

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/>



Year of Admissions cycle:
2026

Courses covered:

D313 Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour (BSc)

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 20% | A-Level 80%

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

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries/>

1.3 Additional Criteria

Personal Statement

Applications are primarily assessed based on academic qualifications, using scores based on GCSE and A-level (or equivalent) results. You can find details of how these scores are weighted in section 1.1 of this admissions statement.

We do not normally consider the personal statement and reference. However, if a large number of applicants have the same academic score and cannot be otherwise differentiated, we may use the personal statement to help make final decisions.

In these cases, we look for:

- Interest and commitment to Veterinary Nursing.
- Wider interests.
- Standard of written English and attitude to studies.

Work Experience

Bristol does not have any specific clinical or animal related work experience requirements for entry. Applicants are encouraged to undertake experiences that will support them with university experiences and when preparing for the transition into professional life. Bristol uses the term 'experiences' to denote a range of different activities and guidance around experiences can be found here: [Guidance | Bristol Veterinary School | University of Bristol](#)

Fitness to Practise

Bristol Veterinary School must ensure that all students accepted on to the veterinary nursing course are capable of completing the training required to ensure they can fulfil day-one competences required by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) ([RCVS Day One Competences, Skills and Professional Behaviours for Veterinary Nurses: Introduction - Professionals](#)).

Applicants must be aware of the nature of the training to be undertaken and the role of the veterinary nurse. 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
- Administer emergency first aid
- Dissection
- Surgical nursing skills

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 they 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 in placements outside of normal working hours, in a similar way to practicing veterinary nurses. Further information about course requirements can be found here: [Key information | Bristol Veterinary School | University of Bristol](#)

The RCVS requires that veterinary nurses and those applying to be registered as veterinary nurses disclose certain criminal convictions. Please see information supplied by the RCVS on handling of convictions, cautions and adverse findings: [I'm not sure if I need to disclose my conviction - Professionals \(rcvs.org.uk\)](#). As a result of this, the programme Fitness to Practise requirements include the need to disclose any criminal offences.

For more information on Fitness to Practise requirements please visit the RCVS web site: [Fitness to Practise: A Guide for UK Providers of Veterinary Nursing Education and Student Veterinary Nurses - Professionals \(rcvs.org.uk\)](#)

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: [Pre-course health questionnaires | Study at Bristol | University of Bristol](#)

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

Not all disabilities limit the ability of students to complete the activities mentioned above, 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 veterinary nursing 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 for offer 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 (for example, a post-16 educational psychologist report). Any concerns identified by Disability Services in relation to student support, 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 disability support, please visit [Disability support | Current students | University of Bristol](#)

1.4 Interviews

For this course, applicants are not routinely interviewed. In exceptional circumstances where an interview is deemed necessary, it will be conducted by at least two people, 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. Interviewees with a disability should contact Disability Services to discuss any support requirements they may need at interview.

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, 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

Applicants are not required to provide evidence of recent study, however we expect applicants to be aware of the demands of the course and be fully prepared to start the course. If your most recent qualification was obtained more than three years ago, you should consider whether you require any preparatory study in the following areas in order to be ready for the course.

- Computer literacy
- Formal assessment through examinations or coursework
- Research skills
- Academic/scientific writing

We will not check applicants' suitability regarding recent study and expect applicants to take responsibility for their own learning.

Further information can be found on our web pages: [Mature students | Study at Bristol | University of Bristol](#)

1.6 Offers

We recognise that some applicants may achieve higher than their predicted grades, and so we may also consider applicants who are predicted to achieve slightly below the entry requirements (usually in a non-specified subject). Any offer made would be at the level published in the course finder: [Undergraduate study | Study at Bristol | University of Bristol](#)

1.7 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (i.e. applying in 2025/26 for 2027 entry) are accepted and are treated in the same way as non-deferred applications.

1.8 Resits

The department will consider applicants who resit their qualifications.

1.9 Transfers

Transfers into years two, three or four are not considered in any circumstances.

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 January 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, 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 the January deadline, the final deadline by which applicants will receive a decision is in 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: [English language requirements | Study at Bristol | University of Bristol](#)

2.5 Contextual information

As outlined in the published entry requirements, we do not make lower contextual offers for this course. All applicants who are successful in being offered a place will receive the standard offer.

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:

<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.

However, if an applicant is **applying with their grades already achieved**, we will not consider, under any circumstances, applicants who do not meet the published entry requirement in A level Biology (or in an equivalent qualification) or in GCSE Mathematics and English (or in equivalent qualifications). Applicants will need to be resitting the required qualification (or be taking another suitable qualification) to be eligible for this course

2.7 Policies

All applications are considered in line with our Admissions principles and procedures:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/>

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 on when their exam results are released.

Please see our results web page for further information: <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.