you have are invited for interview and feel that your disability means that you would benefit from an adjustment to our interview process, we would be happy to consider what reasonable adjustments might be applied.

Further information on how to request reasonable adjustments is available on our interviews website: [www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/interviews/medicine/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/interviews/medicine/)

The Medical School must ensure that all students accepted on to the course are capable of completing the training and achieving the competencies required by the General Medical Council (GMC) for full registration after the first year of training.

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 doctors in training in this way, but applicants should disclose any disability in their UCAS application and be prepared to release their medical details to allow the University's Disability Services team to assess the situation.

Failure to disclose a disability that might prevent an applicant from carrying out their required duties could put at risk the applicant's fitness to practise and might jeopardise their place on the medicine course.

The procedure for dealing with health and/or disability issues is as follows:

1. All applications are acknowledged on receipt. Applicants 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 selection for interview or offer.
2. Applicants are selected for interview on the basis of admissions criteria, irrespective of any health issue/disability declared. Interviewees with a disability should contact Disability Services to discuss any support requirements they may need at interview.
3. Any offer made to a disabled applicant is subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance.
4. Applicants declaring a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D are advised to contact the Disability Services team, who may request additional information (for example, a 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 are referred to the Faculty Disability and Health Panel via the Faculty Disability Officer.
5. Applicants with any other disability must submit a pre-course health questionnaire to the Occupational Health Service, which assesses the information in line with recognised clinical and professional standards and refers its findings to the Faculty Disability Officer. Any health issues that could affect fitness to practise are considered by the Disability and Health Panel, whose membership may comprise 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, it will notify the applicant accordingly, confirming any support or conditions required.
6. If the panel is not satisfied that the applicant is capable of undergoing standard foundation training, it will notify the applicant accordingly, explaining the reasons for the decision and withdrawing the offer.
7. If appropriate, an application is submitted to the GMC on the applicant's behalf, to request an alternative pattern of training. If this request is refused, the applicant's offer will be withdrawn.

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

### 1.5 Mature applicants

We welcome applications from mature applicants, and assess such applications in equal measure. Mature applicants must provide evidence of recent study and examinations in the past five years.

Mature applicants who do not meet our standard entry requirements and cannot demonstrate recent study, are usually advised to gain some academic experience before reapplying.

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

### 1.6 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.

If applicants are not qualified, or have an unsuitable academic background, or are not invited for interview 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.

### 1.7 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (ie applying in 2020/21 for 2022 entry) are welcome 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 subsequently wish to defer after receiving an offer, must request deferral via their applicant dashboard by 28 February 2021 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).

### 1.8 Resits

The department will consider applicants who resit their qualifications.

### 1.9 Transfers

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

Applicants who have started a Medicine degree at another institution but will not complete for good reason, may be considered for first year entry only.

## 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 will be used, if applicable, to take 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 the 15 October, the final deadline by which applicants will receive a decision is 2 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](mailto:choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk) or +44 (0)117 394 1649.

