

Undergraduate admissions statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the [University's admissions principles and procedures](#).

Year of admissions cycle: 2015

Courses covered:

MBChB Medicine (A100 – standard entry, five years)
MBChB Medicine (A101 – graduate entry, four years)

Admissions process

1. Admissions team

Applications are assessed by a centralised team in close co-operation with admissions tutor/s.

2. Application assessment methods

All applications are considered on an equal basis. Applications are not segregated by the type of educational institution attended. Applications that are received on time (in line with UCAS deadlines) are guaranteed equal consideration. The following procedure applies to all applicants who meet the UCAS application deadline of 15th October. We cannot consider any applications submitted after this date.

Applications are scored on a range of academic and qualitative criteria (see **Criteria for assessing applicants** below). Applications are then sorted into three categories, according to agreed thresholds:

- i) Interview
- ii) Hold
- iii) Unsuccessful.

- Applicants in category i) are invited for interview.
- Applicants not immediately selected for interview are put in category ii) 'Hold' until later in the application cycle when a review might result in some of these applicants being invited for interview.
- Applicants in category iii) are notified through UCAS that their application has been unsuccessful. For questions regarding feedback, please see the University's Applicant Feedback and Complaint Procedures:

www.bristol.ac.uk/university/governance/policies/app-comp-proc.html

All applications are allocated scores on the academic record and the personal statement/reference; the combined score determines which applicants will be invited to attend an interview. The weighting is as follows:

- Academic score: 20% (A-level score: 12%, GCSE score: 8%)
- Personal Statement/Reference score: 80%

Applicants for A101 (graduate entry, four years) who have been unsuccessful cannot transfer their application to the A100 (standard entry, five years) degree, and will not be considered for the five-year degree instead by default. Applicants may apply for both courses but, if successful, would only be made an offer for one.

Applicants are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion, disability (other than the nationally set requirements of 'fitness to practise') or age (although it is unlikely that applicants who will be under 17 on entry would be able to demonstrate sufficient life experience to fulfil the selection criteria).

3. Interview or visit day

All candidates who are selected for interview must attend in order to be considered.

No offers for medicine are made without the applicant first attending an interview. This does not mean that we interview all applicants (see **Criteria for assessing applicants: 6. Interview** below).

4. Correspondence with applicants

All correspondence relating to an application's status will be sent by email.

All applications are acknowledged by email on receipt (starting in mid-September), to establish contact and inform the applicant of the process to be followed.

Applicants will be contacted by email to inform them of any of the following changes to their application status:

- Application is unsuccessful before interview stage;
- Application is 'on hold' and may be invited to an interview at a later date;
- Applicant is being invited to attend an interview;
- Applicant has been unsuccessful at interview;
- Applicant is 'on hold' after interview;
- Applicant has received an offer post-interview.

The email inviting applicants to interview will direct applicants to an online booking facility allowing them to register themselves for an available date.

5. Deferred applications

Applicants can apply for deferred entry for the five-year (A100) course, but in fairness to the following cycle of applicants we can only make a limited number of deferred offers in each

cycle. We do not consider deferred applications for the four-year graduate entry (A101) course.

It will not be possible to defer an application once it has been submitted, either before or after a decision has been made. Applications for deferred entry must be made at the point of submitting an application.

Criteria for assessing applicants

1. Academic entry requirements

Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Baccalaureate, GCSEs) can be found in the [undergraduate course finder](#). Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on their individual merits; [further information](#) is available.

2. Additional academic criteria

Applicants are expected to complete three A-levels (or equivalent qualifications) within a single two-year exam period. A fourth A-level will not confer an advantage, but applicants are expected to have studied four distinct subjects to AS-level. Please note that A-levels in General Studies or Critical Thinking are not counted as part of offers, nor are they considered in the academic assessment of applicants.

Credit is also given for the best eight GCSE subjects at A*/A. Applicants who did not achieve the minimum required GCSE results in their first sitting can apply with resits achieved or pending.

We welcome applications from those who are seeking a dual qualification with Dentistry.

A101 (graduate entry, four years) only

A101 students at the University of Bristol are exempt from the following two A100 modules:

- Molecular Basis of Medicine MCBoM Unit:
www.bristol.ac.uk/esu/unitprogcats/UnitDetails.jsa?ayrCode=14%2F15&unitCode=MEDI11120
- Student Selected Component SSC 1 & 2:
www.bristol.ac.uk/esu/unitprogcats/UnitDetails.jsa?ayrCode=14%2F15&unitCode=MEDI22130

We therefore need to assess A101 applicants' undergraduate degree content to ensure they have already covered equivalent subject matter. Applicants who have not studied this content within their undergraduate degree will not be eligible for the four-year course, but may apply for the five-year A100 degree. We do not consider degrees taken outside the UK or applications from international fee-payers, for entry to A101.

Applicants for A101 (graduate entry, four years) will be expected to supply their degree module results in full, either within their UCAS application or sent directly to the Admissions Office at the time of submitting their application. The selection team will then assess whether their grades to date and degree content are suitable. We aim to select a diverse range of suitable degree subjects and previous experiences. Applicants are expected to reach 2.1 standard overall and in all relevant modules.

3. Personal statement criteria

The personal statement forms a crucial part of the selection process in assessing each applicant's motivation and suitability for the course. The personal statement is assessed to see if the applicant has demonstrated:

- a realistic interest in medicine;
- life skills;
- a wide range of interests;
- acts of altruism and voluntary work;
- communication and interaction skills.

Each of these is scored objectively.

4. Reference criteria

References should ideally be from a school or college, from a personal tutor confirming the academic potential of the applicant to study at degree level. Where this is not possible, a non-academic reference should confirm the relevant experience of the applicant. It should indicate the potential of the applicant for study at degree level.

References are read in conjunction with the personal statement and used as supporting information. Applicants with an adverse comment from their referee are unlikely to be successful.

5. Additional tests

We do not require applicants to our medical degrees in the 2015 cycle to take any additional admissions test (e.g. UKCAT, BMAT, GAMSAT) and any declared scores from these tests are not used in our selection processes.

6. Interview

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 medicine and to display insight into a range of topics related to a career in medicine.

Applicants are invited to attend a multiple mini interview (MMI) assessment, and in addition usually a tour of the University Precinct and an opportunity to meet current students.

Applicants are required to complete a form prior to attending the interview which documents the type and duration of their work experience.

At the interview, applicants will move around a series of ten MMI stations, each taking five minutes, and will be assessed on a particular criterion at each. Each station will be directed by one or two interviewers as appropriate. Interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities. At least one member of the interviewing staff is trained in fair and effective recruitment, and at least one interviewer is a member of the Medical Admissions Committee.

All interviews in the 2015 cycle will take place at the University of Bristol.

Extra time in assessments

If you are invited to interview and are usually entitled to extra time in assessments due to a disability (such as dyslexia), you can request to be allowed extra time in the MMIs. Please follow the [instructions for requesting extra time](#) on our medicine interviews web page. It will not be possible to allow extra time if you have not submitted a request and had this granted prior to interview; a specific interview date will be allocated for applicants requesting extra time.

After interview

Applicants' performance on the MMIs will be scored by assessors and ranked by the Admissions office. Those candidates with the strongest overall performance will receive offers.

7. Mature applicants

Mature applicants who are not applying straight from formal education would be expected to demonstrate recent academic study (ie within five years of applying).

8. International applicants

The academic requirements for international applicants are exactly the same as those for home applicants, and international applicants are subject to the same MMI process as home applicants.

International applicants will be subject to the academic criteria as detailed here:

www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries

Currently, 19 places (7.5 per cent of the total intake) are available for applicants liable to pay 'overseas fees'. Only the highest-rated applicants are selected for interview.

Overseas fee-payers and/or holders of non-UK degrees are not eligible to apply for A101 (four-year graduate course).

9. English Language requirements for non-native speakers

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 at www.bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

10. Contextual information

We take a holistic approach to all applications, ensuring that the educational and social context in which an applicant applies is taken into consideration, where supported by clear evidence that this may have adversely affected academic achievement. This may include time spent in Local Authority care, information about which can be provided in the application.

As part of our commitment to the UK national agenda on widening participation, we consider the educational context in which grades have been achieved, particularly if there is evidence that an applicant's current school or college performs below a defined threshold.

When assessing whether applicants meet our academic requirements, contextual criteria may be applied to those who attend and apply from a school or college which in the previous year ranked in the bottom 40 per cent in any of the following categories:

- average score per A-level entry
- average score per A-level entrant
- percentage of students applying to higher education.

If an applicant meets one of these criteria, we will raise their predicted/achieved grades by one grade in our rankings; ie an AAB applicant will be awarded the same academic score as an AAA applicant. Applicants still need to satisfy specific subject requirements. Contextual offers are usually one grade lower than the standard offer.

The University reviews its definition of educational disadvantage and low-performing schools each year and each case is considered on an individual basis.

We also consider evidence of clear motivation to study. This may include participation in higher education outreach activities, attendance at a University summer school or a targeted Access Scheme (such as Access to Bristol or Realising Opportunities where applicants receive special consideration and in some cases, guaranteed and/or lower offers; please see the [University's admissions principles and procedures](#) for more information). We do not take the following into consideration when making admissions decisions: the school type attended by an applicant (e.g. independent school, state school, academy), or whether an applicant's parent has any experience of higher education.

Offers

Typical offers for A-levels and other UK qualifications can be found in the entry data in the online [undergraduate course finder](#). Offers to applicants with non-standard qualifications will be made equivalent to the published A-level offer.

We may make lower 'contextual' offers based on whether an applicant is deemed to have experienced educational disadvantage, as defined in section 7.5 of the [University's admissions principles and procedures](#) (see also **Criteria for assessing applicants: 10. Contextual information** above).

If you are not qualified or have an unsuitable academic background for the course to which you originally applied, we may offer you 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. Please note that receipt of this email does not guarantee that an offer will be made.

Other

1. Transfers

Requests for transfers into the medical school at Bristol are not considered; neither are applications from candidates who have failed to complete another degree. Graduates applying to the medical school are expected to have completed or be in the final year of a degree. It is also not possible to apply for entry into year two of a medicine degree.

2. Additional information

The University can only guarantee places if the exact terms of the offer are met, however offer holders may not automatically be rejected if the terms of the offer are missed narrowly.

If offer holders do not meet the terms of their offer when exam results are released they may be considered as a 'near miss candidate'. All near miss candidates are reviewed mid-August after those who have met the terms of their offer have been confirmed. International offer holders may be reconsidered earlier depending when their exam results are released.

Criminal records check

All medical students are required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, in line with most applicants for health-related courses in the UK.

Occupational health clearance

All offers are made subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance. A form is issued in May with a specific deadline in early June. If this is not returned by the deadline, an applicant's place may be at risk.

It is the responsibility of the medical school to ensure that students accepted on the course are able to complete the training and achieve the competencies required by the General Medical Council (GMC) for full registration after the first year of the foundation programme. The medical school must consult the GMC if there is doubt and if it proposes a modification of experience to achieve the competencies.

Applicants with a disability

A clear plan to enable a disabled student to achieve competency must be agreed before the student enters the course. Not all disabilities limit the experience of doctors in training in this way, but applicants should disclose any disability in their UCAS application and be prepared to release their medical details in order for us to assess the situation. Failure to disclose a disability which might impinge upon an applicant's capacity to ultimately carry out their required duties in full will be considered unprofessional. This could put at risk their fitness to practise and might jeopardise their place on the medicine course.

The procedure for dealing with health and/or disability Issues is set out below:

- i) All applications are acknowledged; those who have declared a disability are invited to complete a questionnaire for the University's Disability Services; this has no bearing on selecting applicants for interview and offer. Disability Services can also offer appropriate and accessible support, plus advice about funding available for disabled students.
- ii) Applicants with a declared disability who have been selected for interview using the University's admissions criteria for interview (as described above) will be invited, irrespective of the health issue/disability they have declared. Applicants should contact the university's Disability Services to discuss any support requirements they may need at interview. During the admissions interview, the applicant's disability will not be considered or discussed, except in the case of applicants who have applied for extra time (see **Criteria for assessing applicants: 6. Interview** above).
- iii) If, following the interview, it is agreed that the applicant should be offered a place on the course, the applicant will be made an offer subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance.
- iv) If the applicant has declared a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D, the applicant will be advised to contact Disability Services, who may request additional information (eg 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 concerns for an individual student will be referred to the Faculty Disability and Health Panel via the Faculty Disability Officer.
- v) For all other disabilities, a pre-course health questionnaire will need to be completed and returned to the Occupational Health Service. The Occupational Health Service will be responsible for assessing the health questionnaire according to recognised clinical and professional standards. The Occupational Health Adviser or Physician will forward their report to the Faculty Disability Officer who will present it, if necessary, to the Disability and Health Panel for the consideration of any health issues which could impact on fitness to practice.
The panel membership may include the Faculty Education Manager, Director of Student Affairs, Pre-Clinical Programme Director, Chairman of the Medical Admissions Committee, Occupational Health representative, Disability Services representative, Clinical Dean, Equality and Diversity Manager, Faculty Disability Office, Psychiatrist, GP and Medical Admissions Co-ordinator.
- vi) If the panel is satisfied that the applicant is capable of undergoing standard Foundation training, correspondence confirming any support, requirements or conditions will be sent.
- vii) If the panel is not satisfied that the applicant is capable of undergoing standard Foundation training, correspondence explaining the reasons will be sent, and the offer will be withdrawn.
- viii) If appropriate, an application would be submitted to the General Medical Council on the applicant's behalf, to request approval of an alternative pattern of training. If this request were to be turned down, the applicant's application to the medical course would also have to be turned down.

For further information on the available support arrangements, please see www.bristol.ac.uk/disabilityservices

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to the Undergraduate Admissions Office: med-admissions@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 928 7679.