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Upon graduating you will find many opportunities for studying towards a higher degree. If you like the idea of taking your Civil Engineering knowledge further, the Department often takes graduates into MSc and PhD programs, where you can learn through course work or research.

Taking a Civil Engineering degree doesn’t commit you to a career in Civil Engineering. Forty per cent of all jobs aimed at graduates are open to those from any degree discipline.
Bristol is a multicultural city of balloons and kites, clubs and DJs, festivals and carnivals, architecture and park land, business and new technology, theatres and museums, artists and animators, music and film.

Brunel, arguably the most famous Civil Engineer of all time, shaped the face of Bristol. His legacy includes the award winning Clifton Suspension Bridge, Temple Meads Station - the head of the Great Western Railway, the Severn Shed - now one of the many bars in the city centre, and the ss Great Britain.

The University precinct is right in the heart of the city. Elegant Georgian facades are complemented by newly built state-of-the art laboratories, including the Faculty’s BLADE development. The surrounding area is full of shops, restaurants, coffee houses and bars.

Perot’s Bridge spans Bristol’s harbourside, home to a wealth of nightlife and city culture

If you like the idea of spending a year studying abroad, but would prefer to study in English, we have also developed links with Universities in Australia, America and Canada (see insert for current list). There is no direct application for this course via UCAS – students who meet the performance criteria in their 1st and 2nd year may transfer onto the programme after the 2nd year.
While constructing the Second Severn Crossing, just north of Bristol, new techniques were used to build across one of the largest tidal ranges in the world.

Course structure for the 4-year MEng in Civil Engineering

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Current option choices...

**LEVEL 1 & 2**
- Thermodynamics
- Languages
- Computer Modelling
- Engineering Architecture

**LEVEL 3**
- Seismic Analysis
- Slopes and Dams
- Timber Engineering

**LEVEL 4**
- Earthquake Engineering
- Engineering for the Built Environment
- Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Enterprise
- Power Generation for the 22nd Century
- Soil-Structure Interaction
- Sustainable Systems
- Water Supply and Sanitation in Developing Countries
- Wind and Marine Power

Water
Maths
Structures & Materials
Design
Management
Geology & Soils
Options

Level 1
Level 2
Level 3
Level 4

Thermodynamics
Languages
Computer Modelling
Engineering Architecture

Seismic Analysis
Slopes and Dams
Timber Engineering

Earthquake Engineering
Engineering for the Built Environment
Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Enterprise
Power Generation for the 22nd Century
Soil-Structure Interaction
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Water Supply and Sanitation in Developing Countries
Wind and Marine Power

Options
Structures
Water
Design
Management
Geology & Soils
Options
Acknowledged to be one of the best Civil Engineering departments in the UK, Bristol has an international reputation for quality as it has always achieved excellent teaching and research gradings.

Students at Bristol learn under the guidance of leading international researchers. The course structure is continually updated to reflect changing knowledge and the latest advances in Civil Engineering around the world.

“I thoroughly enjoyed the research project as it was tied in with the research activities of my supervisor. My team mate and I focused on the causes and effects of seabed scour on offshore piles used as wind farm foundations. Some of the results will be used in improving current design practices. It was a great way to learn about the development of knowledge and actually contribute towards a real engineering problem.”

Richard Neilson, 4th year.

The academic staff at Bristol have extensive and varied experience with Industry as former professional engineers, through consultancy work, or through collaborative research. The connection between experience and learning is fundamental to the course. Industry leaders are involved in delivering special lectures, co-supervising research and design projects, and keeping the content of our course relevant.

A lot of real life Civil Engineering is done on site so we incorporate many site visits in our course to simulate this. In the 3rd year Water Resources Project the students have to investigate a valley in mid Wales. Site observations, geological and typographical maps, the river systems and flood estimations are considered in establishing a suitable location and designing a (hypothetical) dam. This is a rewarding and enjoyable exercise for both students and staff.
Learn how to be a creative, active learner with the ability to explore Civil Engineering for yourselves.

The Bristol course includes:

- Thorough theoretical foundations - understand why and how
- Laboratory work - test your ideas
- Strong emphasis on design teaching - create solutions to realistic problems
- Team projects and management
- Practical application - see how it is done in the real world
- Flexibility - choose options and decide for yourself what areas to specialise in.

The course is demanding but you will be guided by first-class engineers in a friendly and supportive environment. You are encouraged to ask questions and challenge current thinking.

Bristol students are well supported during their learning through:

- Personal tutors
- Industry tutors
- New laboratory facilities and small laboratory classes
- Specialist computing and mathematics teaching
- Visiting Professors from Industry
- Site visits
- University RESNET including broadband home internet/intranet.
Design is the heart of professional engineering and so forms the core of our courses at Bristol. All other subjects feed into this central activity, because design is the process of applying the knowledge and skills you learn elsewhere. It is a creative, open-ended, iterative process that depends on both systematic thinking and individual ‘flair’.

“The climax of the degree is the 4th year major design project. The four-student team I was part of designed a bridge across the Avon River. The process involved developing a number of options, establishing the technical and financial feasibility of each, and performing a detailed design of the preferred option. Part of the assessment was to present the work to leaders from Industry.”

Milan Perić, one of four designers of the bridge shown opposite.

The facilities at Bristol are world class and students use these in their learning. The Water and Environmental Research Centre own radar equipment for predicting storm clouds, rainfall & floods in Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, New Zealand as well as the UK. The earthquake shaking table, the most advanced in Europe, is the heart of the Earthquake Research Centre and the new £15 million BLADE laboratory.

“Travelling to Taiwan for the IDEERS competition was an incredible opportunity. If someone had told me when I was starting 1st year that I would be flying to the other side of the world to build an earthquake resistant model using wood and string, I would have thought they were crazy!”

Lani Tan, 3rd year.
A four year MEng degree is now the preferred educational route for chartered engineers in the UK. However, we also offer a three year BEng degree which can lead to chartered status if it is followed by further academic study equivalent to one year at university.

The BEng degree is particularly attractive to overseas students, many of whom do not require the MEng degree to qualify as professional engineers in their own country. The BEng is of the same high quality as the MEng, and students may transfer between programmes if they wish.

By choosing different combinations of options and project topics you can specialise in the areas that interest you the most. We try to keep these choices as flexible as possible. The 3rd year research project allows you to access the research facilities at the University. You may choose any topic which a member of staff is willing to supervise. Students are encouraged to put forward their own ideas.

Civil Engineers shape the basic structure of the world we live in. Every reservoir, dam, bridge, road, tunnel, and large building is designed and built by Civil Engineers.

As a Civil Engineer you can influence the world we live in through:

- Environmental and sustainable engineering
- Designing and building major structures
- Project management of some of the most complex projects undertaken by man
- Community planning and liaison
- Disaster management
- Urban infrastructures

The courses at Bristol aim to produce graduates who will become future leaders. Working with the professional institutions, we look 5-10 years ahead to anticipate the emerging needs and future shape of Civil Engineering.
The H201 course with study in Continental Europe is run as part of the ERASMUS exchange programme.

You will need to demonstrate ability in languages, and follow a language course throughout your 1st and 2nd year.

As the ERASMUS programme is an exchange, you will meet students from our partner universities studying with us here in Bristol.

The study abroad option gives you the freedom to choose your study plan for your 3rd year, with the advice of your tutor both here and at your exchange university.

“Studying in Continental Europe has been an amazing experience, both academically and socially. Initially it is very daunting and hard, but it really is worth it. I have met some fantastic people and I’m really looking forward to visiting them in their home countries.”

Catriona Ambrose, 3rd year.

Aardman Animations created its Oscar-winning Wallace and Gromit films here, and the BBC’s strong presence in Clifton includes its phenomenally successful Natural History Unit. See a feature film at the Watershed located in Bristol’s vibrant harbourside.

Bristol is home to the oldest working theatre in England, the Old Vic (open since 1766), and newer venues for drama such as the nationally acclaimed Tobacco Factory and Arnolfini which is one of Europe’s leading centres for the contemporary arts.

Cameron Balloons are based in Bristol, and nearby Ashton Court is the setting for Europe’s largest annual Balloon Festival. The harbourside plays host to the annual Bristol Harbour Festival which celebrates Bristol’s maritime history.

Come to learn in one of the world’s most lively cities and feed off the creative vibe that is unique to Bristol.
There are plenty of opportunities for all Civil Engineering graduates, but especially those from Bristol. They are recognised as being among the best in the country and are actively sought after by top employers. We regularly feature at the top end of national graduate employment tables, and starting salaries are competitive. Further approved training with an employer is required to gain chartered status.

Major recruiters of Civil Engineering graduates include:

- Consultants – who plan and design projects, with some supervision of the implementation of the plans. Some firms specialise in certain areas of Civil Engineering. Mainly office-based.
- Contractors – who organise the execution of the designs on sites, overseeing labour force and materials, considering time, cost and safety constraints. Work will move from site to site, so you must be prepared to be geographically mobile.
- Local authorities – who are responsible for water, drainage and highway systems. May act in both design and site management capacities.
- The Army – particularly the Royal Engineers.
- Other large engineering organisations who specialise in mining, public transport, power generation and supply.

We are delighted by your interest in Bristol as a place to study Civil Engineering and hope that the following pages will give you a clear picture of our approach to Civil Engineering and life as a student in Bristol.

As a small Department, one of six in a strongly integrated Faculty, we offer a friendly and supportive learning environment. However, our courses are challenging and aim, through interactions across the Faculty and with industry, to create graduates who will be at ease in a rapidly changing multidisciplinary environment throughout their careers.

At Bristol we are justifiably proud, not only of the excellence of our teaching and research, but also of the high standards and achievements of our graduates. Civil Engineers are responsible for the creation and maintenance of much of the infrastructure that developed and developing countries tend to take for granted. We believe that the broad education that our graduates receive makes them well able to create the delicate balance that is often required between impact on the environment and benefit to society.

Staff and students have worked together to produce this brochure and we have tried to focus on the areas that we think you will most want to know about. If you have any questions that we do not answer here, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be happy to help you.

Professor Colin Taylor
Head of Department