

Undergraduate Admissions Statement

1. Admissions Process

This Statement should be read in conjunction with University's Admissions Principles and Procedures (<http://www.bris.ac.uk/university/governance/policies/admissions-policy.html>).

Year of admissions cycle – 2012

Courses covered

D101 - Veterinary Science with Pre-Vet year

Admissions Team

Admissions Tutor: Dr Lynda Moore

The Admissions Panel for Bristol Veterinary School is Chaired by the Admissions Tutor and reports directly to the BVSc Programme Committee within the Faculty of Medical and Veterinary Sciences.

The Admissions Panel comprises at least twelve members of academic staff, who are actively involved in teaching and who are drawn from the various Schools that contribute to the BVSc programme.

Outline of assessment methods

All applications to UK veterinary schools have to be submitted to UCAS by October 15th.

All applications are considered on an equal basis. Applications are not segregated by the type of educational Institution attended. Applications are initially screened on the basis of educational achievements and predictions and

a *pro-forma* completed for each student. A second screening ranks the student in terms of the following:

- A realistic interest in veterinary science
- Knowledge of the scope of careers in veterinary science
- Work experience in veterinary practice, on farms and in other settings
- Interests outside veterinary science
- School/college/community activities
- Evidence of initiative and non-academic achievements

This information is obtained from the Personal Statement and the Reference. Finally, the Admissions Tutor makes a judgment as to whether the application has been:

1. Unsuccessful
2. Successful - possibly interview
3. Successful - definitely interview

Some students may be interviewed soon after selection, but others will be held for possible interview, dependent upon numbers of applicants. All students are informed of the Admissions Panel's decision in writing. The aim is to respond to all candidates within 4 weeks of receipt of application, in order to establish contact and inform the candidate of the process to be followed.

Departmental Visit Days and other correspondence with applicants

Additional assessment: (a) interviews

Interviews are held in late January through to early March. All applicants are interviewed by two individuals (at least one of whom will have been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques) using 20-minute interview slots. A third member of staff may be present in the room to observe the process. Interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities. All candidates and visitors are given a guided tour of the Langford site (the veterinary field station of the School of Clinical Veterinary Science).

Each team of interviewers is asked to place the applicants within one of three categories:

1. Exceptional

2. Acceptable
3. Unacceptable

The acceptable group is further broken down by order of merit (1 to 8).

Additional assessment: (b) tests/written work

Bristol Veterinary School does NOT require students to take the BMAT examination for entry to Veterinary Science with Pre-Veterinary Year

Procedures for specific categories of applicant

Mature students are treated in a manner similar to the above.

International students are treated in a manner similar to the above, taking into account the exam structure of the country they reside in, but they may be offered a telephone interview.

Due to the small number of places on this degree programme (5 per year), it is NOT possible to accept deferred applications.

Re-sit candidates and re-applications are considered using the same criteria.

Cross-dept/joint course admissions arrangements

2. Criteria for assessing applicants

Entry Requirements

Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Bacc, 14-19 Diploma, GCSEs) can be found in the online Undergraduate Prospectus

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2012/sections/VESC/379/admissions#entry>

Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on their individual merits; further information is available at:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/study-at-bristol/how-to-apply/country-specific/>

UK graduates are not eligible to apply for this programme.

Academic Record Criteria

For students offering subjects at A2, AS levels are NOT taken into consideration.

Only 3 subjects are required at A2; additional A levels or other qualifications (e.g. Advanced Extension exams) are not taken into consideration.

Contextual information

We take an 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 is provided in the UCAS application.

We also consider evidence of clear motivation to study. This may include attendance at a University summer school, a targeted Access Scheme (such as Access to Bristol), or participation in outreach activities. Consideration will also be given to applicants who have completed a targeted Access scheme at another university, under the 'Mutual Recognition Scheme'.

We do not take the following into consideration when making admissions decisions: the school type attended by an applicant or whether an applicant's parent has any experience of higher education.

Personal Statement Criteria

Important criteria in the Personal Statement and, particularly, the interview include:

- A proven interest in veterinary science and commitment to the subject and career
- Evidence of work experience both with veterinary surgeons as well as with animals
- Some evidence of clear thinking and understanding, problem solving, scientific knowledge and analytical skills
- Evidence of effective team working, interpersonal and communication skills
- Evidence of commitment to others
- Non-academic achievements and extra-curricular interests
- Positions of responsibility; voluntary or paid work
- Evidence of relevant reading or research beyond the school/college syllabus
- Evidence of motivation and commitment; a self-propelled learner!

Reference Criteria

The preference is for an academic reference rather than a personal one (where possible); it should support the student's personal statement but avoid repetition. The applicant's academic performance and abilities should be discussed along with any extenuating circumstances known to have affected progress. The ability of the applicant to interact with peers and teaching staff, along with positions of responsibility held within the school, is valuable information.

Criteria for international applicants (if different)

Similar to the criteria described above.

English Language requirements can be found at: <http://www.bris.ac.uk/university/governance/policies/admissions-english-lang-reqs.html>

The Veterinary School can confirm that their procedures ensure that applicants are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion, disability or age.

3. Offers

Typical offers for A-levels and other UK qualifications can be found in the Entry Data in the online UG Prospectus <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2012/sections/VESC/379/admissions#entry>

Variations in offer level

We may make lower 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.

4. Other

In determining who to admit and who to graduate we have to follow the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons's (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 membership of the RCVS and the legal right to practise veterinary surgery in the UK. We are, therefore, in this respect the gatekeeper for the veterinary profession. As a result, we require applicants to declare their disabilities when they apply. When considering disabled applicants we consider carefully the requirements of the "Day One" competencies set by the RCVS and will consider whether the applicant has sufficient coping strategies, not only to cope with the course, but also with the "Day One" competencies at the end of the course. Applicants should be able to carry out all the tasks normally undertaken by veterinary surgeons. 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.

It is NOT possible to transfer from another course onto the Veterinary Science with Pre-Veterinary Year programme. Applicants wishing to join this programme must apply through UCAS. Students may be able to transfer out of the programme onto other science degrees at the discretion of the individual Schools/universities involved.

Due to the widening participation nature of this programme, it is NOT possible to enter directly into year 2. It is not possible to enter directly into year two.

Professor Jo Price

September 2011.