

## Undergraduate Admissions Statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures: [www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2021/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2021/)

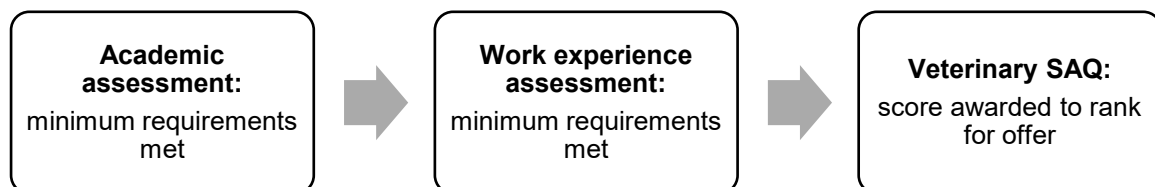
Year of Admissions cycle:  
2021

Courses covered:  
BVSc Veterinary Science (D100)

### 1. Course specific information:

#### 1.1 Admissions process

Applicants are assessed based on their academic record, according to their achieved or predicted results, on their completed work experience and on further assessment of the Veterinary Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) (see 1.3 below).



Applicants who meet the minimum academic requirements will then be reviewed to check whether they already meet the minimum work experience requirements (Section A of the SAQ) and then have Section B of the Veterinary SAQ read and scored. Ranking for offers is based solely on assessment of Section B and offers are made to the top ranking applicants.

#### 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:

[www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/](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:

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

#### 1.3 Additional Criteria

##### **Personal statement criteria**

We do not normally use the UCAS personal statement to assess applications. Instead, we rank applicants who fulfil our academic and work experience requirements, solely on the basis of the completed Section B of the Veterinary Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire.

In some cases, we may refer to the personal statement and reference to differentiate between applicants with similar academic and professional profiles. In these cases, we use the following criteria:

- 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
- Standard of written English

### **Work Experience**

Our typical requirements are that applicants must have one week's (35 hours) work experience in a veterinary practice and one week's (35 hours) work experience in an animal-related setting (70 hours in total). This work experience must be undertaken in the three years prior to the application cycle opening (ie for 2021 entry, work experience placements should have been completed between 1 September 2017 and 31 October 2020). We do not consider future work experience placements and applicants will not be given extra credit in exceeding the required amount.

We are aware that many applicants will have been unable to undertake work experience during the coronavirus crisis. Please be assured that we will be taking the situation into account and you will not be penalised should your ability to gain relevant work experience have been adversely affected. We encourage applicants to seek opportunities to develop their awareness of the role of a veterinary practitioner, and the skills and attributes required of such roles through means such as online research, supporting their families and communities, etc.

Applicants who have been unable to gain the required amount of work experience prior to application are still welcome to apply. You will be asked to complete the Supplementary Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) as described below. We may ask those with less than the required amount of work experience to complete a newly developed Virtual Work Experience Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) provided by FutureLearn ([www.futurelearn.com/courses/vet-school-application-support](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/vet-school-application-support)) in lieu of work experience, and/or complete a further reflective piece of work, to demonstrate their understanding and awareness of the role of a veterinary practitioner. This must be completed where it has been requested in order to be considered for an offer. Completion of the MOOC does not guarantee an offer of a place. While we do not routinely interview for this course, if you are required to attend an interview and also need to complete the MOOC, we will ask that you complete the MOOC prior to attending your interview.

The [FutureLearn Virtual Work Experience MOOC](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/vet-school-application-support) is free to undertake and will have multiple start dates over the course of the year. All UK vet schools which require work experience have agreed to accept completion of this course in place of some or all in-person work experience, and have contributed to producing the course content. If you choose to complete this MOOC in advance of applying, please ensure you take a screenshot evidencing completion of the course to provide as evidence if we ask you to complete the course later.

### **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. **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 of Section B of the form.

**Section A** of the form (*Work Experience*) will enable applicants to declare their work experience placements so that the minimum work experience requirement can be checked. Where applicants are unable to demonstrate the required amount of work experience, we may ask them to complete a specific MOOC and/or a further reflective piece of work.

**Section B** of the form (*Attributes, Experiences, Understanding and Reflection*). The form will ask a series of questions designed to enable us to assess the following criteria:

- Awareness of required attributes to succeed on the course
- Ability to reflect on experiences and recognise own strengths and weaknesses
- Understanding the role of the veterinary surgeon in society

The form is not available prior to application. **Applicants must return the form by the specified deadline otherwise their application will be unsuccessful.**

### **Applicants with a disability**

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 competencies required by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) ([www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/day-one-competences/](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/day-one-competences/)).

Applicants must be aware of the nature of the training to be undertaken and the job of the veterinary surgeon. In order to fulfil the requirements of the RCVS students need to fully participate in a range of practical classes and assessments including those that cover the following:

- Handling and restraint of animal patients
- Performance of a clinical exam
- Performance of first aid

The above could involve any species including (but not limited to) small animals, farm animals, exotics and equine.

Students are also required to engage in practical classes and assessments around communication skills, where students are required to engage in role-play sessions. 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.

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 dealing with 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 [www.bristol.ac.uk/disability-services/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/disability-services/).

## **Occupational health clearance**

All offers are subject to satisfactory occupational health clearance. Applicants who accept our offer as their firm or insurance 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: [www.bristol.ac.uk/safety/health/pre-course.html](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/safety/health/pre-course.html).

### **1.4 Interviews**

For this course, 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, with 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: [www.bristol.ac.uk/inclusion/governance-and-reporting/equality-and-diversity-policy/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/inclusion/governance-and-reporting/equality-and-diversity-policy/). 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, and of 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 required to provide evidence of study and examinations within the last five years. In particular we look for evidence of:

- Computer literacy
- Experience formal assessment e.g exam/coursework
- Research skills
- Academic/scientific writing

Mature applicants who do not meet our standard entry requirements and who cannot provide evidence of having engaged in the above within the last five years will usually be advised to gain some academic experience before reapplying. Current and prospective applicants in this position should consider taking an Access course, A-level, Open University foundation module or equivalent. Please contact the Admissions team regarding the suitability of your intended programme.

Further information can be found on our web pages: [www.bristol.ac.uk/study/mature/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/mature/)

### 1.6 Offers

We recognise that some applicants may achieve higher than their predicted grades, and so we may also consider applicants who are predicted to achieve slightly below the entry requirements (usually in a non-specified subject). Any offer made would be at the standard level.

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 (those made in 2020/21 for 2022 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. Applicants who did not apply for deferred entry initially, but who wish to defer after receiving an offer, must request deferral by 28 February 2021 or within 10 working days of receiving their offer (whichever is the later date). Requests received after the deadline are only considered in exceptional circumstances. We reserve the right to decline deferral requests (for example, if we have an exceptionally high number of deferred offer holders).

### 1.8 Resits

We consider applicants who are resitting GCSEs and/or A-levels (or equivalent Level 3 qualifications). A maximum of one resit is allowed in each subject.

We will only make an exception to this where there are extenuating personal circumstances (see **2.6 Extenuating Circumstances** below); the decision to allow an exception will be made at the discretion of the University. We are not able to provide guidance on if applicants would be considered due to extenuating circumstances in advance of an application.

### 1.9 Transfers

Requests for transfers into the BVSc Veterinary Science (D100) course are not considered.

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:

[www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/transfers/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/transfers/)

## 2. General

### 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 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 is sent by email.

We monitor the number of offers we make and may hold some applications until later in the cycle.

We email applicants to tell them whether 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.

The final deadline by which applicants receive a decision is 6 May. Most decisions are made before this date.

### 2.4 English language requirements

All applicants must demonstrate 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:

[www.bristol.ac.uk/study/language-requirements/](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 the following reasons: attendance at an aspiring state school or college; residence in an area with low progression to higher education; completion of a University of Bristol outreach programme; time spent in care.

Full details of the contextual offer scheme can be found online:

[www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entry-requirements-qualifications/contextual-offers/](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

Applicants whose education has been significantly disrupted through ill health, personal problems, disability or specific difficulties with schooling may submit an extenuating circumstances form: [www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/your-application/extenuating-circumstances/](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.

### 2.7 Policies

All applications are considered in line with our Admissions Principles and Procedures for undergraduate courses: [www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2021/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2021/)

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:  
[www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2021/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2021/)

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.

## 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: [www.bristol.ac.uk/results/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/results/)

## 2.9 Contacts for enquiries

If you have any questions, please contact our Enquiries team: [choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk) or +44 (0)117 394 1649.