

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:
2027

Courses covered:
D100 Veterinary Science (BVSc)

1. Course specific information:

1.1 Admissions process

Applications are considered based on their academic record, according to their achieved or predicted results and assessment of the Veterinary Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ). Applicants who meet the minimum academic requirements will have their responses to the SAQ read and scored.

Applications are ranked based on both their academic record and their SAQ scores. Offers are made to the top-ranking applicants using the following weightings:

GCSE 10% | A-Level 20% | SAQ score 70%

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. International applicants are subject to the criteria detailed on our international web page: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries/>

Graduates applying to Bristol Veterinary School are expected to have completed or be in the final year of a degree. If an applicant has started a degree and is in the first or second year of their studies, or if they do not intend to complete their degree, they will need to meet the standard A-level or equivalent entry requirements as laid out in the [course finder](#) in order to be considered.

Applicants for D100 Veterinary Science who have been unsuccessful cannot transfer their application to the D102 Veterinary Science, Accelerated Graduate Entry (BVSc) degree, and will not be considered for the four year degree by default. Applicants may apply for both courses.

1.3 Personal statement criteria

Applications are ranked based on both their academic record and their SAQ assessment scores. You can find details of how these scores are weighted in section 1.1 of this admissions statement.

We do not normally use the UCAS personal statement and reference to assess applications. However, if a large number of applicants have the same academic and SAQ score and cannot be otherwise differentiated, we may use the personal statement to help make final decisions. In these cases, we look for:

- Evidence of interest in, and motivation and commitment to, the study of Veterinary Science;
- Attitude to studies;
- Wider interests, including sport, music, drama and contribution to the community.

1.3a Work Experience

Bristol does not have any specific work experience requirements for entry. Instead, within the SAQ 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:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/vet-school/study/undergraduate/guidance/>

1.3b 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 (SAQ).

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. The form will ask a series of questions designed to enable us to assess applicants':

- Awareness of required attributes to succeed on the course;
- Understanding of the job roles of the veterinary surgeon and the challenges they may face.
- Understanding of the factors that affect how people work together in groups.

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:

<http://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:

<http://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 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 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 most recent study was completed more than three years ago, 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.

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

1.6 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.

1.7 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (i.e. applying in 2026/27 for 2028 entry) are accepted, and are treated in the same way as non-deferred applications. In the interest of fairness to the following cycle of applicants, we only make a limited number of deferred offers.

1.8 Resits

The department will consider applicants who resit their qualifications.

1.9 Transfers

Applicants wishing to transfer from another veterinary school may apply via UCAS but, due to the integrated nature of the course, transfer is only possible into year one.

Graduates applying to Bristol Veterinary School are expected to have completed or be in the final year of a degree. If an applicant has started a degree and is in the first or second year of their studies, or if they do not intend to complete their degree, they will need to meet the standard A-level or equivalent entry requirements as laid out in the [course finder](#) in order to be considered.

Please refer to our web page for further information on transfers:
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/transfers/>

1.10 Additional criteria

1.10a 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)
[rcvs-day-one-competences-2023 \(5\).pdf](#)

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:

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

Students are also required to actively engage in case based learning sessions, 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: [fitness to practise.indd](#)

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:

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

1.10b 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 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/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/after-accepting/questionnaires/>

Fitness to train standards used to guide decisions around occupational health clearance can be found here:

[Veterinary-Students—Standards-of-medical-fitness-to-train-3.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.

1.10c Applicants with disabilities

Not all disabilities limit the ability of students to complete these activities, 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 veterinary 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 interview or 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 any 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 <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/disability-services/>

For more information about the pre-course occupational health questionnaire, please visit: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/after-accepting/questionnaires/>

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.

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.

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:

<http://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 an applicant is **applying with their grades already achieved**, we will not consider, under any circumstances, applicants who do not meet the published entry requirements in Chemistry and one of Biology, Physics, Mathematics or Further Mathematics (or in an equivalent qualification). Applicants 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:

<http://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.