

Admissions Statement for Orthodontic Therapy (PG Dip)

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted between 13 September 2025 and 11 September 2026.

It should be read in association with the [University Admissions Principles and Procedures](#) for Postgraduate programmes, the relevant [prospectus entry](#) and general [application guidance](#).

Admissions criteria

Academic and English language requirements

The academic and English language requirements for this programme are displayed on the [Postgraduate Prospectus](#).

For information on international equivalent qualifications, please refer to our [International Office website](#).

Non-standard applications

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept non-standard applications for this programme. Applicants must meet the entry requirements.

Application process

Online application form

Applicants should complete the online application form, uploading all required documents directly. Further information is available on our [guidance for online applications page](#).

Applications will not be considered until **all** required documents have been uploaded.

Required and optional documents

General Dental Council registered qualification certificate and academic transcript: Required

- A UK National Diploma of Dental Nursing,
- or
- A General Dental Council registered qualification at BSc, Diploma HE, or Diploma level 4.

Dental Nurse Post -Registration Qualifications: Required

Two or more of the following:

- Certificate in Dental Radiography
- Certificate in Dental Sedation Nursing
- Certificate in Oral Health Education
- Certificate in Orthodontic Dental Nursing

If your qualifications are not listed above, we may consider the following level 3 qualifications as alternatives:

- 1) **A-levels:** CC in two A-levels including Biology or equivalent
 - 2) **BTEC:** DDM in Applied Science BTEC National Level 3 Extended Diploma, with Distinctions in five specified biology units
 - 3) **Access to HE Diploma:** Access to HE Diploma in Science, Biomedical/Medical/Health Science or Psychology (or similar titles). The 45 graded level 3 credits must include: 15 credits at Distinction and 30 at Merit or above, and at least 12 credits (with 9 at Distinction) from Biology units.
- Mature students can contact mature-students@bristol.ac.uk to check the suitability of their Access course.

Work experience and Curriculum Vitae (CV): Required

Applicants must have relevant clinical work experience specifically in orthodontics.

Applicants must be registered with the General Dental Council and be able to evidence current employment within an Orthodontic Specialist Practice.

Please be aware that work experience undertaken entirely within a general dentistry environment does not fulfil this requirement.

CV must include details of relevant work experience to support an application.

The suitability of an applicant's clinical experience will be explored at interview.

Letter of reference from an assigned clinical trainer: Required

We require a letter of reference from an assigned clinical trainer in the orthodontic practice/department within which you will undertake the training programme.

The letter of reference must confirm the following:

- 1) That the clinical trainer holds a current GDC registration on the orthodontic specialist list.
- 2) That the clinical training practice will provide a minimum of 23 hours a week of chairside direct clinical care experience for you, supervised by an orthodontic specialist currently registered with the GDC in this capacity.
- 3) That the training practice can provide a broad range of orthodontic treatments within the practice, including new patients assessments, labial fixed appliances, removable appliances, removable functional appliances, bonded retainers.
- 4) That the training practice has an appropriate camera for taking clinical photographs and store photographs securely.
- 5) That the training practice can deliver a one-hour tutorial for you each week.

Personal statement: Required

Personal statements should highlight the motivation for applying for the course, and any relevant experience and/or skills.

. They should address the following criteria:

- Commitment to Orthodontic Therapy as both a course and a career.
- Reflection on work-related experience.
- Evidence of communication skills.

English language certificates/other evidence: Required

Evidence of meeting the English language profile as stated on the [Postgraduate Prospectus](#) and specified by the [University English Language Requirements Policy](#).

Selection process

Assessment of applications

All applicants are considered in line with the University's [Admissions Principles and Procedures Policy](#). An application will be submitted for full review when all required documents have been provided.

Complete applications are considered based on the following factors:

- a) Academic qualifications
- b) Clinical qualifications
- c) Clinical experience
- d) Training support from a clinical trainer

The letter of reference from an assigned clinical trainer is considered alongside the application on the following factors:

- Confirmation that the orthodontic practice / department within which the applicant is working is a suitable environment for the clinical placement component of the programme.

Applicants who are found to meet the entry requirements in these areas will be invited to progress to the interview stage. Applicants not meeting the required level at this stage will be unsuccessful.

Final decisions for applicants that have progressed to the interview stage will be based entirely on the performance at interview. See the 'Interviews' section for more information.

Interviews

Interviews will form part of the selection process. All applicants who are selected for interview must attend to be considered.

The purpose of the interview is to provide the applicant with an opportunity to demonstrate evidence of past and/or ongoing clinical experience, and personal skills and attributes, that are appropriate to a career in Orthodontic Therapy and to give applicants the opportunity to display insight into a range of related topics. Photo identification will be required at interview.

Applicants are assessed using a formal interview system, covering different aspects of the skills and knowledge required to be a successful Orthodontic Therapist. Applicants' performance at the interviews is scored by assessors and ranked accordingly.

Additionally, an interview with the applicant's proposed UK-based clinical trainer will be conducted. The purpose of this interview is to confirm that the clinical trainer can provide the applicant with the support and supervision required to successfully deliver the workplace placement of the programme.

Those candidates with the strongest overall performance will receive offers. We aim to make offers as soon as possible, but to ensure fairness, applicants may not receive a decision until all the interviews have been completed.

Decisions

Applicants will be notified by email when a decision has been made and decision letters will be available to view and print by logging into the application. If there is a deadline by which applicants must accept an offer of admission or pay a deposit, this will be stated in the offer letter.

Offers

Offers will typically be made in line with the academic requirements set out above.

Offers made may be conditional or unconditional. An unconditional offer will be made to applicants who have already met the conditions and provided evidence that conditions have been met. Where academic or language requirements have not yet been fulfilled, applicants will receive a conditional offer outlining the requirements that must be met.

Deferrals

Deferred entry is not available for this programme.

Results deadline

Applicants who receive a conditional offer will be required to submit all final results to meet their offer conditions by 21st November 2025. Offer holders who will be unable to provide their final results by this date should email choosebristol-pg@bristol.ac.uk to notify the admissions team as soon as possible.

Additional information

Extenuating circumstances

If your education has been significantly disrupted through health or personal problems, disability or specific difficulties within your studies, you can submit an [extenuating circumstances](#) form as part of your application.

The information provided will be treated confidentially and will help us to assess your academic performance fairly considering your circumstances.

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

An ATAS certificate is not required for this programme.

Visa

International students coming to the UK to study full-time may need to apply for a student visa. Guidance is available on the [University website](#).

Fees and Deposits

Fees

Annual tuition fee is available on the relevant [prospectus entry](#) for this programme.

Deposits

All self-funded students accepting a place on the Orthodontic Therapy (PG Dip) taught postgraduate programme are required to pay a deposit of £2000. Further information is available on [how to pay programme deposits](#). Further information will also be provided in the offer letter to successful applicants. The deposit is non-transferable and non-refundable except under the circumstances outlined in the [International Deposits Refund Policy](#).

International self-funded applicants who are made an offer for a taught postgraduate programme will be required to pay a deposit to secure their place. In most cases, the deposit amount will be £2,000.

For applicants from certain regions, the University applies increased deposit requirements to help demonstrate financial credibility and to ensure compliance with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) regulations. In such cases, the deposit amount will typically be £15,000 or 50% of the applicant's first-year tuition fees.

The specific deposit amount required in each case will be clearly stated in the applicant's official offer letter. Information on [how to pay the deposit](#) is available on the University's website. Deposits are non-transferable and non-refundable, except in accordance with the terms outlined in the [International Deposits Refund Policy](#).

Sponsored Students

Fully sponsored students are not required to pay the deposit but will need to upload a copy of their sponsorship letter to the online application.