

Undergraduate Admissions Statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures:

bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2019/



Note that these policies are correct for the current intake cycle and may be subject to change.

Year of Admissions cycle:

2019

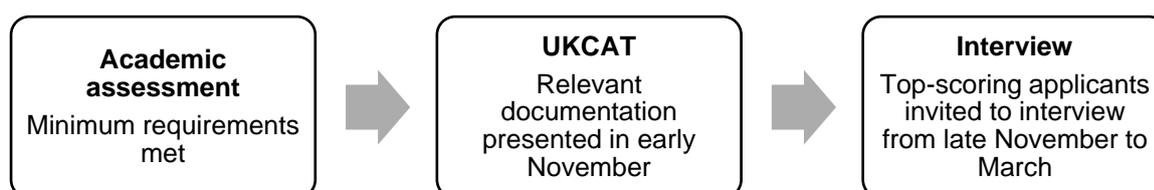
Courses covered

MB ChB Medicine (A100)

1. Course-specific information

1.1 Admissions process

Applicants are assessed on their academic record, according to their achieved or predicted results, and scored on additional criteria as follows:



1.2 Academic criteria

Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Bac, GCSEs) can be found in the undergraduate course finder:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/>

Other qualifications, including international qualifications, are considered on an individual basis.

Applicants studying Medicine at another institution will only be considered once they have graduated.

Applicants at University studying subjects other than Medicine, and in the first year or second year of their studies, can apply for Medicine if they meet all the entry requirements (GCSE, A-level or equivalent) specified in the course finder:

bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/. Applicants can continue with their studies while applying. If they do not meet the entry requirements, they will need to complete their degree and apply as a graduate.

Applicants who started University studies but did not complete their degree, or who withdrew from their studies, can apply for Medicine if they meet all the entry requirements (GCSE, A-level or equivalent) specified in the course finder: bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/.

From 2019 entry, we will no longer require three A-levels to be taken in one sitting.

Due to overlapping content, we are unable to consider the following subject combination:

- Biology and Human Biology (Biology A + B)

1.3 Additional criteria

Minimum age requirement

Students must be at least 18 years of age by 1 October in their year of entry in order to undertake clinical experiential learning in our teaching (general) practices and clinical academies, which requires that students have the legal capacity to be bound by the rules of confidentiality of our NHS partners.

UKCAT

All applicants are required to take the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) in the current cycle. The combined score from all subtests, with the exception of Situational Judgement, will be used to select applicants for interview.

There is no cut-off score for the UKCAT.

Using data from 2017/18 cycle, applicants with a UKCAT score of 2660 or above would have been issued with an invitation to interview had we been solely using UKCAT for selection. This number is subject to change year-on-year depending on the strength of the cohort, therefore cannot be used with certainty to predict the likelihood of receiving an invite to interview for the current cycle.

Further information on the UKCAT, including practice tests and details of their bursary scheme, can be found here: www.ukcat.ac.uk.

Applicants sitting the UKCATSEN provide the University with sufficient evidence of their eligibility by Friday 2 November as follows:

- **Applicants currently or very recently in education** must provide an official letter from their school, college or university, stating that they are entitled to extra time in public examinations. This should be based on the diagnosis of a qualified medical practitioner, educational psychologist or specialist teacher.
- **Applicants who are no longer in education** should provide a post-16 diagnosis or report from a qualified medical practitioner or educational psychologist. This should include the recommendation that they require extra time in public examinations.

Documents should be scanned and emailed to choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk. Failure to provide sufficient evidence will mean that we are unable to progress your application, and your application will be made unsuccessful.

Criminal records check

All medical students are required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, in line with most applicants for health-related courses in the UK. This process begins in August prior to registration.

Occupational health clearance

All offers are subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance. Applicants who accept our offer as their firm or insurance choice will be asked to complete and return the relevant paperwork by the specified June deadline.

It is the responsibility of the Medical School to ensure that students accepted on the course are able to complete the training and achieve the competencies required by the General Medical Council (GMC) for full registration after the first year of training. The Medical School must consult the GMC if there is doubt and if it proposes a modification of experience to achieve the competencies.

All checks must be completed satisfactorily in order for an applicant to register as a student on this course.

Work experience

While not a requirement for the course, we encourage applicants to obtain a minimum of two weeks' work experience. This enables the applicant to gain some insight into their potential vocation. Applicants may be asked to reflect on their work experience at interview.

While it may be difficult to obtain clinical work experience, we encourage applicants to seek out opportunities to work with the public in a customer service role, or volunteer in a care or health environment (nursing home, local hospice, shelter for the homeless, or facility supporting people with disabilities or special needs), or a youth group.

Should they be invited, applicants are required to complete a form prior to attending the interview which documents the type and duration of their work experience. This information may be used as a basis for discussion.

Personal statement

From 2019 we will no longer be using the personal statement as a weighted component of our selection criteria. Should we need to differentiate between applicants that have identical scores at interview when making offers, the personal statement may be used to do so. UKCAT scores will be used as our primary differentiator.

1.4 Interviews

All applicants who are selected for interview must attend in order to be considered. No offers for Medicine are made without the applicant first attending an interview within the current cycle. This does not mean that we interview all applicants. We do not consider previous interview performance for those applicants who were interviewed in previous cycles.

The purpose of the interview is to provide the applicant with an opportunity to demonstrate evidence of skills and attributes that are appropriate to a career in medicine and to display insight into a range of topics related to a career in medicine.

Interviewees also receive a tour the University campus and have an opportunity to meet current students. Photo identification will be required at interview.

At the interview

Applicants move around seven Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) stations, each taking six minutes (one minute for reading instructions and five minutes for completing task) and assessing a particular criterion. Each station is supervised by one or two interviewers as appropriate. Interviews are conducted in accordance with the University's Equality and Diversity Policy. At least one member of the interviewing staff is trained in fair and effective recruitment, and at least one is a member of the Medical Admissions Committee.

Extra time in assessments

Sufficient time is built into our MMI sessions that additional extra time is not required.

After the interview

Applicants' performance at the MMIs is scored by assessors and ranked by the Admissions office. Those applicants with the strongest overall performance 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. The UKCAT score is our primary differentiator for distinguishing between applicants with identical MMI scores.

Applicants with a disability

The Medical School must ensure that all students accepted on to the course are capable of completing the training and achieving the competencies required by the General Medical Council (GMC) for full registration after the first year of training.

A clear plan to enable a disabled student to achieve competency must be agreed before the student enters the course. Not all disabilities limit the experience of doctors in training in this way, but applicants should disclose any disability in their UCAS application and be prepared to release their medical details to allow the University's Disability Services team to assess the situation.

Failure to disclose a disability that might prevent an applicant from carrying out their required duties could put at risk the applicant's fitness to practise and might jeopardise their place on the medicine course.

The procedure for dealing with health and/or disability issues is as follows:

1. All applications are acknowledged on receipt. Applicants who have declared a disability on their application are invited to complete a questionnaire for the University's Disability Services; this has no bearing on selection for interview or offer.
2. Applicants are selected for interview on the basis of admissions criteria, irrespective of any health issue/disability declared. Interviewees with a disability should contact Disability Services to discuss any support requirements they may need at interview.
3. Any offer made to a disabled applicant is subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance.
4. Applicants declaring a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D are advised to contact the Disability Services team, who may request additional information (for example, a post-16 educational psychologist report). Any

concerns identified by Disability Services in relation to student support and alternative arrangements and/or any fitness to practise are referred to the Faculty Disability and Health Panel via the Faculty Disability Officer.

5. Applicants with any other disability must submit a pre-course health questionnaire to the Occupational Health Service, which assesses the information in line with recognised clinical and professional standards and refers its findings to the Faculty Disability Officer. Any health issues that could affect fitness to practise are considered by the Disability and Health Panel, whose membership may comprise the Faculty Education Manager, Director of Student Affairs, Pre-Clinical Programme Director, Chairman of the Medical Admissions Committee, Occupational Health representative, Disability Services representative, Clinical Dean, Equality and Diversity Manager, Faculty Disability Office, psychiatrist, GP and Medical Admissions Co-ordinator. If the panel is satisfied that the applicant is capable of undergoing standard foundation training, it will notify the applicant accordingly, confirming any support or conditions required.
6. If the panel is not satisfied that the applicant is capable of undergoing standard foundation training, it will notify the applicant accordingly, explaining the reasons for the decision and withdrawing the offer.
7. If appropriate, an application is submitted to the GMC on the applicant's behalf, to request an alternative pattern of training. If this request is refused, the applicant's offer will be withdrawn.

For further information on the disability support, please visit bristol.ac.uk/disability-services/

1.5 Mature applicants

We welcome mature applicants, and assess such applications holistically, taking into account factors such as relevant work experience and personal circumstances that may have interrupted or prevented previous degree-level study. Mature applicants must provide evidence of recent study and examinations in the past five years.

Mature applicants who do not meet our standard entry requirements and who cannot demonstrate recent study, relevant employment history or life experience are usually advised to gain some academic experience before reapplying.

1.6 Aspirational offers

Due to the competitive nature of our course, we 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, have an unsuitable academic background for Medicine, or did not score highly enough at interview 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.

Courses that have been offered as alternatives in the past include (but are not limited to):

- [Applied Anatomy](#)
- [Biomedical Sciences](#)

- [Cellular and Molecular Medicine](#)

1.8 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (those made in 2018/19 for 2020 entry) are accepted.

In fairness to the following cycle of applicants, we only make a limited number of deferred offers. Applicants who did not apply for deferred entry initially, but who subsequently wish to defer after receiving an offer, must request deferral by 28 February 2019 or within 10 working days of receiving their offer (whichever is the later date). Requests received after the deadline are only considered in exceptional circumstances. We reserve the right to decline deferral requests (for example, if we have an exceptionally high number of deferred offer holders).

1.9 Transfers

Requests for transfers into Bristol Medical School are not considered.

1.10 Resits

We consider applicants resitting GCSEs and/or A-levels (or equivalent Level 3 qualifications). A maximum of one resit is allowed in any one subject.

Applicants who did not achieve the minimum required GCSE profile results in their first sitting can apply with resits achieved or with results pending.

We only make an exception to this where there are extenuating personal circumstances (see section **2.8**), and any exceptions are at the discretion of the University. We do not provide guidance in advance of an application on our criteria for considering extenuating circumstances.

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 subject to the criteria detailed on our international web page: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries/>

We also consider applications through the Common Application system, using the same assessment criteria as for UCAS applicants.

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. Contextual offers are usually two grades lower than the typical offer. Applicants may receive a contextual offer for the following reasons: attendance at an aspiring state school or college; residence in an area with low progression to higher education; completion of a University of Bristol outreach programme; time spent in care.

Full details of the contextual offer scheme can be found online:

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entry-requirements-qualifications/contextual-offers/> and within the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures for Undergraduate Courses.

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.