Hello and welcome to the Live Chat. We’ll be starting with a short presentation, and after this Dr Purdy will be inviting your questions. As we are expecting a lot of participants today, we may not be able to answer all questions. If we’re unable to answer your question, please contact us by email at up.lifesciences@warwick.ac.uk. Please remember that this is a public chat, so please do not share personal or confidential information. If you have anything that is confidential that you wish to ask, please contact us by email.

Hello everyone, I’m Dr Kevin Purdy, Admissions tutor here at Life Sciences, Warwick. I’ve had some difficulty getting a presentation running so will send a series of messages outlining what we want from Personal Statements, Kevin.

How Important are they? Help us get a sense of why you want to study Biology.

Also, Are you interested in the challenges we face that biology might help solve such as climate change, feeding the world and fighting antibiotic resistance.

Also we want to know are you inquisitive, open and able to think for yourself? Does that come across in your statement?

We know that Work Experience, trips and extra-curricular activities are important but we try not to place much weight on these as not everyone has access to these opportunities and we don’t want to disadvantage applicants just because they cannot do something.

However all experiences in science or related subjects and evidence of ability to achieve are always positive.

I’m applying for Biomedical Science.

What would be the most important thing to point out in my personal statement?

In particular, if you just miss your offer grades in the Summer then we do re-read Personal Statements very carefully to see whether we will offer you a place despite falling just a little short. Any evidence of excellence or achievement is positive so well worth telling us about.

What if my predicted grades don’t meet the minimum?
What would be the most important thing to point out in my personal statement?

Hello Danielle, I would say what about Biomedical Science is interesting to you now and why, or what do you think might be important in the future? It doesn’t have to be “medical” it could be ethics or about data or new treatments. So long as it is really your thoughts then that usually comes across well.

What if my predicted grades don’t meet the minimum?

Hello Prianka, here at Life Sciences we make lots of aspirational offers to applicants who may be predicted to fall just short of our offer (by a grade or two) in the hope it might just help you achieve a little more than your teachers predict. If you do then we find those students are usually very good!

I would like to ask if the access course science as an entry requirement for biomedical science

In my personal statement, I’ve talked about work experience opportunities and my job that links with science (I also want to do BioMedical Science), is there anything else that would make my personal statement stand out?

Hello, is there a minimum amount of work experience required for a biomedical science degree?

Sorry if they accept access course science for an entry requirement to study biomedical science

I would like to ask if the access course science as an entry requirement for biomedical science

Hello Sulayman, Our standard offer for Access Course Students is 45 credits at Level 3, including Distinction in 33 Level 3 Credits, with 12 Distinctions from Biology units, 12 Distinctions from Chemistry units and Merit in 12 Level 3 Credits. Also we need to check that the content of your course is suitable for entry onto our degrees. The best way to do this is to email me directly at k.purdy@warwick.ac.uk

I would like to ask if the access course science as an entry requirement for biomedical science

In my personal statement, I’ve talked about work experience opportunities and my job that links with science (I also want to do BioMedical Science), is there anything else that would make my personal statement stand out?

Prianka, this is such a difficult question to answer! Try to make it an interesting read, not just what you did but how it affected you, what it made you think about rather than just the process. Work experience can help you see what real science or medicine is like as an real thing rather than an idea.

How flexible are the courses if you are not quite sure of your special interest?

Hello, is there a minimum amount of work experience required for a biomedical science degree?

Hello Tamea, no absolutely not. As I said above we are careful not to place too much weight on any extra-curricula activities any applicant has as they are not available to everyone. We take students with no experience in science or work but if you have experience then your sense of why you want to be a scientist is different, and that helps you!

Hello! I’m applying for a MSc in Agronomy and was wondering whether you would be able to provide me with some tips for my personal statement, please?
I mean the biological sciences 🌿

Sorry if they accept access course science for an entry requirement to study biomedical science

Sulayman, We accept Access Course students onto all our degrees here at Life Sciences.

Hello! I’m applying for a MSc in Agronomy and was wondering whether you would be able to provide me with some tips for my personal statement, please?

Hi Mollie. Kevin is our director of UG admissions. Our Masters director, Dr Stuart Allen, will be available for a live chat tomorrow from 3-4PM. I suggest you join us then.

Thanks, Charlotte!

How flexible are the courses if you are not quite sure of your special interest?

Hello Gillian, There is quite a bit of flexibility on all our courses, especially in Years 2 and 3. Our most flexible course in Biological Sciences, where you pick modules form across biology. You can also, if you wish, take modules from other Departments. Popular ones are in Business, Languages and Chemistry. Also the University's Institute of Advanced Teaching and Learning has modules are open to all students (with permission from us) and cover an enormous range of topics (see at https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/iatl/study/ugmodules/). So there is lots of flexibility.

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I mean the biological sciences 🌿

Gillian, the same applies to all of our degrees but Biological Science offers the widest choice to start with and then other options as I mentioned are also available

Is there anything that puts you off a personal statement?

Thank you, that sounds good. Also, say I did biological science, would it be possible to swap to a related degree after the first year if I realised I preferred something else and if so which ones? I am interested in biology however I enjoy some of biochemistry and microbiology at A level but am unsure which I'd like to go into at the moment.

Thank you. I am currently undecided between biochemistry and biomedical science; is it possible to transfer from a biochemistry degree to biomedical science in the first year of university?

Is there anything that puts you off a personal statement?

Prianka, I try really hard, when reading a personal statement, to look only for positives. So I hope that even if a statement isn’t very good I can usually see something in there that helps me see your motivation to study biology. It does help if you can make sure it is error-free and reads well but I also know that some of our applicants have very few, if any, people they can go for help and try to keep that in mind as well.
Thank you for the advice!

Thank you, that sounds good. Also, say I did biological science, would it be possible to swap to a related degree after the first year if I realised I preferred something else and if so which ones? I am interested in biology however I enjoy some of biochemistry and microbiology at A level but am unsure which I’d like to go into at the moment.

Gillian, it is usually possible to switch from Biological Sciences to Biomedical Sciences at the end of Year 1 but not into Biochemistry as they have a large component of Chemistry in their degree in the first year. Also, we do have students who transfer to completely different degrees either very early in their First Year or at the end of Year 1 to other Sciences and Humanities degrees too! We also have students transfer to join us (this year from English, Psychology, Law and previously from Film and Theatre Studies)

In Biological Sciences you can make your degree really very Biomedical or even really quite Biochemistry-like. Microbiology is embedded in all our degrees anyway. Kevin

Thank you. I am currently undecided between biochemistry and biomedical science; is it possible to transfer from a biochemistry degree to biomedical science in the first year of university?

Tamea
Yes it is usually possible to transfer from Biochemistry to Biomedical Sciences at the end of Year 1. It isn’t really possible to go the other way so if you are undecided then starting on Biochemistry leaves you with the most options. Kevin

Thank you, that is really useful.

Thank you for the advice!

Prianka, That’s okay, good luck! Kevin

would you advise applying for a masters straight away instead of waiting to transfer later on in the course?

Thank you, that is really useful.

Gillian, it’s my pleasure to help, good luck this year! Kevin

Hello, I wanted to ask if the personal statement is very decisive when you make offers if my predicted grades are above the entry requirements

I was going to ask the same thing

...or if you resort to how good the personal statement is if predicted grades are very close to the entry requirements or on the limit

Ok, thank you!
Hello Hannah, Yes I would. Offers for our Integrated Masters (MBio) degrees are 1 grade higher than our BSc offers BUT we absolutely guarantee that if you just miss your MBio offer we will offer you a place on the equivalent BSc. If you do well in your first 2 years (get good 2.1 grades usually) then you will have the opportunity to request a transfer onto the MBio at the end of Year 2. Last year 12 of our Bio applicants joined us on BSc courses. Kevin

Thank you :)

Hello, I wanted to ask if the personal statement is very decisive when you make offers if my predicted grades are above the entry requirements

Hello Adriana, to be honest Personal statements are rarely decisive in our decisions. An excellent one makes me very pleased to make you an offer to study with us but, as I said above, I aim not to penalise a weak one quite simply because I do not know the circumstances under which it was written. I know, from helping my own children write their personal statements that some applicants will have lots of help and others will not. I think this also answers your second question too! Kevin

I was going to ask the same thing

Danielle, I hope the newer above helps you too Kevin

Ok, thank you!

Tamea, that's no problem, good luck this year! Kevin

Thank you :)

Hannah, That's okay and good luck this year! Kevin

I think if you are applying for a year in industry you have a different code to apply is that right? Is that the same if you want to do a year abroad?

thank you!

It's been a great discussion so far. We have about 5 more minutes for any last questions.

I have another question: if when writing my personal statement, I focus on a specific area that interests me (neurosciences) and write about experiences related to this, even though I am applying for biological sciences, is this still fine?
I think you are applying for a year in industry you have a different code to apply is that right? Is that the same if you want to do a year abroad?

Hannah, Yes there is a different code BUT the Placement Year and Study Abroad Year code is the same: C1A5 MBio Biological Sciences Placement/Study Abroad; C1A6 MBio Biochemistry Placement/Study Abroad; C1A7 Biomedical Sciences Placement/Study Abroad; B143 MBio Neuroscience Placement/Study Abroad

Kevin

Ah thank you, that makes sense!

I have another question: if when writing my personal statement, I focus on a specific area that interests me (neurosciences) and write about experiences related to this, even though I am applying for biological sciences, is this still fine?

Adriana, Yes absolutely, all I want to see is an interest in biology of whatever flavour! Kevin

Okay that’s great, thank you for your attention!

Thank you for taking out of your time to discuss with us. I can confidently say that I have encountered some useful information that I believe will help with my application process.

Yes, thank you very much

Ah thank you, that makes sense!

I’m glad because confusing you really wouldn’t help us! If you have any more questions please send them to ug.lifesciences@warwick.ac.uk and they will be passed onto me, Kevin

Thank you for taking out of your time to discuss with us. I can confidently say that I have encountered some useful information that I believe will help with my application process.

Thank you for your interest in us here at Warwick. We look forward to your applications. More than that I really wish you all the very best and hope you get to go the University of your choice, whether that is Warwick or somewhere else, Kevin

Yes, thank you very much

Thank you for talking to us Kevin