

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:
2024

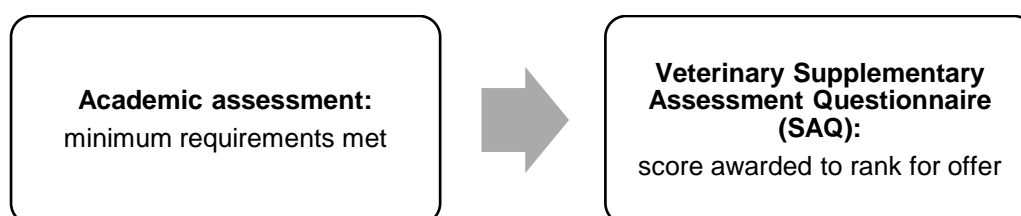
Courses covered:

D102 Veterinary Science: Accelerated Graduate Entry (BVSc)

1. Course specific information:

1.1 Admissions process

Applicants are assessed on their academic record, according to their achieved or predicted results and on further assessment of the Veterinary Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) (see 1.3 below)



Applicants who meet the minimum academic requirements will have their responses to the Veterinary SAQ read and scored. Ranking for offers is based solely on assessment of the SAQ and offers are made to the top-scoring applicants.

1.2 Academic criteria

Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications can be found in the undergraduate course finder: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/>

All applicants with at least an Upper Second Class (2:1) degree in one of the subjects listed below progress to the next stage of assessment. There are no additional academic entry requirements and other qualifications (eg A-levels) are not considered. However, you are advised to list all qualifications taken since age 16.

The following degrees from any UK University can be accepted for entry: Applied Anatomy, Biology, Biomedical Science, Bioveterinary Science; Cancer Biology and Immunology, Cellular and Molecular Medicine, Chemistry, Medical Microbiology, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, Physiology, Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science, Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour, Virology and Immunology, Zoology.

Other science-related degree courses, including those achieved overseas, may be considered on a case-by-case basis. We assess degree suitability against prerequisite subjects. Applicants must demonstrate that they have studied at least five of the following subjects: Ecology, Advanced/ Life Sciences, Animal Science, Advanced/ Biological Science, Animal Nutrition, Anatomy, Physiology (Systemic), Cellular Biology, Inorganic Chemistry, Microbiology, Genetics, Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry and Biology/Zoology.

At the point of application, applicants must either be in the final year of their degree or have been awarded their degree. If the degree is not yet complete, we will require a predicted overall award from an academic referee, noted in the UCAS application.

We may consider graduates who have achieved a 2:2 degree or a 2.1 in an unrelated subject but have undertaken a further master's or PhD qualification, depending on achievement and subject area. Applicants who are studying Masters or PhD qualifications will need to complete their studies by the August of the year of entry or may be offered deferred entry.

Credit may be awarded to First Class degrees to differentiate between otherwise equal candidates.

Recent study

Applicants are not required to provide evidence of recent study, however we expect applicants to be aware of the demands of the course and be fully prepared to start the course. If your degree was obtained in 2020 or earlier, you should consider whether you require any preparatory study in the following areas in order to be ready for the programme:

- Computer Literacy
- Experience of formal assessment eg exam/coursework
- Research Skills
- Academic/scientific writing.

We will not check applicants' suitability regarding recent study and expect applicants to take responsibility for their own learning.

1.3 Personal statement criteria

We do not normally use the UCAS personal statement to assess applications. Instead, we rank applicants who fulfil our academic requirements, solely on the basis of the completed the Veterinary Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire.

In some cases, we may refer to the personal statement and reference to differentiate between applicants with similar academic and professional profiles. In these cases, we use the following criteria:

- Evidence of interest in, and motivation and commitment to, the study of Veterinary Science
- Wider interests, including sport, music, drama and contribution to the community
- Standard of written English and attitude to studies

Work Experience

Bristol does not have any specific work experience requirements for entry. Instead, within the Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire you will be asked to draw on your relevant experiences to support your answers. Bristol uses the term 'experiences' to denote a range of different activities and guidance around experiences to support your application can be found here: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/vet-school/study/undergraduate/guidance/>

Veterinary Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ)

Once we have received the UCAS application, applicants will be sent an email containing a link to the Veterinary Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire. **Please ensure you read**

the email carefully before starting, as it contains important information about how to complete the form.

Those who meet our academic requirements will be scored on their completion the form. This score will inform which applicants receive an offer.

The form will ask a series of questions designed to enable us to assess the following criteria:

- Understanding of the factors that affect how people work together in groups;
- Ability to support statements via reflection on past experiences;
- Awareness of required attributes to succeed on the course;

The form is not available prior to application. **Applicants must return the form by the specified deadline otherwise their application will be unsuccessful.** Supporting guidance can be found here: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/vet-school/study/undergraduate/guidance/>

1.4 Interviews

For these courses, applicants are not routinely interviewed. In the majority of cases, admissions decisions will be made on the basis of the application information alone.

In exceptional circumstances where an interview is deemed necessary, it will be conducted by at least two people, at least one of whom has been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques, and undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/inclusion/governance-policy-and-guidance/edi-policy-statement/>. Interviewees with a disability should contact Disability Services to discuss any support requirements they may need at interview.

The criteria for assessing interview performance may include, for example: demonstrated interest in, suitability for, and commitment to the subject; evidence of clear thinking and understanding, problem solving and analytical skills; standard of spoken English; appropriateness of the Bristol course in relation to the applicant's declared interests and aspirations; non-academic achievement and/or experience, or extra-curricular interests, that indicate the likely contribution an applicant will make to the life of the University; positions of responsibility held; other relevant skills.

1.5 Offers

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

Offers are made to applicants on the basis of supplementary assessment questionnaire scores only.

1.6 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (ie applying in the 2024 admissions cycle for 2025 entry) are accepted, and are treated in the same way as non-deferred applications.

1.7 Transfers

Transfers into the BVSc Veterinary Science: Accelerated Graduate Entry (D102) from other courses are not permitted. Applicants who wish to study this course and are currently

pursuing another degree are expected to have completed, or be in the final year of, that degree before applying for entry to the first year of D102 in the usual way.

Applicants for D102 who have been unsuccessful cannot transfer their application to the D100 (standard entry, five years) degree, and will not be considered for the five year degree by default. Applicants may apply for both courses.

1.8 Additional criteria

Fitness to Practise

Bristol Veterinary School must ensure that all students accepted on to the course are capable of completing the training required to ensure they can fulfil day-one competences required by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)

(<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-views/publications/rcvs-day-one-competences-feb-2022/>).

Applicants must be aware of the nature of the training to be undertaken and the job of the veterinary surgeon. To fulfil the requirements of the RCVS, students need to fully participate in a range of practical classes and assessments including (but not limited to) those that cover the following:

- Working individually and in teams
- Handling and restraint of all common domestic species animals (companion and farm)
- Clinical examination and treatment of all common domestic species (companion and farm)
- Dissection and Surgical Skills
- Direct exposure to abattoir processes, including performing post-mortem inspection of food-producing animals

The focus is on common domestic species and exotic pets that may be presented for veterinary attention in practice.

Veterinary professionals have a vital role to play in the health, welfare and productivity of animals kept for laboratory research as well as the production of meat, milk and other products. Whilst all values and beliefs are respected, to ensure our graduates are equipped to promote the welfare of all animals, our veterinary science courses include compulsory teaching in the husbandry and medicine of laboratory animals, along with the structure and processes of relevant parts of the food industry. For more information please see the Veterinary Schools Council UK website:

<https://www.vetschoolscouncil.ac.uk/applications/information-for-prospective-students/>

Students are also required to actively engage in practical classes and assessments around communication skills, where students are required to participate in role-play sessions.

For more information on Fitness to Practise and what is expected from applicants and the University, please visit the RCVS web site: <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-views/publications/fitness-to-practise-a-guide-for-uk-veterinary-schools-and/>

In addition to practical requirements, applicants should expect to engage in formal teaching five days a week, carry out placements during their vacation time and, during later years, are expected to work out-side of normal working hours, in a similar way to practicing veterinary surgeons. Students will be required to undertake compulsory placements in a wide variety of workplace settings during their training, including, for example, farms, veterinary practices and abattoirs. Further information about course requirements can be found here:

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/vet-school/study/undergraduate/key-information/>

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.

Occupational Health assess 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. If the panel is satisfied that the applicant is capable of undergoing standard training, it will notify the applicant accordingly, confirming any support or conditions required. If the panel is not satisfied that the applicant is capable of undergoing standard training, it will notify the applicant accordingly, explaining the reasons for the decision and subsequent withdrawal of the offer.

For more information about the pre-course occupational health questionnaire, please visit: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/safety/occupational-health/about/students/>

Fitness to train standards, used to guide decisions around occupational health clearance, can be found here: https://heops.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2019/09/1521730981HEOPS_Veterinary_Students_fitness_standards_2013_v10.pdf

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 for an applicant to register as a student on these courses.

Applicants with disabilities

Not all disabilities limit the ability of students to complete the course, 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 may jeopardise their place on the BVSc Accelerated Graduate Entry course.

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

1. All applications are acknowledged on receipt. Applicants are invited to complete a questionnaire for the University's Disability Services; this has no bearing on selection for offer.
2. Applicants are selected on the basis of admissions criteria, irrespective of any health issue/disability declared.
3. 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 (e.g. a post-16 educational psychologist report). Any concerns identified by Disability Services in relation to student support and alternative arrangements and/or fitness to practise are referred to the Faculty Disability and Health Panel via the Faculty Disability Officer.

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

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

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.

Applications for this course received before the 15 October deadline set by UCAS are guaranteed equal consideration.

International students are also welcome to apply through the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS), which is the application route offered by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC). Please note that VMCAS has an earlier application deadline of 15 September.

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 the January deadline set by UCAS, the final deadline by which applicants will receive a decision is the May deadline set by UCAS. 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:

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

2.5 Contextual information

This course is not eligible for contextual offers, as offers are not based on school-leaving qualifications.

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

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

2.6 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:

<http://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:

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/>

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 on when their exam results are released.

Please see our results web page for further information: <http://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.