Applied Anatomy

Undergraduate study
Why study applied anatomy at Bristol?

Anatomy is the study of structure from cell to tissue to whole organism. Applied anatomy examines structure-function relationships in the context of related subjects such as diagnostic imaging, pathology and other aspects of medicine. The initial broad basis of the degree and later specialisation will equip you for a wide variety of careers.

Our graduates may enter a variety of professions including research, education and graduate entry schemes or, with further study, professional programmes such as medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry.

The Centre for Applied Anatomy (CAA) at Bristol is unique in the UK in providing anatomy training for medical, dental, veterinary and science undergraduates within a single, purpose-built facility. The expertise of teaching staff and wealth of varied resources across these subject specialities offer a unique learning experience for aspiring anatomists. Additionally, the CAA encompasses the Vesalius Clinical Training Unit (VCTU), which is at the forefront of postgraduate applied and clinical anatomy training and research. This ensures a regular presence of clinical experts and allied health professionals to enrich your learning experience and collaborate with on final-year research projects. The CAA is a dynamic place to learn from a friendly team of experts passionate about the field of anatomy.

'I thoroughly enjoyed the subject matter. The teaching was exactly what I wanted from the course, and I also found all the staff very helpful and friendly.'

BSc Applied Anatomy student
What will you study?

Undergraduates develop a clear, three-dimensional, internal model of the anatomy of the human and animal body. We believe that a deep understanding and appreciation of body structure can only be achieved by a hands-on approach including dissection.

A vertical enrichment theme, ‘Personal and Professional Development’, runs throughout the course. This equips you with essential transferable, professional skills suitable for employment in any environment and aids your transition from student to anatomist.

Year one
The first year introduces the principles of comparative anatomy and relates the structure to the function of the major mammalian body systems. Teaching involves dissection and study of human and animal specimens.

First-year anatomy units explore the core concepts of anatomy that underpin vertebrate design. The first-year physiology and neuroanatomy units are compulsory and aim to provide comprehension of inherently linked structure–function relationships.

Year two
The second year covers detailed medical and veterinary anatomy, studying cadaveric material, with clinical relevance and application throughout. A highlight of the year is the dissection unit. This is an integral part of the course, which allows you to specialise in medical or veterinary anatomy by dissection.

Year three
In the third year you follow a seminar-based course where you are actively involved in expert-led discussion of the latest anatomical research. A highlight of this year is an original research project, which can be a clinically related anatomical investigation, a laboratory-based scientific study, or anatomically themed educational research. Instruction in experimental design, statistical methods and scientific communication provides training for research alongside valuable transferable skills. Third-year teaching explores two key themes: advanced function of, and aging and dysfunction of, the mammalian body.

‘Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.’
Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

'I really enjoyed the dissections, and I think they help me get to know the parts I’m expected to learn better.'
BSc Applied Anatomy student
With its emphasis on application and focus on professional development, Bristol’s BSc Applied Anatomy is designed to appeal to employers while providing our graduates with a springboard for a variety of careers.

In addition to general and life science opportunities for graduates, where the skills you have obtained in our programme are of considerable benefit, anatomy is a popular route to postgraduate medicine, dentistry or veterinary programmes.

For those committed to a career as a research scientist, further study for a higher degree at the University of Bristol or elsewhere is the normal route. Aspiring educators may wish to follow a different training route to pursue teaching careers from school to university level.

In the public sector, life sciences graduates are in demand in research institutes, government departments and the National Health Service. There is also increasing demand for life scientists to contribute to the public understanding of science as journalists and information officers.

Careers and graduate destinations

Bristol is the second most targeted university by top UK employers. High Fliers Research 2019

In animal cadaveric material as this experience is integral to our teaching style. Above all, potential applicants should be motivated, enthusiastic and inquisitive.

We will invite you to attend a visit day after we have made you an offer.

We particularly welcome applications from local schools and from mature students. We also welcome applications from international candidates and those with suitable non-standard qualifications.

Find out more about the Faculty of Health Sciences: bristol.ac.uk/health-sciences.

Find out more about the Centre for Applied Anatomy: bristol.ac.uk/anatomy.

This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

Making your application

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-anatomy for more information about our course.

Typical offer for BSc Applied Anatomy

A-levels ABB (contextual BBC) including BB in two science-related subjects.

IB Diploma 32 points overall (contextual 29) with 16 at Higher Level (contextual 14), including 5 at Higher Level in two science subjects.

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

GCSEs Standard numeracy requirement (4 or C in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent) and standard literacy requirement (4 or C in GCSE English or equivalent).

Selection process UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, a list of science-related subjects, and our English language requirements, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-anatomy.

Application advice for applied anatomy

Applicants should demonstrate a clear desire to study anatomy; tell us why you find it appealing.

Anatomy-related work experience is not necessary, but any involvement in science-based work experience or other scientific activity would be helpful. You must be comfortable with the idea of dissecting and handling human and animal cadaveric material as this experience is integral to our teaching style. Above all, potential applicants should be motivated, enthusiastic and inquisitive.

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We particularly welcome applications from local schools and from mature students. We also welcome applications from international candidates and those with suitable non-standard qualifications.

Further information

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Find out more about the Centre for Applied Anatomy: bristol.ac.uk/anatomy.

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Possible graduate destinations

Research institutes
Government departments and the NHS
Medicine, dentistry and veterinary science courses
Teaching
Journalism

Read more about how we support you when you are here:

bristol.ac.uk/students