

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

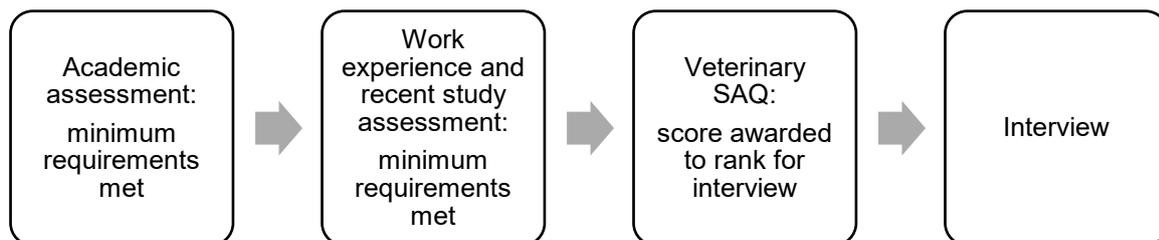
Year of Admissions cycle:
2021

Courses covered:
BVSc Veterinary Science: Accelerated Graduate Entry (D102)

1. Course-specific information

1.1 Admissions process

Applicants are assessed on their academic record, according to their achieved or predicted results, on their completed work experience and recent study, and on further assessment of the Veterinary Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) (see 1.3 below).



Applicants who meet the minimum academic requirements will then be reviewed to check whether they already meet the minimum work experience requirements and recent study criteria, and then have their responses to the attributes section of the Veterinary SAQ read and scored. Ranking for interview is based solely on assessment of the attributes section, and invitations to interview are sent to the top ranking applicants.

1.2 Academic criteria

Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications can be found in the undergraduate course finder: www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/

All applicants with least an Upper Second Class (2:1) degree in one of the subjects listed below progress to the next stage of assessment. There are no additional academic entry requirements and other qualifications (e.g. A-levels) are not considered. However, you are advised to list all qualifications taken since age 16.

The following degrees from the University of Bristol can be accepted for entry: Applied Anatomy, Biology, Biomedical Science, Cancer Biology and Immunology, Cellular and Molecular Medicine, Chemistry, Medical Microbiology, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, Physics, Physiology, Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science, Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour, Virology and Immunology, Zoology. We will also consider applications with these degree titles from any UK university.

Bioveterinary Science and Marine Biology from any UK university are also accepted for entry.

Other science-related degree courses, including those achieved overseas, may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

At the point of application, applicants must either be in the final year of their degree or have been awarded their degree. If the degree is not yet complete, we will require a predicted overall award from an academic referee, noted in the UCAS application.

We may consider graduates who have achieved a 2:2 degree or a 2.1 in an unrelated subject but have undertaken a further master's or PhD qualification, depending on achievement and subject area. Applicants who are studying Masters or PhD qualifications will need to complete their studies by the August of the year of entry or may be offered deferred entry.

Completed degrees must have been awarded within the last 18 months. For August/September 2021 entry, we will consider awarded degrees obtained in 2019 and 2020 with no further requirement for recent study.

If your degree was obtained in 2018 or earlier, you must have evidence of recent study within the 18 months prior to the application cycle opening, such as further degree study, additional study (eg MOOC) or work in an academic setting. We are specifically looking for evidence of:

- Computer Literacy
- Experience of formal assessment eg exam/coursework
- Research Skills
- Academic/scientific writing.

Credit may be awarded to First Class degrees to differentiate between otherwise equal candidates.

1.3 Additional criteria

Early start date

Applicants should be aware that the start date for this course is at the end of August/beginning of September and be ready to commence studies.

Personal statement criteria

We do not normally use the UCAS personal statement to assess applications. Instead, we rank applicants who fulfil our academic and work experience requirements for interview, solely on the basis of the completed attributes section of the Veterinary Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire.

In some cases, we may refer to the personal statement and reference to differentiate between applicants with similar academic and professional profiles. In these cases, we use the following criteria:

- Evidence of interest in, and motivation and commitment to, the study of Veterinary Science
- Wider interests, including sport, music, drama and contribution to the community
- Standard of written English and attitude to studies

Work experience

Our typical requirements are that applicants must have one week's (35 hours) work experience in a veterinary practice **and** one week's (35 hours) work experience in an animal-

related setting. This work experience should ideally be undertaken in the 18 months prior to the application cycle opening (ie for 2021 entry, work experience placements should have been completed between 1 April 2019 and 31 October 2020, ahead of the UCAS cycle opening to applications from September 2020). We do not consider future work experience placements and applicants will not be given extra credit for exceeding the required amount.

We are aware that many 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 veterinary practitioner, and the skills and attributes required of such roles through means such as online research, supporting their families and communities, etc.

Applicants who have been unable to gain the required amount of work experience prior to application are still welcome to apply. You will be asked to complete the Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) as described below. We may ask those with less than the required amount of work experience to complete a newly developed Virtual Work Experience Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) provided by FutureLearn (www.futurelearn.com/courses/vet-school-application-support) in lieu of work experience, and/or complete a further reflective piece of work, to demonstrate their understanding and awareness of the role of a veterinary practitioner. This must be completed prior to attending an interview where it has been requested. Completion of the MOOC does not guarantee an interview.

The [FutureLearn Virtual Work Experience MOOC](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/vet-school-application-support) is free to undertake and will have multiple start dates over the course of the year. All UK vet schools which require work experience have agreed to accept completion of this course in place of some or all in-person work experience, and have contributed to producing the course content. If you choose to complete this MOOC in advance of applying, please ensure you take a screenshot evidencing completion of the course to provide as evidence if we ask you to complete the course later.

Veterinary Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ)

Once we have received the UCAS application, applicants will receive an email containing a link to the Veterinary SAQ. **Please ensure you read the email carefully before starting, as it contains important information about how to complete the form.**

Those who meet our academic requirements and satisfy the recent study criteria (as outlined in section 1.2 of this document, above) and work experience criteria will be scored on their completion of the Attributes, Experiences, Understanding and Reflection section of the form. This score will inform which applicants are invited to interview.

The form is split into three sections:

The Recent study section asks you to evidence academic study within the last 18 months.

The Work Experience section will enable applicants to declare their work experience placements so that the minimum work experience requirement can be checked. Where applicants are unable to demonstrate the required amount of work experience, we may ask them to complete a MOOC and/or a further reflective piece of work.

The Attributes, Experiences, Understanding and Reflection section asks a series of questions designed to enable us to assess the following criteria:

- Understanding of the factors that affect how people work together in groups
- Ability to support statements via reflection on past experiences
- Awareness of attributes to succeed on the course

The form is not available prior to application. **Applicants must return the form by the specified deadline otherwise their application will be unsuccessful.**

Applicants with a disability

Bristol Veterinary School must ensure that all students accepted on to the course are capable of completing the training required to ensure they can fulfil day-one competencies required by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) (www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/day-one-competences/).

Applicants must be aware of the nature of the training to be undertaken and the job of the veterinary surgeon. In order to fulfil the requirements of the RCVS students need to fully participate in a range of practical classes and assessments including those that cover the following:

- Handling and restraint of animal patients
- Performance of a clinical exam
- Performance of first aid.

The above could involve any species including (but not limited to) small animals, farm animals, exotics and equine.

Students are also required to engage in practical classes and assessments around communication skills, where students are required to engage in role-play sessions. In addition to practical requirements, applicants should expect to engage in formal teaching five days a week, carry out placements during their vacation time and, during later years, are expected to work out-side of normal working hours, in a similar way to practicing veterinary surgeons.

Not all disabilities limit the ability of students to complete these activities, 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 may jeopardise their place on the BVSc Accelerated Graduate Entry course.

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

1. All applications are acknowledged on receipt. Applicants 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 on the basis of admissions criteria, irrespective of any health issue/disability declared.
3. 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 (e.g. a post-16 educational psychologist report). Any concerns identified by Disability Services in relation to student support and alternative arrangements and/or fitness to practise are referred to the Faculty Disability and Health Panel via the Faculty Disability Officer.

For further information on the disability support, please visit www.bristol.ac.uk/disability-services/.

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.

Occupational Health assess 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. If the panel is satisfied that the applicant is capable of undergoing standard training, it will notify the applicant accordingly, confirming any support or conditions required. If the panel is not satisfied that the applicant is capable of undergoing standard training, it will notify the applicant accordingly, explaining the reasons for the decision and subsequent withdrawal of the offer.

For more information about the pre-course occupational health questionnaire, please visit: www.bristol.ac.uk/safety/health/pre-course.html

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, 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.

Those applicants who are invited to do so must attend an interview in the current cycle to further their application. We do not consider previous interview performance for applicants interviewed in previous cycles. Information about the interview format is provided upon invitation to interview.

The interview is used to establish whether you have the skills and attributes necessary for a career in veterinary science and gives you the opportunity to display insight into a range of topics related to a career in veterinary science.

Interviews take place at Bristol Veterinary School in Langford. International students who are unable to attend an interview in Bristol will have the option of a virtual interview. There may be the opportunity to attend an interview in South East Asia or the USA. Applicants are interviewed by at least two people, at least one of whom has been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques. Interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's Equality and Diversity Policy: www.bristol.ac.uk/inclusion/governance-and-reporting/equality-and-diversity-policy/. Interviewees with a disability should contact Disability Services to discuss any support requirements they may need at interview.

Applicants are assessed via a panel interview covering different aspects of the skills and knowledge required to be a successful veterinary student and veterinary professional. Interviewees also receive a tour of the Bristol Veterinary School.

Applicants' performance will be scored by assessors and ranked by the Admissions Office. Those applicants with the strongest overall performance will receive offers.

1.5 Offers

Due to the competitive nature of this course, we only consider applicants who are predicted to achieve (or have already achieved) our academic entry requirements.

Applicants for D102 who have been unsuccessful cannot transfer their application to the D100 (standard entry, five years) degree, and will not be considered for the five year degree by default. Applicants may apply for both courses.

1.6 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (those made in 2020/21 for 2022 entry) are accepted. Applicants should indicate their intended year of entry in their UCAS application form.

We may consider deferral requests made after application. We reserve the right to decline deferral requests (for example, if we have an exceptionally high number of deferred offer holders).

1.7 Transfers

Transfers into the BVSc Veterinary Science: Accelerated Graduate Entry (D102) from other courses are not permitted. Applicants who wish to study this course and are currently pursuing another degree are expected to have completed, or be in the final year of, that degree before applying for entry to the first year of D102 in the usual way.

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.

International applicants are also welcome to apply via [the Veterinary Medical College Application Service \(VMCAS\)](#), the centralised application service for veterinary medicine colleges accredited by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC). The deadline for applicants to use this application service is 15 September, as set by VMCAS.

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 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.

The final deadline by which applicants receive a decision is 2 May. Most decisions are made before this date.

2.4 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:

www.bristol.ac.uk/study/language-requirements/

2.5 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: 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.

2.6 Policies

All applications are considered in line with our Admissions Principles and Procedures for undergraduate courses: www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2021/

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: www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2021/

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.

2.7 Receiving your 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/

2.8 Contacts for enquiries

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