

Undergraduate Admissions Statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures:
<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2026/>



Year of Admissions cycle

2026

Courses covered

International Foundation Programme (IFP) for Dentistry

1. Admissions process

All applicants are considered on an equal basis in line with the University's Equality and Diversity Policy.

Applicants are asked to complete an online application form (available on the eVision) and upload the supporting documents (IELTS certificate, high school graduation certificate and transcript, an academic reference from the student's school, a personal statement, and a copy of their passport).

All applications are considered by the IFP Admissions Team who assess the qualifications, personal statement, and academic reference for evidence of:

- Academic and English language achievements and potential
- Interest, motivation, and commitment to the programme.

The University is committed to creating a diverse learning environment where all students are valued for their individual differences and contribution, with equal opportunities for all irrespective of age, disability, race, sex, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.

2. Eligibility criteria

The International Foundation Programme (IFP) for Dentistry is designed for overseas students (non-UK students) wishing to enter dental (BDS) degree programmes in the UK, including at the University of Bristol, but whose national secondary school leaving qualifications are currently insufficient without additional study.

The IFP is not intended for overseas students who already have qualifications which are listed as acceptable for entry to dental (BDS) degree programmes in the UK. For more information on accepted qualifications please see: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries/>

All university graduates and those who have already started a university course, including a foundation course, are not eligible for the IFP, regardless of their previous secondary school grades.

To be eligible, the applicant must:

- demonstrate excellent overseas secondary school grades in the sciences, one of which must be Chemistry.
- have a valid (taken within 2 years of the date of course commencement) overall IELTS band score of 7.0, with no individual component band score below 6.5.

3. Personal statement criteria

Given the large number of applications we receive, we necessarily place substantial emphasis on the quality of the personal statement, in particular:

- Evidence of commitment to, and realistic interest in, a career in Dentistry
- Why the University of Bristol IFP would be the appropriate route for the applicant into Dentistry professional programmes
- Life skills such as communication skills, personal resilience and emotional stamina, organisational/leadership qualities, good time management and problem-solving skills
- Evidence of altruism/voluntary work, enjoyment in helping others, experience in caring roles, or community/school involvement. *

*Applicants should have some practical work experience in a relevant area to show their commitment to the programme and career. This does not have to be clinical experience (in a hospital, GP practice or animal clinic), and can include work placements undertaken as part of a course or as independent voluntary work. There is no minimum number of hours or weeks required.

4. Interviews

Based on the application and required supporting documents, applicants will be shortlisted and considered for interview pre-offer as part of the selection process. Such interviews are conducted remotely via video calls, with a small panel of staff which will include the Programme Director and at least one member of staff who has been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques and are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

The following criteria will be considered when assessing the interview performance:

- Academic achievement and potential
- Interest, motivation, and commitment to the programme
- Communication skills

5. Aspirational offers

Due to the competitive nature of this programme, we will only consider applicants who are predicted to achieve (or have already achieved) the entry requirements in full.

6. Mature applicants

Mature students (those aged 21 and over) receive the same consideration as other candidates. However, we may ask for information about what the applicant has been doing for the intervening years since leaving secondary school, to assess whether an applicant might be better applying directly for undergraduate studies.

7. Deferred applications

Deferrals will not be allowed. Applications will only be considered in the cycle in which they are submitted, and under the policies in place for that cycle.

8. Resits

Students who have completed resits of their secondary school examinations will be considered for IFP admission.

9. Transfers

Transfer requests from one Foundation Programme within the UK to the University of Bristol International Foundation Programme will not be considered.

9. Admissions team

Applications are received by the Faculty and approved by the Programme Director or nominee.

10. Admissions process

We assess applicants on the basis of their application, required supporting documents and interview 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 deadline are guaranteed equal consideration. To assess an application, we require the following documents:

- Online application
- IELTS certificate
- High school graduation certificate
- High school graduation transcript
- Academic reference from the student's school
- Personal statement
- Sponsorship details if any
- Copy of the student's passport.

Applicants who satisfy the entry requirements will be offered a pre-offer interview as part of the selection process.

Conditional offers will be made for those applicants who have not received their final school grades or IELTS. However, all applicants must fulfil all entry requirements when they register to the IFP.

Once a decision has been made, the applicant will be informed the outcome by email. If a successful applicant decides to accept the offer, they are encouraged to do so through application portal, and provide any required supporting documents as soon as they are available before the set deadline.

The offer letter will include information on how to pay the deposit and subsequent steps of the admission process.

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.

11. Correspondence with applicants

All correspondence relating to an applicant's status is sent by email. If an applicant nominates an agent, we will also send correspondence to the agent. If the contact details change, we ask applicants to inform us by email: fohs-ifp@bristol.ac.uk

12. Academic reference criteria

A reference should be provided by a personal tutor from the applicant's school. 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, and 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
- Suitability for a future career in Dentistry.

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 15: Extenuating circumstances).

13. International applicants

Only international (non-UK) applicants are eligible to apply for this programme.

There is one standard fee for the International Foundation Programme whether students are eligible for home or international fees (e.g. under the Ukraine schemes). The fees for the undergraduate course following successful progression from the IFP would then be set at the appropriate home or international fee.

14. English language requirements

Applicants must have a valid (taken within 2 years of the date of application) overall IELTS band score of 7.0 with no individual component band score below 6.5.

It is expected that a student enrolling on the IFP would have an IELTS band score of 7.0 overall and would progress to IELTS band score 7.5 overall during the programme (as would be required for acceptance on to Bristol dental programmes).

English language requirements for undergraduate courses including Dentistry can be found at: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/language-requirements/>

15. 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.

16. Applicants' age

Applicants who are under the age of 18 on registration as a student at the University are required to complete a form signed by a parent/guardian as a condition of registration. This provides confirmation that the parent/guardian understands the University's responsibilities and gives details of an emergency contact in the UK.

The University has a risk assessment for applicants who are under the age of 18 on registration (or under the age of 18 at the beginning of any academic year), which considers steps that need to be taken to admit and support such applicants and fulfil safeguarding duties.

Applicants who are under the age of 18 must be at least 18 years of age by the 1st of October in their year of entry to the undergraduate dental programme (BDS) at the University of Bristol in order to undertake clinical learning, as students must be able to have legal capacity to be bound by the rules of confidentiality of the NHS partners.

17. Policies

All applications are considered in line with our Admissions Principles and Procedures for undergraduate courses: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2026/>

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.

18. Visit day

We understand that it is difficult for international students to visit the University of Bristol.

We do however encourage students to visit if they would like to:

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

19. Deposits

International self-funded students are required to pay a deposit of £2,000.

Applicants can pay this deposit online at: <http://bris.ac.uk/online-payments/deposits> using a credit or debit card. Alternatively, students can pay through the university's student payments provider [Flywire](#).

The deposit is non-transferable and non-refundable except under the circumstances outlined in the International Deposits Refund Policy which is available at: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/fees-finance/refunds/policy/>

Students may pay their deposit in advance of meeting the conditions of their offer. If they subsequently fail to meet the conditions attached to their offer and are therefore rejected from the course on academic grounds, then a refund will be made. To make the payment, students will need their student number which can be found in the offer letter.

20. Additional information

If information about entry requirements is unavailable for an applicant's country, please email: fohs-ifp@bristol.ac.uk

21. Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to fohs-ifp@bristol.ac.uk