



Advice and information for mature students

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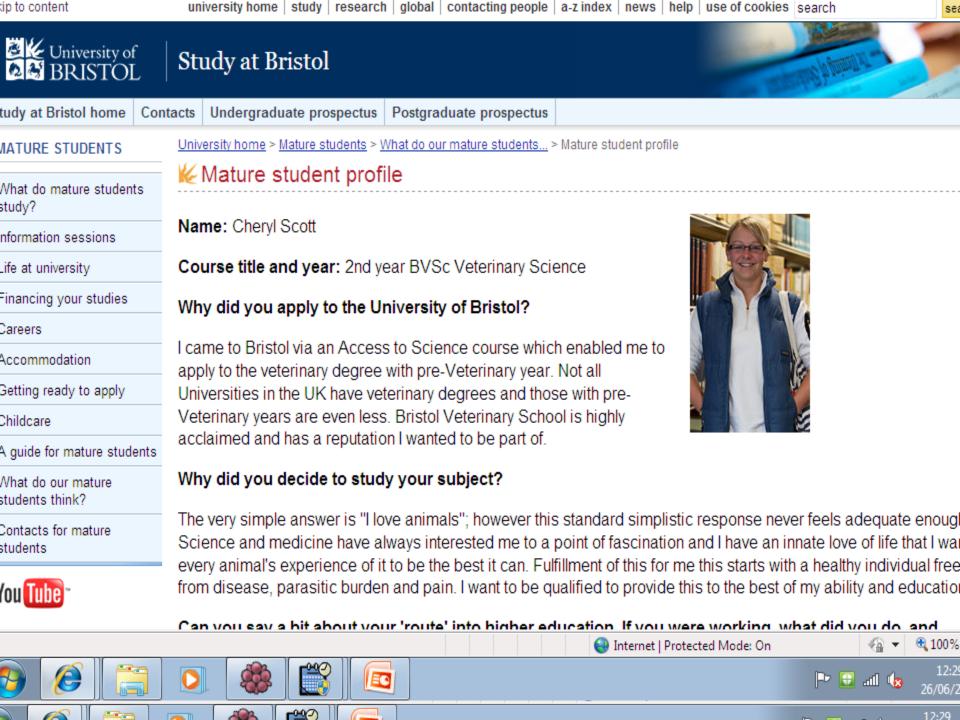


Mature Students

 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.







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





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 <u>www.accesstohe.ac.uk</u>
- Open University courses www.open.ac.uk
- A levels, also by distance
- Foundation years, year 0



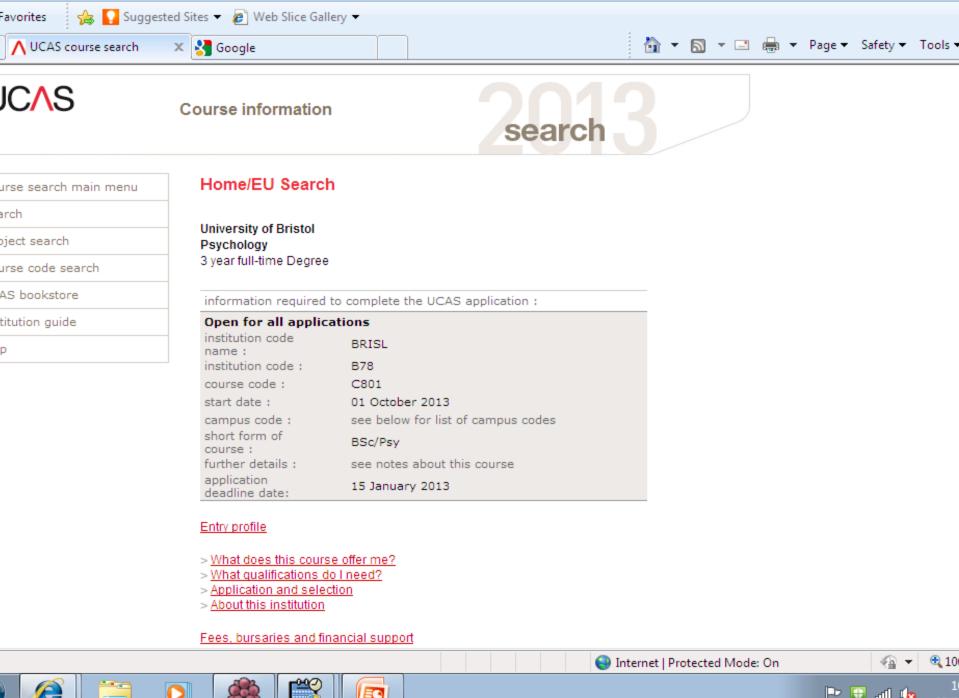


Sources of information

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





























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.







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Law home

SCHOOL OF LAW

Academic Staff

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





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