

Undergraduate Admissions Statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures: www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2021/

Year of Admissions cycle:
2021

Courses covered:
B750 Dental Hygiene and Therapy (BSc)

1. Course specific information:

1.1 Admissions process

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

GCSE 10% | A-Level 40% | Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire 50%

Please note that this course is funded via the NHS, and applications from applicants liable for international fees will not be accepted.

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:

www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/

Other qualifications will be considered on an individual basis, including Dental Nursing and Dental Technologist qualifications recognised by the General Dental Council. All applicants must demonstrate an ability in Biology equivalent to the A-level requirement specified.

1.3 Work experience / Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire

All applicants are normally expected to have relevant work experience specifically in Dental Hygiene and Therapy.

We understand that due to the Covid-19 pandemic some applicants may not have been able to secure work experience prior to applying. Where you have been unable to do more than two weeks of work experience you may be asked to evidence your knowledge of the profession in a different way, such as a piece of reflective writing or an online course. This will be requested by the Admissions team if required.

Qualified Dental Nurses will be considered on the basis of their post-qualification professional experience within Dentistry but must be able to demonstrate a professional understanding of the role of a qualified professional Dental Hygienist and Therapist.

Applicants who fulfil the academic criteria will be asked to complete an online Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire regarding their work-experience to determine their suitability for the course. This will form part of the application assessment (see section

1.1 above) and information from it may also be used as the basis for some questions at interview.

1.4 Personal statement criteria

We do not routinely assess Personal Statements for this course as part of the usual admissions process. However, if we need to differentiate between identically scoring applicants for interview we may use the following Personal Statement criteria:

- Commitment to Dental Hygiene and Therapy as both course and career;
- Reflection on relevant work-experience;
- Evidence of communication skills.

1.5 Interviews

Applicants who are invited to interview will attend an interview day at the Dental School in Bristol. Interviews are usually held on selected days in between January and March.

More information about the format of the Interview Days can be found here:

www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/interviews/dental-hygiene/

Interviews will form part of the selection criteria for this course for the 2021 admissions cycle. We appreciate, however, that the ongoing impact of COVID-19 may result in additional local or national restrictions to travel. If these occur, then we may need to alter the format of interviews and/or change arrangements at short notice. We hope to run the interviews in the current format, but we will keep applicants informed if we need to make any changes. If we decide it is necessary for them to take place remotely, every necessary step will be taken to ensure these interviews accurately reflect the normal interview process. Any changes to the format due to the remote nature of the interview will not disadvantage candidates in any way.

1.6 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.

Applicants are required to provide evidence of study and examinations within the last five years. Where applicants do not have recent educational qualifications to support their application, relevant professional experience within Dentistry may be taken into consideration.

Further information can be found on our web pages: www.bristol.ac.uk/study/mature/

1.7 Offers

We recognise that some applicants may achieve higher than their predicted grades, and so we may also consider applicants who are predicted to achieve slightly below the entry requirements (usually in a non-specified subject). Any offer made would be at the standard level.

If applicants are not qualified or have an unsuitable academic background for the course to which they originally applied, we may offer the opportunity to be considered for an alternative course in a related subject area. In such cases applicants will receive an email notification providing a list of the alternative options.

1.8 Deferred applications

Due to the size of this course, deferred applications (ie applying in 2020/21 for 2022 entry) are not considered. If you do wish to apply for 2022 entry, we recommend that you apply to us next year instead.

1.9 Resits

The department will consider applicants who resit their qualifications.

1.10 Transfers

Transfers into Year two or Year three of this course are not considered in any 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). The team have received training in fair admissions and unconscious bias.

2.2 Admissions process

As 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. Applications received before the 15 January 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.

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. Academic 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, where applicable, 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 2.6 Extenuating Circumstances).

2.3 Correspondence with applicants

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

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

Applicants will be notified if 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 that are submitted by 15 January, the final deadline by which applicants will receive a decision is 6 May. Most decisions are made before this date.

2.4 English language requirements

All applicants are required to demonstrate that they have 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:

www.bristol.ac.uk/study/language-requirements/

2.5 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; having spent three months or more in care.

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

www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entry-requirements-qualifications/contextual-offers/

and within the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures for Undergraduate Courses.

2.6 Extenuating circumstances

If an applicant's education has been significantly disrupted through health or personal problems, disability or specific difficulties with schooling they will need to submit an extenuating circumstances form to Undergraduate Admissions:

www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/your-application/extenuating-circumstances/

The information provided on the form will be treated confidentially, and will help us to assess fairly academic performance in light of the situation.

2.7 Policies

All applications are considered in line with our Admissions principles and procedures: www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2021/

We are committed to the implementation of high quality, fair and transparent admissions procedures for all our applicants. We recognise, however, that there may be occasions when applicants believe that they have cause for complaint. At this point applicants should follow our Applicant feedback and complaints procedures.

Should an applicant believe that University Admissions principles and procedures have been inconsistently or incorrectly applied, these complaints procedures provide a mechanism for objective review.

2.8 Results

The University can only guarantee places if the exact terms of the offer are met; however, offer holders will not automatically be unsuccessful if the terms of the offer are narrowly missed.

If offer holders do not meet the terms of their offers when exam results are released they may be considered as 'near miss candidates'. All near miss candidates are reviewed in August after publication of A-level results. International offer holders may be reconsidered earlier depending when their exam results are released.

Please see our results web page for further information: www.bristol.ac.uk/results/

2.9 Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to our Enquiries team: choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 394 1649.