

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:
2019

Courses covered:

Gateway to Medicine (A108)
Gateway to Veterinary Science (D108)
Gateway to Dentistry (A208)

1. Course-specific information

1.1 Admissions process

Applicants are scored and ranked on their academic record, according to their achieved or predicted results, with the following weightings:

Gateway to Medicine and Gateway to Dentistry:
GCSE 10% | A-level 10% | Personal statement 60% | UKCAT 20%

Gateway to Veterinary Science :
GCSE 10% | A-level 10% | Personal statement 80%

1.2 Eligibility criteria

Please note that the Gateway courses are a University of Bristol widening participation initiative open to applicants from specific state schools and colleges in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland only.

These selected schools and colleges are those with a lower progression to Higher Education and/or a lower average attainment in A-levels, International Baccalaureate, Pre-U or other Level 3 qualifications as appropriate.

To be eligible, applicants for the Gateway programme must be attending (or have attended in the academic year immediately prior to their application) one of the secondary schools or colleges on one of the following lists. **Please ensure you check the correct school/college**

list for the year you completed your A levels or equivalent Level 3 qualification. Please note, there is no eligibility for Gateway on the basis of Polar scores for home postcodes.

England - Level 3 qualification was completed in 2017/18 academic year

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/study/undergraduate/documents/English-aspiring-state-schools-2018-cycle.pdf>

England - Level 3 qualification being completed in 2018/19 academic year

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/study/undergraduate/documents/English-aspiring-state-schools-2019-cycle.pdf>

Wales - Level 3 qualification was completed in 2017/18 academic year

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/study/undergraduate/documents/Welsh-aspiring-state-schools-2018-cycle.pdf>

Wales - Level 3 qualification being completed in 2018/19 academic year

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/study/undergraduate/documents/Welsh-aspiring-state-schools-2019-cycle.pdf>

Northern Ireland - Level 3 qualification completed in either academic year 2017/18 or 2018/19

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/study/undergraduate/documents/northern-ireland-schools-for-gateway-2019-entry.pdf>

Scotland - Level 3 qualification completed in either academic year 2017/18 or 2018/19

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/study/undergraduate/documents/scottish-schools-for-gateway-2019-entry.pdf>

All graduates and those who have already started a university course, including a foundation course, are not eligible for the Gateway programme, regardless of their previous A-level grades or school attended.

Applicants liable for international tuition fees are not eligible for the Gateway programme, regardless of school or college attended.

Academic eligibility

Applicants who have predicted or achieved grades *above* the A-level (or equivalent) grade ranges as stated on the relevant online course page on the University's website are *not* eligible to apply for the Gateway programme, regardless of the school or college attended. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the person providing any predicted grades is aware of this requirement. We do not accept revised grade predictions at a later stage.

NB. Successful applicants who are taking their Level 3 qualifications in the year in which they apply will be made a conditional offer of the minimum grades required. Those subsequently achieving grades above this, even if higher than the grade range stated for entry, will be accepted onto the course.

We do not consider applications for both a Gateway course and a five-year course in Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science at Bristol, or for more than one Gateway course. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they apply for the course most appropriate to their educational circumstances and academic profile.

Applicants from eligible schools or colleges (see above), and who fulfil the academic requirements in full, and whose application is received on time (in accordance with the published UCAS October deadline for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science courses) receive equal consideration.

If necessary, priority for interview may be given to applicants who fulfil at least two of the following criteria:

- applicants in local authority care;
- mature applicants (aged over 21 at the start of the course);
- applicants whose parents did not university;
- those applying from an address in a neighbourhood where few young people progress to higher education. This is defined using Polar3 data; a searchable database is available at www.hefce.ac.uk/postcode.

All applicants to Gateway to Dentistry and Gateway to Medicine must take the UKCAT test before they apply. Details of the test, including deadlines, can be found online at www.ukcat.ac.uk. Applicants to Gateway to Veterinary Science are not required to take the UKCAT.

All successful applicants to Gateway to Dentistry and Gateway to Medicine must undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. This is not required for applicants to Gateway to Veterinary.

Applicants who receive an offer for a place on any of the Gateway courses and make it either their firm or insurance choice must complete an occupational health questionnaire.

1.3 Personal 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/dentistry/veterinary science
- Life skills such as communication skills; personal resilience and emotional stamina; organisational/leadership qualities; good time management; problem-solving skills
- Evidence of altruism/voluntary work, enjoyment in helping others, experience in caring roles, community/school involvement

Applicants should also have some practical work experience in a relevant area to show their commitment to the course and career, and as a basis for questions at interview. This does *not* have to include 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.

1.4 Interviews

Applicants who satisfy the academic requirements and who attend/have attended an eligible school will be considered for interview. This involves a series of practical tests (known as Multiple Mini Interviews, or MMIs) undertaken at the University of Bristol. Gateway to Veterinary Science applicants also have a face-to-face interview. Applicants invited to interview will also be given an opportunity to see relevant academic department and campus. Photo ID is required at interview.

1.5 Mature applicants

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

Please note that Graduates, or those who have already commenced any course of University study, are not eligible to apply for the Gateway courses.

1.6 Aspirational offers

Due to the competitive nature of these courses, we can only consider applicants who are predicted to achieve (or have already achieved) our entry requirements in full.

1.7 Alternative offers

Applicants who are not qualified or have an unsuitable academic background for the course to which they originally applied may be considered for an alternative course in a related subject area. In such cases, applicants receive an email providing details of the alternative options.

1.8 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (those made in 2018/19 for 2020 entry) are not accepted for these courses.

1.9 Resits

We will consider applicants who are completing resits of GCSEs and/or A-levels (or equivalent Level 3 qualifications), however this must be at an eligible school or college.

1.10 Transfers

Students who successfully complete the one-year Gateway programme transfer to year one of the associated five-year degree course at the University of Bristol. We do not permit mid-year transfers into the Gateway programme.

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).

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.

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.

Applications received before the 15 October 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.

2.3 Correspondence with applicants

All correspondence relating to an applicant's status is sent by email.

We monitor the number of offers we make and may hold some applications until later in the cycle.

We email applicants to tell them whether 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 submitted by 15 October, the final deadline by which applicants receive a decision is 2 May. Most decisions are made before this date.

2.4 Reference criteria

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 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, 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 2.8 Extenuating Circumstances).

2.5 International applicants

International applicants are not eligible to apply for these courses.

2.6 English language requirements

All applicants must demonstrate 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:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/language-requirements/>

2.7 Contextual information

As part of our commitment to the UK national agenda on widening participation, we consider the context in which grades have been achieved and make contextual offers. As the Gateway courses are only open to those attending Aspiring schools and colleges, no lower offer will be made.

2.8 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: <http://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 in light of individual circumstances.

2.9 Policies

All applications are considered in line with our Admissions Principles and Procedures for undergraduate courses: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2019/>

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.

2.10 Additional information

The University only guarantees places to applicants who meet the exact terms of their offer; however, applicants who narrowly miss the terms of their offer may still be considered as 'near-miss' candidates.

All applications from such candidates are reviewed in August after publication of A-level results. Applications from international near-miss candidates may be reconsidered earlier, depending on when their exam results are released.

2.11 Contacts for enquiries

If you have any questions, please contact our Enquiries team: choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 394 1649.