

Departmental Admissions Statement

1. Admissions Process

Year of admissions cycle – 2010

Courses covered

BSc Hons Veterinary Nursing & Bioveterinary Science

DC37

Admissions Team

The admissions team is headed by the admissions tutor Sue Badger and is comprised of members of academic staff who are actively involved in teaching on the programme

Outline of assessment methods

- All applications are considered independently by two members of the admissions team..
- Applications are considered on an equal basis. and are not segregated by the type of educational institution attended.
- Whenever possible all applicants are contacted within 4 weeks of receipt of application, to establish contact and inform the applicant of the process to be followed.

Other correspondence with applicants

Additional assessment: (a) interviews

All applicants who meet the initial criteria are invited to a selection process at the Veterinary School. This 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.

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 the decision will be available on UCAS Track in due course.

Additional assessment: (b) tests/written work

- 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.

Procedures for specific categories of applicant

Similar to above, but international applicants resident outside the UK may be offered a telephone interview with two members of the admissions panel via a conference call.

Cross-dept/joint course admissions arrangements

N/A

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.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2010/sections/XVTN/dept_intro . 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/>

Academic Record Criteria

- We expect to see a good range of subjects at GCSE (or equivalent).
- The A2 studied in addition to Chemistry and Biology must be in an academic subject but does not need to be a science. General Studies A2 is not accepted.
- Access to Science will be accepted from mature students. Contact the department for further information.

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 Aimhigher 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

We look for evidence of the following:

- Work experience within veterinary practice as well as related experience.
- Evidence of an understanding of the role of the qualified veterinary nurse both at undergraduate and professional level.
- Non-academic achievement/experience, extra-curricular activities, positions of responsibility
- Interest in and commitment to subject
- Evidence of clear thinking & understanding
- Problem-solving, analytical & practical skills
- Appropriateness of chosen University course to declared interests & aspirations
- 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 be able to demonstrate that you fully grasp what is involved and have a realistic view of what it is to be a veterinary nurse. You will need to have obtained relevant experience within a small animal veterinary practice, which should be of at least 2 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.
- Good communication skills are essential. Can you explain complex information simply and coherently?
- You will need to have a logical mind, so that you will be able to formulate questions and solve problems.
- You will need to be self-motivated. Can you set your own goals and show independence of thought? However, you will also need to be able to work well in a team.
- Veterinary nurses must develop a high standard of professional responsibility. You should show

that you are a reliable and conscientious person.

- You will need to be interested in the welfare of animals and people. Can you reassure people and animals in order to put them at their ease?
- We are also interested to hear about your extra-curricular activities, and general interests, especially where this provides evidence of collaborative engagement with the wider community. How do you contribute to your school or community? Do you have any positions of responsibility? Have you done any voluntary or paid work? What do you do to relax? You should explain what skills you have gained, rather than simply listing them. It is essential that you are able to work well with others.

Reference Criteria

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 unexpectedly low academic performance

Criteria for international applicants (if different)

English Language requirements can be found in the UG Prospectus:

http://www.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2010/sections/XVTN/dept_intro and at:
<http://www.bris.ac.uk/university/governance/policies/admissions-english-lang-reqs.html>

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.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2010/sections/XVTN/dept_intro . Offers to applicants with non-standard qualifications will be made equivalent to the published A-level offer.

Variations in offer level
Reasons for varying offers

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 (<http://www.bris.ac.uk/university/governance/policies/admissions-policy.html>).

4. Other

- 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 at (medsciences-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk) 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 programme the veterinary school must 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 inclusion on the RCVS Register and the legal right to practise as a registered veterinary nurse within the UK. Students 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 programme as well as possible coping strategies that may be employed to enable the applicant to be able 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.

Head of Veterinary School

Professor Jo Price

01.10.2009