

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:

A108 Gateway to Medicine (MB ChB)

A208 Gateway to Dentistry (BDS)

D108 Gateway to Veterinary Science (BVSc)

1. Course specific information:

1.1 Eligibility criteria

Please note that the Gateway programme is a University of Bristol widening participation initiative open to applicants from specific state schools and colleges in England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland OR to applicants who have spent at least three months in care 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 if they are applying with completed qualifications, have attended in the academic year immediately prior to their application) a secondary school or college on one of the school lists accessible via the links given below.

Or applicants must have spent at least 3 months in care. Please tick the box in the care questions on your UCAS application. If your reference confirms that you've spent three months or more in local authority care, our admissions team will process your application. If not, we'll ask you to send us some more information, such as an email or letter from your local authority, school/college or other organisation.

Graduates, and those who have already commenced any University level course, including a Foundation course, are not eligible to apply for the Gateway courses 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.

Please ensure you check the Aspiring School/College list for the year you completed your A levels or equivalent Level 3 qualification. Please note that there is no eligibility for Gateway using the Polar score for home postcode.

England and Wales 2019/20 or 2020/21 'Aspiring Schools'

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

Northern Ireland 2019/20 or 2020/21

Level 3 qualification completed in either academic year:

www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/study/undergraduate/documents/northern-ireland-schools-for-gateway.pdf

Scotland 2019/20 or 2020/21

Level 3 qualification completed in either academic year:

www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/study/undergraduate/documents/scottish-schools-for-gateway.pdf

1.2 Academic eligibility

If an applicant has achieved or is predicted to achieve *above or below* the A-level (or equivalent) grade ranges as stated on the relevant online course page on the University's website, they will not be eligible for the Gateway programme, regardless of the type of school or college attended or if they have spent time in care. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the person providing any predicted grades is aware of this. No later revision of predicted grades will be permitted.

Please note that applicants will not be considered for both the Gateway programme and a five-year course in Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science at Bristol, or for more than one Gateway programme. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they apply for the course most appropriate to their educational circumstances and academic profile.

Applicants who are applying from an eligible school or college or who have spent time in care (see [1.1 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 courses) will receive equal consideration.

UCAT

All applicants to Gateway to Dentistry (A208) and Gateway to Medicine (A108) are required to take the UCAT test before they apply. Details of the test, and the deadlines for application/test, can be found online at www.ucat.ac.uk/.

We strongly advise candidates to take the test as early as possible as the ongoing impact of COVID 19 may result in additional local or national restrictions affecting access to test centres. If these occur, then Pearson test centres will have to reschedule candidates and/or advise them to test at home. The best way of avoiding this is to take the test early.

Applicants should think carefully about where they think they will perform better when taking the test as there is the option to complete the UCAT both at home or at a Pearson test centre. The University of Bristol will treat all test scores equally (whether taken at home or in a test centre) when assessing applications. If any problems occur when taking the test, you must contact Pearson (UCAT) directly.

Applicants sitting the UCATSEN are no longer required to provide the University with evidence of their eligibility. This must be submitted directly to UCAT. Further information can be found on the [UCATSEN website](#).

Applicants to Gateway to Veterinary Science (D108) are not required to take the UCAT.

Pre-registration checks

A DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check will be required for all successful applicants to Gateway to Dentistry and Gateway to Medicine. This process begins in August prior to registration. This is not required for applicants to Gateway to Veterinary Science.

Applicants who are made an offer for a place on any of the Gateway courses and make it their firm choice will be required to complete an Occupational Health questionnaire. All offers are subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance.

All offers are also subject to satisfactory checks against the MSC Excluded Students Database. These checks will be completed in August of the application cycle for applicants who are holding unconditional firm offers for entry in the coming intake. Any applicant who has previously been required to withdraw from a medical course elsewhere and is identified as an excluded student may not be allowed to register on their course of study at Bristol. The Faculty of Health Sciences will consider whether to allow registration on a case-by-case basis.

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

1.3 Admissions process

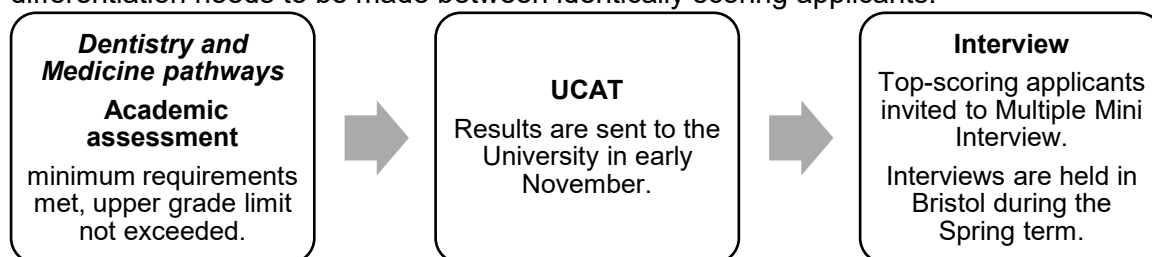
Eligible applications are initially assessed on their academic record, according to their achieved or predicted results.

As we do not weight A-levels or GCSEs (or equivalent qualifications), applicants who are predicted to, or have already achieved our minimum academic entry requirements (while not exceeding the specific upper grade limits set for the Gateway programme) will then have their applications scored as follows:

Dentistry and Medicine pathways

All Gateway to Dentistry and Gateway to Medicine applicants who have passed the academic scoring will be **ranked solely according to their UCAT score**. This ranking will be used to determine which applicants to are called for interview.

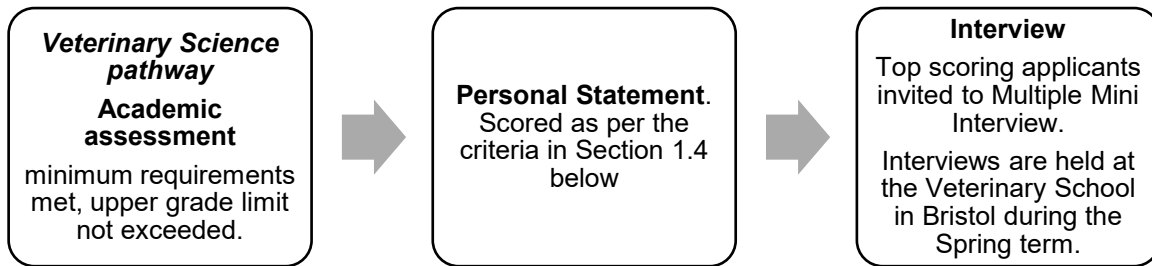
This ranking will not incorporate any aspect of an applicant's academic profile unless a differentiation needs to be made between identically scoring applicants.



Veterinary Science pathway

All Gateway to Veterinary Science applicants who have passed the academic scoring will be **ranked solely according to their Personal Statement score**. This ranking will be used to determine which applicants to are called for Interview.

This ranking will not incorporate any aspect of an applicant's academic profile unless a differentiation needs to be made between identically scoring applicants.



1.4 Personal statement criteria

Personal Statements are only assessed for the Veterinary Science pathway, although all applicants should note the work experience guidance given below.

The criteria used to assess Personal Statements for the Veterinary Science pathway are as follows:

- Evidence of commitment to, and realistic interest in, a career in Veterinary Science.
- Life skills such as communication skills; personal resilience and emotional stamina; organisational skills; proven leadership ability; time management; problem-solving.
- Evidence of altruism/voluntary work, helping others, experience in caring roles, community/school involvement.

1.5 Work experience

All applicants, regardless of intended pathway, should have some practical work experience in their chosen career field in order to develop their understanding of the profession, show their commitment to the course and career, and as a basis for questions at interview. This does not necessarily have to include clinical experience (ie hospital, GP or animal clinic-based) and can include work placements undertaken as part of a relevant course or as independent voluntary work. There is no minimum number of hours or weeks required, although undertaking at least five days is recommended.

1.6 Interviews

Applicants who fully satisfy both the academic requirements and who attend/have attended an eligible school or who have spent time in care, will be considered for interview (see section [2.2 Admissions Process](#)).

Interviews will include a series of practical tests (known as Multiple Mini Interviews, or MMIs) undertaken at the University of Bristol. Applicants invited to interview will also be given an opportunity to see relevant academic departments and be given a guided tour of the main campus or the Langford campus as appropriate. Please note, photo ID will be required at interview.

More information specific to each Gateway pathway can be found on our website:

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

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.

1.7 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.

Please note that graduates, or those who have already commenced any course of University study, are not eligible to apply for the Gateway courses. We do not accept Access to HE qualifications for entry to the Gateway programme.

1.8 Offers

Due to the competitive nature of these courses, we can only consider applicants who meet the specific eligibility and grade criteria for this programme.

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.

1.9 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (ie applying in 2020/21 for 2022 entry) are not permitted for this course.

1.10 Resits

We will consider applicants who are completing resits of GCSEs and/or A-levels (or equivalent level 3 qualifications), **however they must be enrolled at an eligible school or college for the academic year in which they are retaking any exams or meet the in care requirements**. A maximum of one resit is allowed in each subject. We prefer that applicants have taken any/all resits in only one subsequent exam sitting.

1.11 Transfers

This is a one-year programme where successful completion allows applicants to transfer to year one of the appropriate five-year course at the University of Bristol only. Transfers into a mid-point in the Gateway year are not permitted.

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. Eligible 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.

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 October, 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

The Gateway program is a widening participation initiative established as part of our commitment to the UK national agenda on widening University participation.

To be eligible to apply for the Gateway program, applicants must have attended a school or college on the relevant lists of schools and colleges or spent at least three months in care as explained in [section 1.1](#) above.

Please note that eligibility is not established using Polar Score.

Please note that we use the school code entered on the education history section on the UCAS application to determine an applicant's eligibility. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure this is correct. Applicants still at school should apply to UCAS through their school portal. Applicants who are no longer at school (ie on a gap year) should where possible ask to apply through their previous school to avoid any confusion regarding their eligibility.

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 as part of their application : 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 fairly assess academic performance considering an applicant's personal circumstances.

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.