**Applied for:** Veterinary Science

**Offers received:**

University of Bristol – ABB or AAC

University of Bristol (Zoology) – BBB

University of Chester (Bioveterinary Science) – BBC

Hartpury University (Zoology) – 128 points

University of Salford (Zoology) – Unconditional

Science has been a major influence throughout my life, starting from when I was a young child and naively believed that the vet could always magically make my pet's illness go away. A much better understanding of what is needed to be a successful vet has developed with my knowledge from work experience. I observed the vet acting as the mediator in communications for both the owner and the companion, whilst making sure that they keep a level-headed and supportive role in providing different advice depending on the situation. For example, during a consultation an owner stated that their dog didn't like their ears being handled for an excessive amount of time and so, after considering this, the vet handled the companion in a technique that was clearly different from the usual handling I had seen. A vet is continuously considering health & safety, studying new scientific developments and the ethics around treatments. They need to be able to explain these to a range of different audiences whilst taking into account the costs to both the owner and the business. I feel I have developed some of the key skills for this during my time in Sixth Form, such as during science mentoring, I simplified down the idea of bond types into a series of diagrams. Another example is during practical assessments, where I consider any risks before carrying out the experiment and take precautions to limit them.

During work experience, I observed countless procedures that happen every day in a practice and began to understand why the techniques to do these processes are used. For example, when taking a blood sample from an animal, it is always from a vein because it is closer to the surface and has a lower pressure than an artery. However, it has also allowed me to observe the unique cases that require more rapid decision making under time constraints. For example, in the case of a cat having an infected tumour that had invaded most of the animal's ear canal. Upon taking the cat to surgery for an ear ablation, the vet was uncertain whether they would be able to save the lining of the ear itself or have to remove it completely. It was only after he had started to operate that he decided it would be possible to remove the ear canal and keep the ear. His act of working under pressure and making decisions whilst considering the many outcomes accompanied with fine motor skills and a steady hand, is something that I too believe I display at school. For example, during a required practical in chemistry, I was assessed on titrations where I demonstrated my ability to remain calm and precise despite feeling nervous. Another example observed that is, unfortunately, a more common sight at the vets is chemotherapy treatment. This is generally whilst treatments on other patients are happening. Despite this, the nurses and vets still displayed a professionalism getting the precise doses for the treatment whilst also constantly monitoring the patient and reacting to the changes in either the procedure or the patient's behaviour. This act of showing empathy when a patient is in pain, is one that I believe I express too; it is vital as they unlike humans cannot tell you what is wrong and you are looking for very small changes in behaviour as a clue.

My Access to Bristol and wider reading have reinforced that Veterinary Science is the career I want. Research on how to advance cat anaesthesia in ethical conditions was fascinating and only made me excited about the prospect of learning more. A recent article in Vet Practice Today on hydrotherapy showed how this career is not just about drugs and surgery, but also works hand in hand with rehabilitation. All of the aspects of this field excite me, as
discoveries and advancements are being made every day that endeavour to improve the health of animals in some way; I look forward to this career so that I too can work towards improving their quality of life.