

Undergraduate Admissions Statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures:
<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2026/>



Year of admissions cycle

2026

Courses covered

International Foundation Programme (IFP) for Medicine

1. Admissions process

All applicants are considered on an equal basis in line with the University's Equality and Diversity Policy.

Applicants are asked to complete an online application form (available on eVision) and upload the required supporting documents (IELTS Certificate, high school graduation certificate and transcript, an academic reference from the student's school, a personal statement, and a copy of their passport).

All applications are considered by the Admissions Team who assess the qualifications, personal statement, and academic reference for evidence of:

- Academic and English language achievements and potential
- Interest, motivation, and commitment to the programme

The University is committed to creating a diverse learning environment where all students are valued for their individual differences and contribution, with equal opportunities for all irrespective of age, disability, race, sex, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.

Eligibility criteria

The International Foundation Programme (IFP) for Medicine is designed for overseas students (non-UK students) wishing to enter medicine (MB ChB/ MBBS) degree programmes in the UK, including at the University of Bristol, but whose national secondary school leaving qualifications are currently insufficient without additional study.

The IFP for Medicine is not intended for overseas students who already have qualifications which are listed as acceptable for entry to medicine (MB ChB/ MBBS) degree programmes in the UK. For more information on accepted qualifications please see: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries/>

All university graduates and those who have already started a university course, including a foundation course, are not eligible for the IFP for Medicine, regardless of their previous secondary school grades.

To be eligible, the applicant must:

- Demonstrate excellent overseas secondary school grades in the sciences, one of which must be Chemistry.
- Have a valid (taken within 2 years of the date of course commencement) overall IELTS band score of 7.0, with no individual component band score below 6.5.

Aspirational offers

Due to the competitive nature of this programme, we will only consider applicants who are predicted to achieve (or have already achieved) the entry requirements in full.

Minimum age requirement

Students must be at least 17 years of age by 1st September of the year that they enter the IFP for Medicine. This is to ensure that all students progressing onto an undergraduate medicine (MB ChB/MBBS) programme will be 18 years of age (or above) at the point of entry, have the legal capacity to be bound by the rules of confidentiality of our NHS partners, and are able to undertake clinical experiential learning in our teaching general practices and clinical academies.

Person statement criteria

Given the large number of applications we receive, we necessarily place substantial emphasis on the quality of the personal statement, in particular:

- Evidence of commitment to, and realistic interest in, a career in Medicine.
- Why the University of Bristol IFP for Medicine would be the appropriate route for the applicant into medical professional programmes.
- Life skills such as communication skills, personal resilience and emotional stamina, organisational/leadership qualities, good time management and problem-solving skills.
- Evidence of altruism/voluntary work, enjoyment in helping others, experience in caring roles, or community/school involvement. *

*Applicants should have some practical work experience in a relevant area to show their commitment to the programme and career. This does not have to be clinical experience (in a hospital, GP practice or animal clinic), and can include work placements undertaken as part of a course or as independent voluntary work. There is no minimum number of hours or weeks required.

Applicants will be required to sign a statement declaring that their personal statement is their own work.

Interviews

Based on the application and required supporting documents, applicants will be shortlisted and considered for interview pre-offer as part of the selection process. Such interviews are conducted remotely via video calls, with a small panel of staff which will include the Programme Director and at least one member of staff who has been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques and are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

The following criteria will be considered when assessing the interview performance:

- Academic achievement and potential.
- Interest, motivation, and commitment to the programme.
- Communication skills.

UCAT

All applicants are required to take the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) in the same calendar year as submission of the UCAS application. For example, if submitting a UCAS application in October 2026, the UCAT test must have been taken in the July to September of 2026.

Further information on the UCAT, including deadlines for application and the testing period can be found here: www.ucat.ac.uk.

We strongly advise candidates to take the test as early as possible should there be any ongoing circumstances which may mean they will need to reschedule a test (e.g., illness). 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: <https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucatsen-evidence>

Criminal records check

All students entering the IFP for Medicine must undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, and where necessary a police check.

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.

We make no reference to any information disclosed regarding disability when reviewing applications and inviting applicants to interview. If you 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.

Mature applicants

Mature students (those aged 21 and over) receive the same consideration as other candidates.

Deferred applications

Deferrals will not be allowed. Applications will only be considered in the cycle in which they are submitted, and under the policies in place for that cycle.

Resits

Students who have completed resits of their secondary school examinations will be considered for admission to IFP for Medicine.

Transfers

Transfer requests from one Foundation Programme within the UK to the University of Bristol IFP for Medicine will not be considered.

Admissions team

Applications are received by the Faculty and approved by the Programme Director or nominee.

Admissions process

We assess applicants on the basis of their application, required supporting documents and interview only. We do not take into account any additional information received from an applicant or institution, unless we have requested it.

Applications received before the deadline are guaranteed equal consideration. To assess an application, we require the following documents:

- Online application
- IELTS certificate
- High school graduation certificate
- High school graduation transcript
- Academic reference from the student's school
- Personal statement
- Sponsorship details if any
- Copy of the student's passport

Applicants who satisfy the entry requirements will be offered a pre-offer interview as part of the selection process.

Conditional offers will be made for those applicants who have not received their final school grades or IELTS. However, all applicants must fulfil all entry requirements when they register on the IFP for Medicine.

Once a decision has been made, the applicant will be informed of the outcome by email. If a successful applicant decides to accept the offer, they are encouraged to do so through the application portal, and provide any required supporting documents as soon as they are available. The offer letter will include information on how to pay the deposit and subsequent steps of the admission process.

Correspondence with applicants

All correspondence relating to an applicant's status is sent by email. If an applicant nominates an agent, we will also send correspondence to the agent. If the contact details change, we ask applicants to inform us by email: medicine-ifp@bristol.ac.uk.

Academic reference criteria

A reference should be provided by a personal tutor from the applicant's school. 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, 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, and 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.
- Suitability for a future career in Medicine.
- 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: Extenuating circumstances).

International applicants

Only international (non-UK) applicants are eligible to apply for this programme. There is one standard fee for the IFP for Medicine, regardless of whether students are eligible for home or international fees (e.g. under the Ukraine schemes), or whether they are self-funded or financially sponsored. The fees for subsequent undergraduate courses following successful progression from the IFP for Medicine would then be set at the appropriate course fee.

English language requirements

Applicants must have a valid (taken within 2 years of the date of application) overall IELTS band score of 7.0 with no individual component band score below 6.5. It is expected that a student enrolling on the IFP would have an IELTS band score of 7.0 overall and would progress to IELTS band score 7.5 overall during the programme (as would be required for acceptance on to Bristol Medical programmes). English language requirements for undergraduate courses including Medicine can be found at: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/language-requirements/>

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: <https://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, considering individual circumstances.

Policies

All applications are considered in line with our Admissions Principles and Procedures for undergraduate courses: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2026/>

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. 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.

Visit day

We understand that it is difficult for international students to visit the University of Bristol. We do however encourage students to visit if they would like to: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/>

Deposits

International self-funded students are required to pay a deposit of £2,000.

Applicants can pay this deposit online at: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/students/support/finances/pay-your-fees/> using a credit or debit card. Alternatively, students can pay through the university's student payments provider [Flywire](#).

The deposit is non-transferable and non-refundable except under the circumstances outlined in the International Deposits Refund Policy which is available at: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/fees-finance/refunds/policy/>

Students may pay their deposit in advance of meeting the conditions of their offer. If they subsequently fail to meet the conditions attached to their offer and are therefore rejected from the course on academic grounds, then a refund will be made. To make the payment, students will need their student number which can be found in the offer letter.

Additional Information

If information about entry requirements is unavailable for an applicant's country, please email: medicine-ifp@bristol.ac.uk.

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to medicine-ifp@bristol.ac.uk.