

Extenuating Circumstances: guidance for applicants

If you are a prospective student applying to study at the University of Bristol and your education has been significantly disrupted through serious health or personal problems, you can apply for consideration of extenuating circumstances.

We cannot say in advance whether your application is likely to be successful or not on consideration of extenuating circumstances.

Submitting an extenuating circumstances form does not guarantee that the University will make you an offer or that we will accept you if you do not meet the conditions of your offer.

Examples of extenuating circumstances

Any circumstances deemed of a serious nature which may affect, or have affected, learning and/or examination performance may be considered when assessing an applicant's relevant qualifications.

Examples include but are not limited to:

Bereavement, physical/mental health issues, an abrupt change in circumstances, social/personal issues, victim of crime.

While we appreciate the significant disruption caused by COVID-19 in both the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years, we expect this to be considered in schools and through exam boards. At university level, we will consider disruption which has been significant and personal to the individual applicant, in line with the examples above.

If you have declared a disability on your UCAS application, the admissions team will not be aware of this. This section of the application form is only considered by the Disability Services team once a student enrolls at the university. If you wish for any disability or specific educational difficulties to be considered as extenuating circumstances alongside your qualifications and/or exam results, please complete the Bristol extenuating circumstances form.

How to submit an extenuating circumstances form

Please complete the [extenuating circumstances form](#) and upload it to your University of Bristol applicant dashboard along with supporting evidence. We cannot accept the form or the required supporting evidence via email or from a third party and any circumstances submitted without the completed form will not be considered. It is your responsibility alone to complete the form in full.

We do not consider any extenuating circumstances included in the UCAS application, either in the personal statement or academic reference.

We require **third party** evidence to support the applicant statement on the extenuating circumstances form.

Third party evidence must be from an appropriate, independent third party/authority such as:

- a) A detailed statement provided by your school/tutor.
- b) A letter or report from a medical or health professional*, including support workers, counselling services and social workers
- c) A solicitor, court or tribunal office letter/statement
- d) A police or fire officer report

We cannot consider supporting evidence from a family member or friend.

Third party evidence should demonstrate ***how these circumstances have disrupted your education/exams or how they may disrupt your upcoming exams.***

If your supporting evidence does not contain this information we may not be able to assess your submission and/or may request evidence from an alternative source.

All third party evidence must be a letter headed document which has been signed and dated by the appropriate third party.

Submitting an extenuating circumstances form alongside your application

A completed extenuating circumstances form should be submitted **within two weeks of your application**. You will receive an application acknowledgement email from the University of Bristol once we have received your UCAS application. Contact us immediately at admissions-ugec@bristol.ac.uk if there will be a delay in submitting your extenuating circumstances form.

Applicants who submit an extenuating circumstances form **after an unsuccessful decision** has already been made on their application can only be reconsidered if the form was submitted within two weeks of applying through UCAS (or if the applicant has already informed us of a delay before the deadline).

We only look at the extenuating circumstances you send us during the year that you apply. If you submitted extenuating circumstances for an application in a previous UCAS cycle, you will need to submit a new form for a new application.

You will receive a confirmation email, once your extenuating circumstances have been assessed alongside your application.

Where evidence suggests that ongoing circumstances will affect both your studies and exam performance, these will also be taken into account on publication of examination results, should you receive an offer from the university.

When to submit an extenuating circumstances form after receiving an offer

If you wish to inform us of any extenuating circumstances after receiving an offer from the university, you can upload a form and supporting evidence to your Bristol applicant dashboard up to **two weeks before your exam results are published or by the 15th July 2025, whichever is sooner.**

We do not consider any extenuating circumstances after the publication of an applicant's examination results.

If you already submitted an extenuating circumstances form at the application stage, you do not need to send us your form again after receiving an offer, unless you need to inform us of any changes/developments to your circumstances. If you do need to inform us of anything else, please upload further supporting evidence to your Bristol applicant dashboard.

If your extenuating circumstances do affect your exam performance, we will consider the information you have provided alongside your exam results if you narrowly miss the terms of your offer, and the University has places available.

The submission of extenuating circumstances is not a guarantee of acceptance if you do not meet your offer conditions in full.

The assessment of extenuating circumstances

The information you provide on the form is confidential and is viewed alongside your application by a panel of three members of the undergraduate admissions team. It is used to help us assess your academic performance in light of your extenuating circumstances, if either your predicted or achieved grades are lower than our typical offer for the course(s) you are applying to at the university.

Therefore, we consider the effect of extenuating circumstances on your qualifications and/or your examination performance only.

Only in very exceptional cases will we consider extenuating circumstances when assessing the rest of your application, such as the personal statement, reference, or any additional tests (e.g., UCAT or LNAT – see the relevant section below).

If you are applying with achieved grades which are below our published entry requirements, extenuating circumstances do not guarantee you an offer. If you are not resitting or taking an acceptable alternative qualification, explain why on your extenuating circumstances form. This applies to all qualifications (such as GCSEs and A Levels) used to meet our published entry requirements.

We do not make contextual or other lower offers in light of extenuating circumstances. If an offer is made, it will be at the standard level (or contextual level if you are already eligible). If you do not quite meet the terms of your offer, we will consider your extenuating circumstances to determine whether we can accept you on to the course with lower grades.

Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ)

We do not usually consider extenuating circumstances in relation to performance in the Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) which is an additional assessment method for some of our courses such as Veterinary Science.

In very exceptional cases, we may be able to consider extenuating circumstances, only where it is found that the circumstances have directly affected your performance in the SAQ or have directly affected your ability to meet the deadline. Please email us with further details at admissions-ugec@bristol.ac.uk so we can take a look and provide further advice before submitting an extenuating circumstances request.

Additional tests – e.g., UCAT, LNAT, UoB Maths test

We do not alter the results, in relation to reported extenuating circumstances, of any additional test that forms part of the selection process.

If you have any extenuating circumstances that may affect your performance in an external test such as LNAT or UCAT, please inform the relevant test centre if you need to reschedule a test for any reason e.g., illness. Where LNAT / UCAT have granted an authorised re-sit owing to your extenuating circumstances, we will accept these test results. Any leniencies or mitigations afforded to you in light of your extenuating circumstances are granted by the external test provider.

We do not usually consider extenuating circumstances relating to additional tests submitted directly to us by you. However, in very exceptional cases (such as sudden bereavement of a close relative or very serious illness over the testing period), we may consider extenuating circumstances for additional tests, only where it is found that the circumstances have directly affected your ability to take the test and only if you are unable to resit. In such cases, please provide evidence of not being able to resit the test, alongside all other evidence required with extenuating circumstances form.

Interviews at Bristol

We do not consider extenuating circumstances in relation to interview performance. If you have not been able to attend an interview due to extenuating circumstances, we encourage you to rearrange a new interview date as soon as possible. We cannot guarantee that you will be offered another interview.