

## 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:**

BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science (DC37)

## 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.

All applicants are allocated scores based on their academic record, which forms 100 per cent of our assessment (65 per cent A-levels or equivalent, 35 per cent GCSEs).

Applications will be assessed on the basis of their application only; we cannot take into account any additional information received from an applicant or institution, unless we have requested it.

We do not consider any direct applications to the University.

Applicants are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, or age.

### **3. Interview or visit day**

All applicants who meet the academic criteria are invited to attend an interview at the School of Veterinary Sciences at Langford. The event will include a presentation from the Programme Director, the opportunity for students and their parents to tour the facilities and ask questions of staff, as well as a short interview which will be conducted by two members of the admissions team (at least one of whom will have been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques). The interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

### **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 then be contacted by email to inform them of any of the following changes to their application status:

- Application is unsuccessful before interview stage;
- Applicant is being invited to attend an interview;
- Applicant has received an offer post-interview;
- Applicant has been unsuccessful at interview.

## **5. Deferred applications**

Applications for deferred entry (ie 2016) are welcome.

## **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**

Not applicable.

### **3. Personal statement criteria**

In some cases we may refer to the personal statement and reference to differentiate between applicants with very similar academic profiles. If this is the case, then the criteria will include the following:

- Evidence of an understanding of the role of the qualified veterinary nurse both at undergraduate and professional level;
- Work experience within veterinary practice as well as related experience;
- Interest in and commitment to the subject;
- Evidence of clear thinking and understanding;
- Problem-solving, analytical and practical skills;
- Communication skills;
- Appropriateness of the course to their declared interests and aspirations;
- Non-academic achievement/experience, extra-curricular activities, positions of responsibility.

Your personal statement should explain your reasons for wanting to study the course and why you think that you would make a good veterinary nurse. You will need to show that you fully grasp what is involved and have a realistic view of what it is to be a veterinary nurse, demonstrating that you are a reliable and conscientious person interested in the welfare of animals and their owners.

You will need to have obtained relevant experience within a small animal veterinary practice, which should be at least two weeks in total and may be spent in one or more practices. This work experience should give you an understanding of the veterinary nurse's role. We will expect you to be able to demonstrate that you have a sound underpinning knowledge of the various procedures that you have observed, and be able to discuss related ethical questions and the nurse's role in any decisions that were made.

#### **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.

We will look for evidence of the following:

- An interest in the welfare of animals and people;
- Demonstration of commitment to veterinary nursing as a potential career path;
- A strong background in chemistry and biology;
- Ability to work as part of a team as well as on their own;
- Good communication skills;
- Reasons for any unexpectedly low academic performance.

#### **5. Additional tests**

All applicants who are invited for interview are given the opportunity to expand upon their personal statement by means of a number of written questions relating to their proposed career choice and reasons for choosing this degree as well as their relevant work experience.

#### **6. Interview**

At the interview, you can expect to discuss your reasons for your proposed choice of career, and how your work experience has informed this choice. You should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the demands and opportunities that you would encounter as a veterinary nurse, and also be able to make intelligent comments about current issues in veterinary nursing science.

You should also be able to talk about your reasons for applying to our veterinary school, and what appeals to you about studying at Bristol. Following the interview, the admissions team will make a final decision on applications and interviewees will be notified in due course.

#### **7. Mature applicants**

We welcome applications from mature students. Mature students are considered against the same criteria as all other candidates.

#### **8. International applicants**

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

[www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries)

#### **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](http://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 recognise that some applicants may achieve higher than their predicted grades, and so we may also consider applicants who are predicted to achieve one grade below the entry requirements (as long as this is in a non-specified subject). Any offer made would be at the standard level.

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).

## Other

### 1. Transfers

Transfers are not considered. Due to the nature of our course, applicants from veterinary nursing courses elsewhere will not have sufficient science, and applicants from science courses will not have taken the required nursing units.

Please note transferring from this degree into BVSc Veterinary Science is not possible.

### 2. Additional information

Certain health conditions may be incompatible with a career in veterinary nursing. If you have a chronic health problem or a physical disability, you should contact the admissions office who will, in most cases, be able to reassure you that a career in veterinary nursing is possible.

In determining who to admit and who to graduate from this degree, the veterinary school must follow the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' (RCVS) professional, prescribed standards as well as our own academic standards and regulations. We do not have the discretion to offer individuals dispensation from parts of the course as graduation leads to automatic inclusion on the RCVS Register and the legal right to practise as a registered veterinary nurse within the UK.

Applicants should therefore expect to discuss any factors that may influence their ability to meet the requirements of the RCVS for veterinary nursing. This will enable us to discuss the clinical nursing competencies set by the RCVS and to make an informed decision regarding the applicant's ability to cope with the requirements of the degree course, as well as possible coping strategies that may be employed to enable the applicant to gain sufficient clinical nursing competence at the end of the course.

Applicants should be able to carry out all the tasks normally undertaken by veterinary nurses. If this is in doubt, then such a case will be addressed on an individual basis and additional expert advice may be sought to inform our decision.

## **Contacts for enquiries**

Any enquiries should be addressed to the Undergraduate Admissions Office:

vet-ug- admissions@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 331 7203.