Access to Bristol 2017/18

Experience life at the University of Bristol
What can Access to Bristol offer you?

• First-hand experience of what it’s like to study at one of Britain’s top universities;
• Additional support with your A-level studies from our world-class teaching staff;
• A boost to your CV and UCAS application;
• The chance to meet local students from a range of backgrounds.

‘Watching students on Access to Bristol apply themselves in a subject that they enjoy, showing that they are capable of university-level study, is so rewarding. For many students, the scheme helps them to make that final decision about the subject they wish to study and see that university is a viable option.’

Liam Dowson, Access to Bristol Co-ordinator, University of Bristol

Aimed at local students studying towards AS- and A-levels (or equivalents), the Access to Bristol scheme gives you a taste of student life at the University of Bristol.

Access to Bristol offers 28 subject streams, reflecting the variety of academic activity at the University. You will take part in academic taster sessions within your chosen subject, which will give you an idea of what it is like to study at Bristol.

As well as developing your subject knowledge on one of the subject streams, our student support sessions will introduce you to other aspects of university life at Bristol. For example, you can visit the Students’ Union, learn about what our Careers Service can offer you and hear about study abroad opportunities at Bristol.

Students interested in the professional courses of Law, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science should look at our Pathways programmes on pages 36 and 37.

‘It’s great to see students complete the Access to Bristol scheme and then go on to successfully gain a place at university. Access to Bristol is about giving students an exciting and challenging experience, which helps them make an informed decision about university.’

Doug Jennings, Widening Participation and Student Recruitment Manager, University of Bristol

If you complete the Access to Bristol scheme, you will also have access to the following benefits:

Guaranteed Offer at contextual level
Successful completion of the Access to Bristol scheme will guarantee you an offer from the University of Bristol, provided that you meet the entry requirements of the course you apply for. You will be eligible for a contextual offer for all undergraduate courses, which is usually two grades lower than the typical offer. If a course holds interviews or auditions as part of the selection procedure, you will be guaranteed an interview or audition.

Access to Bristol Bursary
If you successfully complete Access to Bristol and firmly accept your offer to study at Bristol, you may be eligible for the Access to Bristol bursary. This includes a full tuition fee waiver for your first year and a maintenance bursary of £3,750 for each year of your course. To be considered, you need to have a household income of £26,000 or below and be resident in England.

95% of Access to Bristol students receive a first or 2:1 at the end of their degree course with us*
How to apply

Access to Bristol is designed for students who have the grades, motivation and potential to succeed at a Russell Group university. The scheme is open to students who meet all of the following three criteria. You must:

- be in your first or second year of A-level study (or equivalent), with the exception of the Pathways to Law and Pathways to Health Sciences streams, which are two-year programmes and therefore open to students in Year 12 only;
- be resident in a BA, BS or other local postcode within an hour’s journey of the University of Bristol;
- attend a state school or college.

The scheme is very popular and there is high demand for places. If a subject stream is oversubscribed, your application will be subject to a selection process where priority will be given to those who meet all or most of the following criteria:

- have the academic ability to study at the University of Bristol (meeting the GCSE entry requirements for their chosen subject stream);
- are part of the first generation in their family to go to university;
- live in a Low Participation Area (LPA);
- attend an aspiring state school or college;
- are in the care of the Local Authority;
- have completed the Students in Schools programme with the University of Bristol or the Going Places programme with South Bristol Youth.

See bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers for further details of aspiring state schools and colleges and Low Participation Areas.

How do I apply?

If you would like to take part in Access to Bristol, apply online at bristol.ac.uk/access-to-bristol between 1 September and 22 September 2017.

We recommend that you discuss the scheme with the head of your sixth form or college.

Term dates

Sessions will take place at the University of Bristol on Wednesday afternoons between 2 pm and 4:30 pm on the following dates:

**Autumn term***
- 11 October 2017
- 18 October 2017
- 1 November 2017
- 8 November 2017
- 15 November 2017
- 22 November 2017
- 29 November 2017
- 6 December 2017

**Spring term***
- 24 January 2018
- 31 January 2018
- 7 February 2018
- 21 February 2018
- 28 February 2018
- 7 March 2018
- 14 March 2018
- 21 March 2018

*Please note there is no session during half-term.
### Subject streams

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### Graduation

On completion of the Access to Bristol scheme, you will be invited to a graduation ceremony in the grand setting of the Great Hall in the Wills Memorial Building.

This will be an occasion for you to celebrate your successful completion of the scheme with invited friends and family. It will also give you a taste of what a university graduation ceremony will be like.

The graduation ceremony for the 2017/18 Access to Bristol programme will take place on the evening of **Wednesday 25 April 2018**.
**Term: Spring**

**Applied Maths and Computer Science**

This stream is suitable for students studying Mathematics at A-level.

Do you enjoy applying your mathematical skills to solve problems in an innovative way? Are you interested in exploring various engineering fields or considering engineering as a future career path? The Applied Maths and Computer Science stream will give you an insight into engineering mathematics, computer science, electrical and electronic engineering, and mathematics – all courses at Bristol which use maths to tackle challenges in engineering.

Engineering mathematics involves developing advanced mathematical techniques and applying these to problems in engineering, technology, and physical and life sciences. The course will equip you with skills in mathematical modelling and computational and data analysis, which are crucial to solving challenging, real-world problems.

Computer science is a course that provides a thorough understanding of the fundamentals of computers and their application. Focusing on group project work, you will gain an understanding of how a modern computer works, cover the principles of programming and algorithms, and even learn how to deliver software applications to industry clients.

If you enjoy the study of mathematics, and in particular using the skills you develop from this, then this subject stream may be of interest to you.

‘An excellent scheme which I thoroughly enjoyed and made me even more enthusiastic about studying at the University of Bristol.’

Nic, Access to Bristol student

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**Term: Spring**

**Archaeology and Anthropology**

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

The University’s Department of Archaeology and Anthropology houses a young, friendly, international community. It is well equipped with laboratories and IT resources, and even has its own fleet of Land Rovers. World-leading experts run the sessions in this stream and you will gain hands-on experience working with artefacts and bones.

These are exciting subject areas that encourage you to question and evaluate all that you see around you as you explore the history of humankind. You will work with our staff to see how we can uncover the past using both practical and theoretical perspectives.

You will have the opportunity to learn the basic skills involved in archaeological and anthropological research, including visits to laboratories and museums and a field trip to an archaeological site near Bristol. On this practical programme you will also gain access to our outstanding facilities.

If you are inquisitive and enjoy a challenge, archaeology and anthropology will appeal to you. These subjects encompass a huge array of skills and are suitable for students taking a wide range of A-levels, including History, Biology, Classics and, of course, Archaeology and Anthropology.

‘Access to Bristol has been a great insight into my chosen course of Archaeology and Anthropology, along with university life itself. I also really enjoyed gaining hands-on experience of archaeology with our field trip to Stanton Drew, and engaging in interesting discussions with like-minded people.’

Julia, Access to Bristol student
Term: Autumn
Biological Sciences

This stream is suitable for students studying two sciences or Mathematics at A-level.

The Biological Sciences stream will give you a flavour of the variety of study areas in biological sciences at the University of Bristol. The new, state-of-the-art undergraduate teaching laboratory will be your home for these sessions while you delve into the fascinating natural world in which we live.

This stream will be taught by leading experts in their field who are extremely enthusiastic about working alongside Access to Bristol students. You will be able to question them about their own research fields and the career pathways that led them to where they are today.

You will take a wide range of undergraduate practical classes as well as sessions related directly to our research areas. We aim to give you an insight into as many different aspects of biology as possible.

All of the sessions will be practical based – with any necessary theoretical aspects being taught alongside.

‘A fantastic opportunity to gain an understanding of your course, career prospects and university life.’

Naomi, Access to Bristol student

Term: Autumn and Spring
Biomedical Sciences

This stream is suitable for students studying Chemistry and a second science or Mathematics at A-level.

If you are interested in Medicine or Dentistry, please see the Pathways to Health Sciences programme on page 36.

The Biomedical Sciences stream is run jointly by schools from the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences and the Faculty of Health Sciences. Subjects covered include human anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, neuroscience, biochemistry, and cellular and molecular medicine. You will learn more about the human body, its structure and function, what can go wrong and how drugs work to prevent and treat disease.

Biomedical science underpins and shapes modern medical processes and procedures. The principles we discover in the lab are put into practice so we can gain an understanding of how the body works at a molecular, cellular, organ and whole-body level. This helps us to understand disease and to develop new treatments.

The sessions on this stream will give you a deeper understanding of human health and disease, and provide a greater feel for what it is like to study in this field at university. You will be given the opportunity to ask questions and find out about the wide variety of related career options.

‘Access to Bristol has given me a very positive outlook on the University of Bristol because of how friendly the students were to me and the fact that every student I encountered said they enjoyed what they do. Access to Bristol was organised, supportive and fun to be a part of, making me love the University even more.’

Rei, Access to Bristol student
This stream is suitable for students studying Chemistry and Mathematics at A-level.

This stream is designed to give you a taste of what it is like to study chemistry at university in one of the UK’s most popular departments. You will have the opportunity to work in world-class undergraduate laboratories alongside leading research scientists.

Bristol chemists work at the forefront of a wide range of areas, from developing new pharmaceuticals that fight disease, to advancing forensic science methods and understanding and preventing the causes of climate change. As a student on the Access to Bristol scheme, you will have the unique opportunity to study alongside our staff who are leading experts in these diverse fields, and find out more about where a degree in chemistry could take you.

There will be a heavy emphasis on practical work in our laboratories, supplemented by lecture-based sessions. You will get hands-on experience working at ChemLabS, the UK’s only Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning devoted to chemistry. Working with our research chemists, you will see and hear about some of the most cutting-edge chemistry being produced at Bristol.

‘The scheme was fantastic. It gave me a deeper understanding of chemistry at university level and the benefits that the scheme brings are invaluable.’

Access to Bristol student

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

This interdisciplinary stream introduces participants to the BSc Childhood Studies degree, offered by the School for Policy Studies, alongside the BSc Education Studies and BSc Psychology in Education degrees, offered by the School of Education.

• BSc Childhood Studies considers the social science of childhood and adolescence nationally and globally, from birth to 19 years.
• BSc Education Studies uses research methods from different disciplines to investigate education throughout life, across a wide range of different contexts.
• BSc Psychology in Education uses psychological research methods to understand human behaviour in the context of education.

Teaching staff include world-leading researchers studying a wide range of areas relating to childhood, education and psychological processes. Sessions will include debates, presentations and student exercises.

This stream will introduce you to complementary topics that span childhood studies, education studies and the psychology of education. You might explore issues such as children’s rights, education and lifelong learning, and psychological attitudes and behaviours in education and beyond. It will draw on A-level subjects such as Sociology, Law, Politics, History, Geography and Psychology.

‘It gave me a great insight into the subject I want to study at university, which helped me decide the course I would take once I finished A-levels.’

Enzo, Access to Bristol student
Term: Autumn
Classics and Ancient History

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

The Classics and Ancient History stream will give you a taste of the various key aspects that make up the modern study of the ancient world – its culture and history, its religion and philosophy, its literature and languages (Latin and Greek), and its art and archaeology.

The academic sessions will introduce you to the ways in which Classics and Ancient History is taught and studied at university by focusing on some detailed ideas and concepts in each of these areas. They will provide an opportunity for you to encounter different ways of studying the ancient world, and to compare ancient and modern art, literature, politics and popular culture.

This stream will suit you if you have an interest in the world of the Greeks and Romans and you want to find out more about taking Classics, Classical Studies or Ancient History at degree level. You do not need to have studied any of these subjects already. If you are studying English, History, Drama or languages, you may find Classics and Ancient History particularly interesting and relevant to your own A-level studies – and you will leave with fresh ideas and insights to take back to school.

‘It’s a really good way to see if you would like to study the subject at University in the future.’

Holly, Access to Bristol student

Term: Autumn
Earth Sciences

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

The work of the School of Earth Sciences focuses on the evolution of the Earth in time and space. We look at how the Earth formed, the processes that have shaped it since, and how life first formed and has evolved. We consider the solid geosphere, biosphere, atmosphere and hydrosphere. We use all of the sciences to help us unravel the history of our planet, and predict what may happen in the future.

On the Earth Sciences stream, you will learn more about the deep Earth, how the inaccessible parts of the Earth can be interpreted by geophysics, and the study of earthquakes and volcanoes. We will introduce you to geochemistry, past and future climate change, the evolution of life and the prediction of natural hazards.

You may not have explored or have been aware of our subject areas – geology, geophysics, palaeontology or environmental geoscience – at school, but you will discover that they make particularly exciting degree choices if you enjoy physics, chemistry, biology and maths and would like to combine them in further study.

‘I really enjoyed working with the academics in Earth Sciences – they were all really enthusiastic and keen to talk about any aspect of life or study at Bristol. Talking to them made me feel more confident about being happy at Bristol.’

Gwynfor, Access to Bristol student
Term: Autumn
Economics, Accounting and Finance

This stream is suitable for students studying Mathematics at A-level.

The Economics, Accounting and Finance stream will cover real-world issues that impact our everyday lives. The topics studied are relevant to individuals, businesses and national governments and are especially important during times of economic uncertainty.

This stream gives you the opportunity to see how these subjects are delivered at university level with a focus on economics, and elements of accounting and finance. You will explore the sorts of topics you might study as part of an undergraduate degree in one or more of these areas. You will also gain an insight into the work that economists, accountants, and people working in finance perform.

The programme is designed for those who are interested in questions such as:

- What do we mean by economics, accounting and finance? How do these areas interact?
- Why are professionals with skills in these areas in demand in the world today?
- How is the work that they do useful? To whom is it useful?

These questions will be explored through the use of practical examples.

Your time will be split between economics, accounting and finance. The sessions aim to develop your ability to prepare and interpret economic and financial models, applying them to real-world concepts, as well as developing other skills such as critical thinking and communication.

“This experience was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It was unique, fun and educational, and made me really think a lot more about my future.’

Chloe, Access to Bristol student

Term: Autumn and Spring
Engineering

This stream is suitable for students studying Mathematics and preferably Physics at A-level.

Do you enjoy applying your knowledge to solve problems in an innovative way? Are you interested in exploring various engineering fields or considering engineering as a future career path? Engineering involves creating solutions for the world, from designing cities that engage with their residents to producing robotic healthcare solutions. If you are taking Mathematics and Physics at A-level, our Engineering stream may be of interest to you.

The University of Bristol’s School of Civil, Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering will offer you the chance to attend academic sessions in aerospace engineering, civil engineering, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering.

The stream is designed to introduce you to what an engineering degree involves and demonstrate the differences between engineering disciplines, providing you with information about studying these subjects at degree level. You will be able to take part in a number of engineering projects and challenges, highlighting the project-based nature of an engineering course.

The sessions will contain a mixture of lectures and practical activities. This will allow you to truly experience the life of an engineering student and understand the skills and knowledge required to pursue this subject at degree level.

‘It was an outstanding experience, which really helped my academic and teamwork skills. It was really nice to work with like-minded people.’

Leah, Access to Bristol student
Term: Autumn and Spring
English Literature

This stream is suitable for students studying English Literature or combined English Literature and Language at A-level.

The University’s Department of English is committed to making literary studies rewarding for all. Staff research areas in the English department cover literature, poetry and drama from the middle ages to the contemporary period, using many perspectives and literary theories.

The English Literature stream is designed to broaden your literary, critical, historical and intellectual horizons, providing an opportunity for you to take your interest in the subject in new directions.

We will look at texts in a wide range of forms and from many different periods, reading, analysing and discussing them together. In the process, we will consider what literature is and how we should study it; how to make sense of puzzling texts; and how to improve the way you plan, structure and write essays.

The sessions are designed to help you develop your analytical and interpretive skills and start to explore some exciting ideas and areas of literature. More than anything, the sessions will give you a sense of what it might be like to study English at university level.

‘Access to Bristol provided me with valuable insights into studying English at university. The classes were enthusiastically led and well received. Some of the course material was directly relevant to my current studies, which was very helpful.’

Gemma, Access to Bristol student

Term: Autumn
Film and Theatre

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

On the Film and Theatre stream you will study theatre, film and television in a stimulating environment. We will introduce practical and critical thinking skills that will help you understand and question the cultural forms that you encounter in your everyday lives, as well as those that are new to you.

The sessions will explore how we talk about culture. This might include discussion of reality TV shows, the news or other media. During the sessions we may also look at how culture changes over time. For example, we might compare Shakespeare at the Globe with street performance, or explore the differences between a flash mob and a political demonstration.

You will work with members of the department who are teachers and artists to explore different ways of discussing these topics, such as talking, writing, or even making theatre, film or television. The Film and Theatre stream is a versatile option that you will enjoy if you like to combine critical thinking with a practical outcome.

‘The scheme has been an incredible experience and I would recommend it to anyone. I have more understanding about university, and it has helped me feel more comfortable with my future plans.’

Catherine, Access to Bristol student
**Term: Autumn**

**Geography**

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

The Geography stream offers you an exciting opportunity to study both human and physical geography. Geography is a fast-moving, exciting subject focusing on social and environmental problems.

The School of Geographical Sciences is consistently ranked highly for its teaching and research and you will have access to the school’s outstanding facilities.

During the programme, you may study areas such as the dynamic global environment, geographies of political economy, glaciology, historical and cultural geographies, hydrology and spatial modelling. The school has researchers in a wide range of areas and you will learn about the latest developments in geography. As well as sessions based in the department, you will also have the opportunity to participate in fieldwork.

This stream will provide you with a wide range of transferable skills including numeracy, IT, literacy and critical analysis. You do not need to be studying geography, though you may find the content beneficial to your A-level Geography studies.

‘Access to Bristol was fantastic. It was incredibly informative and enjoyable and has opened many new pathways for me.’

*Cerys, Access to Bristol student*

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**Term: Autumn and Spring**

**Historical Studies**

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

The Historical Studies stream will give you a taste of two different university degree courses with a historical dimension: History and History of Art.

The Department of History is recognised for its innovative work in areas such as medieval Europe, modern China, the histories of colonialism and empire, the Holocaust and environmental history. The Department of History of Art has interests ranging from medieval and Renaissance art to modernism, covering topics from Giotto to Picasso, from the visual culture of sport to the relationships between art, music and text.

The sessions will introduce you to the ways in which history and art history are studied at university by focusing on some detailed ideas and concepts in each area. They will provide an opportunity for you to encounter different ways of studying historical events, and of exploring art and literature produced in the recent and the more distant past. This stream will suit you if you have an interest in the past and want to find out more about taking these subjects at degree level. You do not need to have studied any of these subjects already. The sessions are also designed to give you a fresh insight into your A-level studies.

‘One of the best choices I have made academically was attending the Access to Bristol scheme. My awareness about higher education has increased dramatically and I now feel prepared for the next stage of my life.’

*Lucy, Access to Bristol student*
**Term: Autumn**

**Law (Access to HE)**

This stream is only for students who are currently studying for an Access to HE Diploma. You are normally expected to be a mature student.

Year 12 students interested in law should look at the Pathways to Law programme on page 37.

Law is a major part of all our everyday lives. Buying lunch, applying for a job, working for an employer, claiming benefit, driving a car, taking an exam, living in a property – all these things are governed by law. Law also plays a role in things that are more remote from most of us: war, international trade, companies, banks, immigration, the environment, science, medicine, and the armed forces. This makes law a fascinating subject to study with lots of different areas to investigate once the basic skills and knowledge have been learnt.

Studying law can be a good basis for a range of careers, including journalism, the civil service, the police, accountancy and business, as well as working in the legal profession.

Students on this stream will learn about different areas of law. Topics may include end of life issues, medical law, international law, human rights law, family law, evidence law, criminal justice and IT law. Sessions will be taught in small groups of less than ten students and large groups of up to several hundred, so you can get an idea of the different types of teaching and learning at university.

The Law stream also includes practical help with applying to university, including writing a personal statement, preparing for interview and taking the LNAT test.

Please note that dates for this stream may vary slightly from the Access to Bristol dates listed.

“The scheme is fantastic for those who wish to understand higher education.”

Charles, Access to Bristol student

**Term: Autumn**

**Liberal Arts**

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

Studying the arts involves discovering the experiences of others and exploring how our own society and culture is shaped by past ideas, events and works of art.

This stream allows you to sample the range of subjects on offer in the Faculty of Arts. We share a common goal to consider the human condition and explore the languages, cultures and societies that humans create. You will explore how people throughout history have behaved and communicated, expressed themselves creatively, and understood their place in the world. This could involve looking at music, theatre, cinema, art, literature, religion and philosophy.

Each week you will choose from a selection of sessions representing our arts subjects. Some of our subjects, like English and history, will be very familiar but others, such as anthropology, might be completely new. This is an opportunity for you to find out what it might be like to study these subjects at university.

This stream is designed for anyone interested in the arts, particularly those who would like to try something new, are not quite sure what subject they would like to study, or are interested in broader university courses such as our own Liberal Arts degree.

“The Access to Bristol Scheme definitely helped me to widen my knowledge of both university life and the topics that I studied.”

Martha, Access to Bristol student

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[bristol.ac.uk/access-to-bristol](http://bristol.ac.uk/access-to-bristol)
Term: Spring
Management, Accounting and Finance

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

The Management, Accounting and Finance stream will cover real-world issues that impact our everyday lives. The topics studied are relevant to individuals and businesses and are especially important during times of financial turmoil.

This stream gives you the opportunity to see how these subjects are delivered at university level and to understand the role and work that accountants, financiers and managers perform.

The programme is designed for those who are interested in questions such as:

- What do we mean by accounting, finance and management? How do these areas interact?
- Why are professionals with skills in these areas in demand in the world today?
- What do they contribute?
- How is the work that they do useful? To whom is it useful?

These questions will be explored through the use of practical examples.

Your time will be split between management, accounting and finance. We will help you explore what these subjects mean and why they are important. The sessions aim to develop your ability to prepare and interpret financial information, as well as developing other skills such as critical thinking and communication.

‘All the sessions were very useful, well planned and engaging. The lecturers and student ambassadors were very helpful and friendly.’
Access to Bristol student

Mathematics

This stream is suitable for students studying Mathematics at A-level.

Mathematics is the key to the sciences. It provides many of the tools used in research and management as well as being a powerful means of communicating ideas and solving problems.

This stream will offer you an opportunity to develop the skills we look for in Mathematics applicants, and also to see how the subject develops as you progress from A-level to university.

Each session will contain a mixture of lectures and activities. Lectures will cover areas of general mathematical interest. There will also be considerable student activity. We will cover specific topics such as proof, group theory and cryptography as well as styles of questions such as STEP and MAT. You will come away with an overview of what mathematics is like at university level, an understanding of how it differs from other STEM subjects, and knowledge of how to enhance your UCAS application. You will also gain a brief insight into the study of Engineering Mathematics at Bristol.

An additional follow-up day in July is available for students on the Mathematics stream (and some other mathematics-based streams). This will include topics requiring a certain level of expertise in calculus which will have been introduced into your A-level studies by this time.

‘The scheme gave me a fantastic insight into Mathematics at the University of Bristol and has assured me that I am following the right path. The lecturer was incredibly helpful and was able to answer all my questions in regard to mathematics at university.’

James, Access to Bristol student
This stream is suitable for students studying A-level language(s).

There’s much more to modern languages than grammar and vocabulary!

Join this stream and discover how varied, broad and exciting a modern languages degree can be. Whereas at GCSE and A-level, language learning is the main focus, a modern languages degree at Bristol is divided between study of a language to an advanced level and study of the culture of the countries where the language is spoken. This can involve history, literature, film, visual cultures, drama, philosophy and politics. Modern languages graduates leave university as excellent linguists, but also have a rounded and broad education in different aspects of the arts and humanities.

Sessions in this stream are a mixture of seminars and lectures. Roughly half the sessions focus on improving your understanding of how languages work. These include sessions in which you will be given a chance to learn a language, such as Czech, Russian or Portuguese, from scratch, as many universities now allow you to take up a new language.

The remaining sessions will cover a wide range of cultures and subjects such as French film, communist Germany, Latin American sporting culture, or the Italian Renaissance. You will also get the chance to meet current students who have spent a year abroad as part of their degree.

‘I thoroughly enjoyed all of the Access to Bristol sessions. Each session gave me an insight into the courses and for me this was really valuable. Above all I enjoyed being surrounded by people who shared my love for languages.’

Access to Bristol student

This stream is suitable for students studying Music at A-level.

Studying music at Bristol offers you the chance to become serious about what for most people is a pastime or passion. It’s not just about improving the musical skills you already have, but discovering a range of approaches to music and pursuing them at a high level.

The Department of Music is known not only for its consistently high standards, but also for providing flexibility for students to hone a course path in music that is right for them among our three main pathways of musicology, composition and performance.

The Music stream is designed to expose you to some of the subjects, teaching approaches and areas of staff expertise on offer at the University of Bristol. This year we will offer theoretical and hands-on activities in the areas of analysis of music in film, the study of counterpoint, popular music, and conducting (including the chance to conduct a small group while receiving coaching). There will also be a chance to join a rehearsal with the University Singers, some of the best musicians at Bristol.

While giving a small sample of what we do and building on a host of transferable skills, these sessions will inspire you to higher standards in your own musical practice and A-level work. They will also give you a sense of what it might be like to study music at Bristol, as well as the types of demands made of students who decide to study music at university.

‘The Access to Bristol scheme is an excellent introduction to university study. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there.’

James, Access to Bristol student
**Term: Spring**  
**Philosophy**

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

The Philosophy stream will give you a taste of the subject at university level, and is also designed to develop skills for your future studies, such as critical thinking, debating and attention to detail.

Philosophy is concerned with fundamental issues concerning meaning and understanding, the nature of reality, knowledge, human existence and social justice. We welcome students from arts, social science, and science and mathematics backgrounds. Philosophers need both formal logic, in order to reason correctly and rigorously, and interpretive skills, in order to read and understand difficult and challenging texts.

As part of this stream you will explore two central components related to philosophy. One will lie in the broad area of metaphysics and epistemology, which are concerned with deep questions about what sorts of things exist and how, if at all, we can know of them. The other will lie in the broad area of ethics and political philosophy, and will address questions about what it means to say that all humans have certain rights and how states should be organised to respect those rights.

‘The Access to Bristol scheme is such an amazing opportunity to get to know the University better, as well as meet academics who could be teaching you in the following years. The sessions are taught by enthusiastic subject leaders who are engaging and easy to talk to. I would recommend the scheme to everyone; I didn’t want it to end.’

Hannah, Access to Bristol student

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**Term: Autumn**  
**Physics**

This stream is suitable for students studying Mathematics and Physics at A-level.

Physics looks at matter on both the very small and very large scales. In this stream, staff from the School of Physics will introduce you to their work, ranging from quantum physics (the physics of the very small) to the formation of astronomical objects.

The School of Physics has active experimental research groups in particle physics and astrophysics, condensed matter physics, nanoscience and quantum information. The Theoretical Physics group has a wide range of research interests, many of which are related to the experimental work of the school.

The Physics stream of Access to Bristol will include both lecture-based and hands-on activities in our £7 million refurbished teaching labs, all led by researchers who are active in their fields.

‘A great opportunity to find out what studying physics at Bristol is like, which you can only really gain through these invaluable sessions.’

Adam, Access to Bristol student
Term: Autumn
Politics

This stream is suitable for students studying at least one essay-based subject at A-level.

Politics affects everyone’s lives and is a fascinating and important field of study. It drives us to think about how society should be organised and how communities and states interact.

Politics students at Bristol study the politics of individual countries and governments, as well as the relationships between countries, communities and individuals. Some of the key questions in the study of politics include:

- What is globalisation and what are its effects?
- Why does conflict happen and how is it resolved?
- Why do people vote the way they do?
- How do gender, ethnicity and class affect access to political power?
- How should states protect human rights?
- Why is European integration so controversial?

On this stream you will be taught by academics who are leaders in many areas of political study. Your tutors will give you an overview of the study of politics and introduce you to some of the major themes and debates in the field today. We provide a range of critical tools to examine these themes and hold debates about issues in the news.

The Politics stream of Access to Bristol will be of particular interest if you want to study social sciences at university. The study of politics provides you with excellent career prospects and our graduates are in high demand.

‘The scheme was highly informative and most enjoyable. The care and attention shown to each applicant has really made this university stand out.’

Access to Bristol student

Term: Autumn and Spring
Psychology

This stream is suitable for students studying at least one science at A-level (this can include Psychology or Geography).

Bristol’s Psychology department is one of the most innovative and exciting in the country. Psychology encompasses a range of disciplines that share an interest in understanding how humans and other animals interpret and respond to their mental and physical world, and draws on medical, biological and social sciences, engineering, computer science and philosophy.

Applications of psychology range from understanding mental and physical health problems to developing artificial intelligence, and from unlocking the power of memory to planning marketing campaigns.

This stream gives you the opportunity to experience first-hand what this fascinating subject entails at university level and to find out where a degree in psychology could take you. You will work with researchers at the forefront of their fields and explore our state-of-the-art facilities.

Studying psychology at university is possible even if you haven’t studied it before. It is a uniquely broad subject that benefits from individuals bringing a fresh, alternative perspective to a problem. Psychology students come from a range of different backgrounds and study diverse A-levels, such as the arts, English Literature, Mathematics and Physics.

‘It was a great opportunity which I strongly recommend to every sixth-form student who is thinking about applying to university. Attending the sessions really extends your knowledge of the subject area, which will help to demonstrate your interest in the course both within your personal statement and during interviews.’

Luca, Access to Bristol student
**Term: Spring**

**Religion and Theology**

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

This stream will give you a taste of religion and theology at university level. It is designed to develop skills for future studies, such as critical thinking, debating and attention to detail.

Religion and theology attracts those who are interested in what people believe; why they believe; how those beliefs are expressed in life, art and ritual; and how those beliefs interact with and influence the rest of society.

You will explore questions such as:

- From what underlying perspectives do people study religion and theology?
- What role do sacred texts play in certain religious traditions?
- How do we understand instances of tension within religion and spirituality?

Alongside exploring such broad issues, we will also look at a number of case studies of the type of work done within the department.

“The opportunity to talk to actual students was really helpful in understanding what it is like to study at university. I feel more confident now about choosing a course that is right for me.”

Bethany, Access to Bristol student

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**Term: Autumn**

**Social Policy and Criminology**

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

This stream introduces participants to two complementary degrees offered by the School for Policy Studies: Social Policy and Criminology.

Social policy is the study of how societies identify, conceptualise and respond to human need and promote the wellbeing of their members. It is a rigorous, critical, exciting and relevant subject. It draws on disciplines such as sociology, politics, economics, criminology and history to analyse contemporary issues such as inequality, social justice, gender violence and health.

Criminology focuses on the causes of and responses to crime. Criminology is becoming increasingly entwined with the study of social policy, because the understanding of crime draws on ideas about social harm and offending in a social context. There is a new BSc Criminology degree now running at the University of Bristol.

This stream will introduce you to a range of topics in social policy and criminology. It will develop your understanding and give fresh insights into issues that cut across a number of A-level subjects, such as Sociology, Law, Politics, History, Geography and Psychology.

Previous sessions have covered issues such as poverty, inequality, attitudes to drugs, the prison crisis, gender-based violence and migration.

“The scheme gave me a genuine insight into university life. The lectures were fulfilling and engaging, and made me more sure than ever that university is right for me.”

Jessica, Access to Bristol student
This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

The Social Sciences stream provides taster sessions from three related subject areas: sociology, social policy and politics. You will gain a broad insight into the different social science subjects available at Bristol. Sociology seeks to understand how the lives of individuals overlap and are dependent upon each other, as well as how we live as a society. It is as diverse as human life itself. Traditional areas of sociological study include family life, experiences of school and work, and relations between men and women and between different ethnic groups.

Social policy is the study of how societies identify, conceptualise and respond to human need and promote the wellbeing of their members. It is a rigorous, critical, exciting and relevant subject. It draws on disciplines such as sociology, politics, economics, criminology and history to analyse contemporary issues including inequality, social justice, gender violence and health.

Politics affects everyone’s lives and is a fascinating and important field of study. It drives us to think about how society should be organised and how communities and states interact. Politics students at Bristol explore the politics of individual countries and governments, as well as the relationships between countries, communities and individuals.

‘After participating in Access to Bristol both as a school student and subsequently as a student ambassador, I feel that it gives a realistic insight into the style of university teaching and the individual subject matter.’

Access to Bristol student and student ambassador

Term: Spring
Social Sciences

Term: Autumn
Sociology

This stream is suitable for students studying at least one essay-based subject at A-level.

Every person’s story contains many chapters – those of fun, love and happiness, as well as those of despair and tragedy. Our stories also have much in common with those of others. Sociology seeks to understand how the lives of individuals overlap and are dependent upon each other, as well as how we live as a society.

As the study of society, sociology is as diverse as human life itself. Traditional objects of sociological study include family life, experiences of school and work, and relations between men and women and between different ethnic groups. All these issues affect our own lives at some point. In fact, if it exists in society it is there to be studied.

Sociology is a way of seeing the world. It takes a certain kind of person to be a sociologist – one who wants to understand, rather than just accept, how our everyday lives work. A sociologist is never satisfied by how things seem on the surface and knows there is never a simple answer. We must peel back layers of meaning to get to the core, because the smallest interactions are always connected to much bigger political, economic and social processes.

The Sociology stream will give you an insight into this academic subject, and enable you to gain new and profound insights into things you might have thought you already understood.

‘Excellent scheme – it broadened my horizons and made me realise which subjects interest me through the enthusiastic learning environment.’

Eloise, Access to Bristol student
This stream is suitable for students studying Chemistry and another lab-based science at A-level. Students should also be meeting the relevant GCSE requirements for their chosen course area.

Pathways to Health Sciences is a programme for students interested in studying medicine, dentistry or veterinary science. The programme will consist of a wide variety of sessions designed to give you an insight into, and prepare you for study on, our health sciences programmes.

You will have the opportunity to take part in academic taster sessions in your chosen area of study, delivered by our leading academics and current health sciences students. The programme will also give you the chance to take part in work experience placements and meet professionals in your chosen field.

In addition to academic and professional sessions, the programme will provide you with personal statement and interview workshops to ensure you are supported throughout the UCAS process. This is a two-year programme, which means we can only accept students who will be studying at school or college for the next two years.

To apply for the Pathways to Health Sciences programme, please use the normal Access to Bristol application form at bristol.ac.uk/access-to-bristol and ensure you apply by the advertised deadline.

‘It really made me feel like becoming a vet was possible. It’s filled me with so much more confidence and determination.’

Safia, Access to Bristol student

Pathways to Law, run by the Sutton Trust and supported by the Legal Education Foundation, is a two-year programme that supports academically able students in Years 12 and 13 who are from non-privileged backgrounds and are interested in a career in law.

The programme will give you the chance to experience studying Law at the University of Bristol, taking part in lectures and seminars on various aspects of law led by the University’s internationally recognised academics.

You will also have the opportunity to participate in a three- to five-day legal work placement, offering you a taste of life as a solicitor or barrister. Students are placed with established law firms or barristers’ chambers, and spend time supporting lawyers working on real cases. You will also attend a three-night residential conference in July of Year 12 at the University of Warwick, where you will experience university life and meet students from the other Pathways to Law universities.

One of the most important elements of the Pathways to Law programme is e-mentoring. You will be matched to a current University of Bristol law student who you can talk to about studying at university or careers in law, and who will be happy to answer any questions.

This is a two-year programme, which means we can only accept students who will be studying at school or college for the next two years. Eligibility and programme dates differ from other Access to Bristol streams. For more information visit bristol.ac.uk/study/teachers/post-16/pathways.

‘The scheme provided a great insight into university life.’

Archit, Access to Bristol student