

**UNDERGRADUATE
OPEN DAY
2012**



Advice and information for mature students

Betsy Bowerman, Mature Students' Adviser

Mature Students

- The University of Bristol welcomes mature students. We are keen to increase the number of mature students studying here. We know that mature students bring many benefits to the university community, including their motivation and life experiences. We value the contributions they make.

- MATURE STUDENTS
- What do mature students study?
- Information sessions
- Life at university
- Financing your studies
- Careers
- Accommodation
- Getting ready to apply
- Childcare
- A guide for mature students
- What do our mature students think?
- Contacts for mature students

[University home](#) > [Mature students](#) > [What do our mature students...](#) > Mature student profile

Mature student profile

Name: Cheryl Scott

Course title and year: 2nd year BVSc Veterinary Science

Why did you apply to the University of Bristol?

I came to Bristol via an Access to Science course which enabled me to apply to the veterinary degree with pre-Veterinary year. Not all Universities in the UK have veterinary degrees and those with pre-Veterinary years are even less. Bristol Veterinary School is highly acclaimed and has a reputation I wanted to be part of.



Why did you decide to study your subject?

The very simple answer is "I love animals"; however this standard simplistic response never feels adequate enough. Science and medicine have always interested me to a point of fascination and I have an innate love of life that I want every animal's experience of it to be the best it can. Fulfillment of this for me this starts with a healthy individual free from disease, parasitic burden and pain. I want to be qualified to provide this to the best of my ability and education.

Can you say a bit about your 'route' into higher education. If you were working, what did you do, and

The context of mature admissions

- Definition of mature – 21 and over on entry
- Young matures 21 – 24
- Mature matures 25 and over
- Last year over 160,000 mature students applied to HE through UCAS

Mature students at Bristol

- 1,100 out of 12,000 undergraduates
- Found in all faculties
- Medicine and Dentistry has highest percentage of mature applicants
- Postgrads, city location contribute to atmosphere

Why choose Bristol?

- Wide range of courses
- Excellent reputation
- Civic campus in vibrant city
- Good employment prospects
- Targeted by employers
- Traditional meets modern

UNDERGRADUATE
OPEN DAY
2012



What do we look for?

- Study, qualification at level 3: A level or equivalent
- Recent study, past 3-5 years
- Work and life experience considered, can enhance application
- There is flexibility, but it's limited
- Subject knowledge crucial in some areas, e.g. maths and science-based subjects

Study options at level 3

- Access courses – www.accesstohe.ac.uk
- Open University courses – www.open.ac.uk
- A levels, also by distance
- Foundation years, year 0

Sources of information

- Mature Students' Adviser
- Ucas entry profiles
- Departmental admissions statements
- Departmental websites
- Online prospectus

- course search main menu
- search
- subject search
- course code search
- UCAS bookstore
- institution guide
- help

Home/EU Search

University of Bristol
Psychology
 3 year full-time Degree

information required to complete the UCAS application :

Open for all applications	
institution code name :	BRISL
institution code :	B78
course code :	C801
start date :	01 October 2013
campus code :	see below for list of campus codes
short form of course :	BSc/Psy
further details :	see notes about this course
application deadline date:	15 January 2013

[Entry profile](#)

- > [What does this course offer me?](#)
- > [What qualifications do I need?](#)
- > [Application and selection](#)
- > [About this institution](#)

[Fees, bursaries and financial support](#)

Departmental admissions statement

- **Procedures for specific categories of applicant**
- **Mature**
- Mature applicants are welcome to apply on the basis of either A Levels or a relevant Access course. Vocational qualifications and/ or employment history may in some instances be taken into account.
- We will invite selected candidates to interview in order to assess their academic potential and ascertain their level of commitment to the academic study of history. A decision will be made after the interview.

SCHOOL OF LAW

WEBSITE INDEX ↙

- About the School
- Research
- Undergraduate Degrees
 - Our Five Programmes
 - Courses FAQs
 - Undergraduate Life
 - Admissions Information
 - General Information
 - Admissions Policy
 - The LNAT
 - **Mature Applicants**
 - Overseas Applicants
 - FAQs
 - Contacting Us
- Postgraduate Degrees
- Part-time Legal Studies
- Information for Alumni

[University home](#) > [Undergraduate Degrees](#) > [Admissions Information](#) > Mature Applicants for...

Mature Applicants for Undergraduate Programmes

- [Do you accept applications from mature students?](#)
- [What sort of qualifications will I need to be admitted?](#)
- [How do I apply?](#)

Do you accept applications from mature students?

The School of Law welcomes applications from mature students, and we keep about ten places open for them each year. The School feels that mature students have much to give both to the School and to the University, and offer a wealth of experience of work and other activities.

Even amongst mature students competition for places is very keen. We normally select a number of mature applicants for interview. Offers are made based on overall profile (including the LNAT) and performance at interview. More information can be found on the [University of Bristol's pages for mature prospective students](#), where information is provided for all prospective students about matters including life at university, financing your studies, careers, accommodation, childcare and carers.

[BACK TO TOP](#) ↑

What sort of qualifications will I need to be admitted?

All applicants must sit the LNAT. Please refer to the LNAT website or contact the Undergraduate Office for further information.



How to apply

- Through UCAS for full-time undergraduate
- Part-time – directly to faculty
- Postgraduate – online
- Cycle – 1 Sept. – 15 January, -15 October for Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Science
- Late applications until 30 June but availability limited

Making an application

- Sections include personal info, quals achieved and pending, personal statement, reference
- Personal statement vital in ‘selling’ yourself
- Reference – academic preferable but work-related is possible

The personal statement

- Clear interest in subject – evidence of reading or topic of interest
- Work or life experiences that have shaped interests
- Explanation of route taken, previous performance if needed
- Practical skills, e.g. time management
- How you can benefit from study in HE

Criteria for Medicine personal statement

- A realistic interest in Medicine
- Informed about a career in Medicine
- Demonstrated commitment to helping others
- Demonstrated a wide range of interests
- Contributed to school/college/community
- A range of personal achievements

Sample from personal statement

- I have taken the opportunity to shadow doctors working in a range of specialties and have witnessed how doctors can contribute to people's well being, not only by providing treatment but also through helping patients to understand and manage their condition.

My role has also helped me recognise the many factors that contribute to ill health and an individual's experience of it. I welcome an opportunity to combine the art of understanding human behaviour with studying the science of disease. I have seen the exciting potential of a career that is continuously developing according to changes in science, technology and society. Such experiences have enthused and inspired me to apply for a place to study Medicine.

Another sample statement

- Through the study of Biology in my first year of Access I gained an immense respect for the complex processes of life, beginning with the structure and function of the cell. Attempting to comprehend the world of this microscopic entity is mind-boggling and led to my choosing Chemistry and Higher Maths as subjects in my second year of study, in order to enhance the understanding of these concepts. Being now one term into the study of Chemistry I realise that not only does it enhance understanding of biological concepts, it underpins the understanding of all things in both the natural and man-made world.

What do admissions tutors look for?

- ‘The single most important thing is a personal statement which shows real interest in my subject.’
- ‘With mature students it’s nice to see some evidence that they’ve thought hard about the move to higher education’
- I like candidates to be honest and explain (briefly) why they have followed a slightly unusual progression to HE’

After you apply

- Many departments interview matures
- There is an additional test for Law – LNAT
- Offers would be conditional on completing a qualification or unconditional if you have qualifications already.
- Post-offer visit days

Support at university

- Mature student welcome event
- Drop-in support sessions
- Mature student faculty advocates
- Mature medics
- Personal tutor
- Access unit – dyslexia and other support
- University nursery

Life as a mature student

- Timetables, mode of delivery and assessments vary by subject
- Access to resources
- Societies and clubs
- Accommodation options, inc. Senior Resident positions
- Careers Service very useful for part-time work and long-term career help

Funding your studies

- Major concern but don't be put off
- Fee waivers, or fee waiver and bursary depending on household income
- Independent status – 25 and over
- A range of other financial support, e.g., students with children
- Do your research
- www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance
- www.bristol.ac.uk/studentfunding
-

Useful websites

- www.ucas.com/students/maturestudents
- www.accesstohe.ac.uk
- www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance
- www.unistats.com
- www.open.ac.uk

Contacts

- Betsy.bowerman@bristol.ac.uk
- 0117 954 5937
- Student-funding@bris.ac.uk
- 0117 331 7972