

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:
2026

Courses covered:
B760 Dental Therapy (BDT)
B770 Dental Hygiene (BDH)

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:

A-Level 40% | Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire 60%

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:

<http://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 Additional criteria

Work Experience and Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire

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

Qualified Dental Nurses will be considered on the basis of their post-qualification professional experience within Dentistry but must also 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 (SAQ) 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.

Please note that applicants cannot apply and be considered for both the Dental Therapy (BDT) and Dental Hygiene (BDH) at Bristol.

Occupational health clearance

All offers are subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance. Applicants who accept our offer as their firm choice will be asked to complete and return the pre-course health questionnaire by the specified deadline. Further information can be found at:

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

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 dental/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.

1.4 Personal Statement and Reference

Applications are primarily assessed based on a combination of academic qualifications and Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) score. You can find details of how these scores are weighted in section 1.1 of this admissions statement.

We do not normally consider the personal statement and reference as part of our selection criteria. Should we need to differentiate between applicants who have identical scores at interview when making offers, the total score as shown in section 1.1 will be used as our primary differentiator. Should there be a situation where applicants achieve the same interview result and score, only then might the personal statement be used as a deciding factor. In these cases, we look for:

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

1.5 Interviews

Interviews will form part of the selection criteria for the Dental Therapy programme for the 2025/26 admissions cycle and all applicants who are selected for interview must attend in order to be considered. No offers are made without the applicant first attending an interview, unless there are exceptional circumstances involved. 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 dental hygiene and therapy and to give you the opportunity to display insight into a range of related topics. Photo identification will be required at interview.

Applicants are assessed using a formal online interview system, covering different aspects of the skills and knowledge required to be a successful dental hygienist and therapist.

Applicants' performance at the interviews is scored by assessors and ranked by the Admissions Office. Those candidates 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 total score as shown in section 1.1 is our primary differentiator for distinguishing between applicants with identical interview scores.

Interviewees with a disability should contact Disability Services to discuss any support requirements they may need at interview.

Further information about interviews can be found on our web pages:

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

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: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/mature/>

1.7 Offers

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 (i.e. applying in 2025/26 for 2027 entry) are **not considered**. If you do wish to apply for 2027 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 years two and three 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

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 received before the 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 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

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 a variety of reasons.

Eligibility and 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.

However, **if you are applying with your grades already achieved** we will not consider, under any circumstances, applicants who do not meet the published A level entry requirement in Biology (or in an equivalent qualification). You will need to be resitting the required qualification (or be taking another suitable qualification) to be eligible for this course.

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 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.