Access to Bristol 2019/20

Experience life at the University of Bristol
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjectstreams</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is Access to Bristol?</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits of Access to Bristol</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to apply</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term dates</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject streams</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Maths, Computing and Electronics</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology and Anthropology</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childhood Studies, Education Studies and Psychology in Education</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classics and Ancient History</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Sciences</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Sciences</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film and Theatre</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Studies</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Languages</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion and Theology</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy and Criminology</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathways to Health Sciences</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 29 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 in one of the subject streams, you will find out about other aspects of university life at Bristol through our student support session. For example, you can learn about our societies, our student support and welfare initiatives, and discover the global opportunities available.

Students interested in the professional courses of Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science should look at our Pathways to Health Sciences programme on page 36.

'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, Deputy Director of Home Recruitment and Conversion, University of Bristol
Benefits of Access to Bristol

What can Access to Bristol offer you?

• First-hand experience of what it is like to study at one of the UK’s top ten universities.

• The opportunity to learn more about the subject you’re interested in.

• The chance to meet local students who are interested in the same subject as you.

• A way to demonstrate your passion for a subject to universities and employers.

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. 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 process, you will be guaranteed an interview or audition if you meet the predicted contextual entry requirements for these courses.

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 £3,855 for each year of your course. To be considered, you need to have a household income of £25,000 or below.

‘It’s fantastic to see so many local students using Access to Bristol to explore studying at the University of Bristol. The contextual offer available to Access to Bristol “completers” is a fantastic way to support these students to make a successful application to our UK top ten university.’

Sarah-Jane Kinley, Outreach Manager, University of Bristol
How do I apply?

If you would like to take part in Access to Bristol, apply online between 2 September and 27 September 2019 at: 
bristol.ac.uk/access-to-bristol

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

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 Pathways to Health Science, which is a two-year programme and is 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 potential 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 an area of low participation in higher education as defined by POLAR4, which is a score of 1 or 2 for the category ‘POLAR4 young participation quintile’;
- are or have been eligible for free school meals;
- have spent three or more months in local authority care.

See bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers for further details of aspiring state schools and colleges and low participation areas.
Term dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autumn term*</th>
<th>Spring term*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 October 2019</td>
<td>29 January 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 October 2019</td>
<td>05 February 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 November 2019</td>
<td>12 February 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 November 2019</td>
<td>26 February 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 November 2019</td>
<td>4 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 November 2019</td>
<td>11 March 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 December 2019</td>
<td>18 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 December 2019</td>
<td>25 March 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note, we do not run sessions during Bristol’s half-term.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Maths, Computing and Electronics</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology and Anthropology</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>Autumn and Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childhood Studies, Education Studies and Psychology in Education</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classics and Ancient History</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Sciences</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Autumn and Spring</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>Autumn and Spring</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Sciences</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film and Theatre</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Studies</td>
<td>Autumn and Spring</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Autumn and Spring</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Languages</td>
<td>Autumn and Spring</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Autumn and Spring</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion and Theology</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy and Criminology</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathways to Health Sciences</td>
<td>18-months</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pathways to Health Sciences
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 engineering and technology-related fields and how they can affect the way we go about our daily lives?

The Applied Maths, Computing and Electronics stream will give you an insight into Engineering Mathematics, Computer Science, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and Mathematics courses at Bristol.

Engineering Mathematics is a course unique to Bristol. It trains students in the development and application of advanced mathematical techniques to problems in engineering, technology, and physical and life sciences. It is a course that equips you with the mathematical modelling, computational, and data analysis skills necessary to solve challenging, real-world problems.

Computer Science is a course that provides a thorough understanding in the fundamentals of computers and their application. Taking part in group project work, you will gain an understanding of the theoretical basis of computer science, as well as its importance in leading-edge software development. The course will enable you to build a foundation in professional standards of analysis, design, implementation, testing and documentation in projects that require custom design software and hardware solutions.

Electrical and Electronic Engineering will give you an insight into the kinds of technology and skills that will shape our future, in cutting edge fields like communications, smart cities, power generation, medical technology and autonomous vehicles. The course is continually revised to reflect the latest developments in engineering education.

If you enjoy creative problem solving and want to develop skills that will allow you to solve real-world problems, then this subject stream will be of interest to you.
This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

The University’s Department of Anthropology and Archaeology houses a young, friendly, diverse community and is well equipped with laboratories and IT resources.

Archaeology and Anthropology are exciting subject areas that encourage you to question and evaluate the world around you. Social anthropology explores the diversity of social organisations and cultural values across the globe. Biological anthropology examines how interaction between biology and environment shapes the evolutionary trajectories of humans and other primates. Archaeology employs the material remains of the past to explore cultural diversity and change over the course of human history.

World-leading experts run the sessions in this stream and you will have the opportunity to learn the skills involved in archaeological and anthropological research, including visits to laboratories and museums and a field trip to an archaeological site.

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 Geography.

At the University of Bristol you can combine this subject with ‘Innovation’, helping you find creative ways to apply your specialism to challenges that matter. One of your taster sessions could give you the chance to experience this exciting combination.
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 members of the School of Biological Sciences 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

bristol.ac.uk/access-to-bristol
If you are interested in Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science, please see the Pathways to Health Sciences programme on page 36.

Term: Autumn and Spring

Biomedical Sciences

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

The Biomedical Sciences stream is run jointly by schools from the Faculty of Life 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 as a molecular, cellular, organ and on a whole-body level. This helps us to understand disease and 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.

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 strong 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. 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, educational inequalities, 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.

At the University of Bristol you can combine this subject with ‘Innovation’, helping you find creative ways to apply your specialism to challenges that matter. One of your taster sessions could give you the chance to experience this exciting combination.
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 are taught and studied at university, 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
This stream is suitable for students studying two sciences or Mathematics at A-level.

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/or 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
This stream provides an introduction to studying economics, how it is taught at university and applied in real life. No prior experience of economics is required.

Economics is a social science that can best be described as “the science of choice”. It looks at the trade-offs and incentives faced by individuals, firms and governments – what to buy, where to live/work, what to produce, what to eat, whether to commit crime, who to trade with, how much to invest, whether to tax/regulate – and the consequences of the choices that are made.

It offers a toolbox that can help to tackle any social and economic problem, including the major challenges of our time such as climate change, inequality, obesity, ageing and immigration.

In this stream we will touch upon some of these themes, using economic reasoning and observation of real-world data to better understand the causes of these challenges, and how we may go about facing them.

At the University of Bristol you can combine this subject with ‘Innovation’, helping you find creative ways to apply your specialism to challenges that matter. One of your taster sessions could give you the chance to experience this exciting combination.
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 (or another related science) 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 and Electronic 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.
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 prose, poetry and drama from the Middle Ages to the present day, using many different perspectives and literary theories.

With this in mind, 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 as we read, analyse and discuss 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
This stream is suitable for students studying sciences, Geography or Mathematics at A-level.

The Environmental Sciences stream covers the application of a broad range of sciences (e.g., chemistry, geology, biology, mathematics, geography) to current pressing problems of the environment. You read about plastic in the oceans, acidification of the oceans, climate change and threats to biodiversity every day; politicians discuss these issues, but the solutions depend on science.

The University of Bristol is at the forefront of efforts to contribute to the solutions. Researchers in several departments have their own expertise, and they will introduce the key problems, provide practical examples for you to work on, and provide insights into careers and the future of this rapidly growing field.

All the lessons and research-focused sessions will be led and taught by our lecturers, professors and junior researchers with expertise and specialist knowledge in their fields. Everything will be hands-on, so you can learn about the key problems and the scientific approaches to their solution, as well as experiencing state-of-the-art methods.
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.

At the University of Bristol you can combine this subject with ‘Innovation’, helping you find creative and innovative ways to apply your specialism to challenges that matter. One of your taster sessions could give you the chance to experience this exciting combination.
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 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

At the University of Bristol you can combine this subject with ‘Innovation’, helping you find creative and innovative ways to apply your specialism to challenges that matter. One of your taster sessions could give you the chance to experience this exciting combination.
This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects. The History stream will give you a taste of the BA (Hons.) course at the University of Bristol.

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 has very wide chronological and geographical strengths, from the early medieval to the near-present, and from the history of Bristol to the history of Antarctica. These diverse interests include topics like witchcraft, climate change, sporting culture, 20th-century America, the Tudors and Stuarts, and the history of slavery.

The sessions will introduce you to the ways in which history is 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 primary sources 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 history 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.

At the University of Bristol you can combine this subject with 'Innovation', helping you find creative ways to apply your specialism to challenges that matter. One of your taster sessions could give you the chance to experience this exciting combination.
Law is a major part of our everyday lives: buying lunch, applying for a job, driving a car, living in a property – all these things are governed by law. Law also plays a role in things that are out of our control, for example: war, banking, immigration and the environment. This variety of application is what makes law such 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 and the police, as well as 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. The Law stream also includes meeting professionals to learn what it is like to practice law, as well as offering practical help with applying to university, including preparing for interview, taking the LNAT test and finding work experience.

‘The scheme is fantastic for those who wish to understand higher education.’

Charles, Access to Bristol student
This stream allows you to sample the range of subjects on offer in the Faculty of Arts.

Studying the arts and humanities involves discovering the experiences of others and exploring how our own society and culture is shaped by past ideas, events and works of art. 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, like English and history, will be very familiar but others, such as philosophy, 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
The Management stream will focus on the significant changes that face individuals, organisations, communities and policymakers in the 21st century – changes that are driven by processes of globalisation, inequality, entrepreneurialism and innovation in the advent of digital network economies, and the challenges of environmental, economic and social sustainability. The topics studied are distinctively interdisciplinary, covering broad topics such as work and employment, marketing, organisation and innovation.

This stream gives you the opportunity to explore the sorts of topics you might study as part of an undergraduate degree and how these subjects are delivered in a typical classroom sitting. The sessions aim to develop critical thinking and analytical skills, which are highly attractive to employers and for future job prospects. The programme is designed for those who are interested in questions such as:

- What do we mean by management?
- How can we think critically about managerial practice?
- How and why is the study of management useful? To whom is it useful?
- What are the impacts and prospects of management on the global challenges facing our society?

These questions will be explored through academic rigour with real-world relevance.

At the University of Bristol you can combine this subject with ‘Innovation’, helping you find creative ways to apply your specialism to challenges that matter. One of your taster sessions could give you the chance to experience this exciting combination.
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, MAT and TMUA papers. 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 attend joint sessions with the Engineering Mathematics group to experience a broad range of approaches to the study of mathematics at Bristol.

‘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.’

James, Access to Bristol student
This stream gives A-Level language students the chance to learn how varied and exciting a modern languages degree can be.

Sessions in this stream are a mixture of seminars and lectures that represent the breadth of cultural and linguistic topics available to language undergraduates at Bristol, such as French film, communist Germany, Latin American sporting culture, or the Italian Renaissance.

On the Modern Languages stream you will learn that there is much more to learning languages than grammar and vocabulary. We offer academic taster sessions on the history, literature, visual cultures, drama, philosophy and politics of different countries and regions, and you will get the chance to learn a new language from scratch, such as Czech, Russian or Portuguese.

Graduates from the School of Modern Languages leave university excellent linguists, with a broad understanding of different aspects of arts and humanities. Our language students also spend a year abroad and the skills you develop while working, studying and living in a different country are highly valued by employers.

If you attend the Modern Languages stream, you will get the chance to speak to our student ambassadors about their experience of studying languages at Bristol, and maybe find out what adventures they got up to on their year abroad!

'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 many people is a pastime or passion. It’s not just about improving the musical skills you already have, but also about discovering a range of approaches to music and pursuing them at a high level. The Department of Music is known not only for its excellent standards in musicology, composition and performance, but also for the flexibility and choice of the curriculum: you can specialise in your favourite genres, periods or styles, or cover a broad range of topics.

The Music stream is designed to show you 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, opera and conducting (including the chance to conduct a small group while receiving coaching). You will also be able 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 also inspire you to achieve higher standards in your own musical practice and A-level work. They will 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.

At the University of Bristol you can combine this subject with ‘Innovation’, helping you find creative ways to apply your specialism to challenges that matter. One of your taster sessions could give you the chance to experience this exciting combination.
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 in the use of concepts and language. Philosophy covers fundamental issues concerning the nature of reality, knowledge, meaning and understanding, human free will and identity, and ethics and justice. We welcome students from arts, social science, and science and mathematics backgrounds. Philosophers use logic (including various formal systems) to analyse good reasoning and to formulate arguments and various paradoxes and problems. They use interpretive skills in order to read and understand difficult texts from different intellectual cultures of the past and present. 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, and concern 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
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. On this stream, researchers from the School of Physics will introduce you to their work, with subjects ranging from superconductivity to the formation of astronomical objects.

The School of Physics has active experimental research groups in particle physics, 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 experimental activities in our £7 million refurbished teaching labs, designed to give you an insight into as many areas of our research as possible, and allow you the opportunity to question some of our current students about studying physics at university.

At the University of Bristol you can combine this subject with ‘Innovation’, helping you find creative ways to apply your specialism to challenges that matter. One of your taster sessions could give you the chance to experience this exciting combination.
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, how individuals, communities and states interact, and to question what power is and where it lies.

Politics students at Bristol explore the politics of countries, governments and international institutions, study the formation of political ideas and ideologies, identify patterns of domination and resistance across changing political systems, and imagine new futures.

Some of the key questions in the study of politics include:

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

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

Bristol's School of Psychological Science 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 develop valuable psychological research skills.

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.

At the University of Bristol you can combine this subject with ‘Innovation’, helping you find creative ways to apply your specialism to challenges that matter. One of your taster sessions could give you the chance to experience this exciting combination.
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 your ability to think critically, debate and to pay attention to skills that will enable you to pursue future studies more effectively.

Religion and Theology attracts people who are interested in belief systems. This subject area is concerned with numerous questions about the human condition which include:

- Is religion rational?
- How are religious beliefs explained and defended? How are they expressed in life, art and ritual?
- How do beliefs interact with and influence society?

You will explore topics such as:

- The importance of religion for ethics
- The role and influence of sacred texts on everyday life and culture
- Differences and similarities between religion and spirituality.

These topics will be introduced to you by experts within the Department of Religion and Theology.

‘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
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 draws on disciplines such as sociology, politics, economics, criminology and history to analyse issues such as inequality, social justice, gender violence and health. As such, it speaks directly to current events, enabling students to assess and critique prevailing policy responses.

Criminology at Bristol takes a critical approach to understanding what crime is, who commits and experiences crime, and how societies – local and global – respond. We also look beyond crime to consider harm more broadly. This requires us to think about social, as well as criminal, justice.

Our Single Honours BSc Criminology ran for the first time in 2017/18 and is proving very popular with prospective students.

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.

At the University of Bristol you can combine this subject with ‘Innovation’, helping you find creative ways to apply your specialism to challenges that matter. One of your taster sessions could give you the chance to experience this exciting combination.

bristol.ac.uk/access-to-bristol
This stream is suitable for students studying any subject at A-level. Those interested in further study of politics or sociology at university should have at least one essay-based subject at A-level.

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 draws on disciplines such as sociology, politics, economics, criminology and history to analyse issues such as inequality, social justice, gender violence and health. As such, it speaks directly to current events, enabling students to assess and critique prevailing policy responses.

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, how individuals, communities and states interact, and to question what power is and where it lies. Politics students at Bristol explore the politics of countries, governments and international institutions, study the formation of political ideas and ideologies, identify patterns of domination and resistance across changing political systems, and imagine new futures.

‘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
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 or an appropriate Access to HE qualification. Students should also meet 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 prepare you for our health sciences programmes.

You will have the opportunity to take part in academic taster sessions, delivered by our leading academics and current students. The programme will also give you the chance to practise and develop clinical skills, observe clinical settings and talk to professionals from 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 an 18-month programme, which means we can only accept students who will be studying at school or college for the next two years. Students studying an appropriate Access to HE qualification will be considered for a condensed one-year programme. 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.

‘The programme expanded on a subject that I was already thoroughly fascinated with and offered me a greater insight into certain areas of the subject. I have particularly enjoyed the lectures from people who are currently in the profession that I would like to follow’

2018 Pathways to Health Sciences student, Veterinary Sciences stream
More information

You can find more information on the various outreach schemes and events we run at the University in the following places:

Post-16 activities: bristol.ac.uk/study/outreach/post-16
Arts outreach: bristol.ac.uk/arts/outreach
Engineering outreach: bristol.ac.uk/engineering/outreach
Life Sciences outreach: bristol.ac.uk/life-sciences/outreach
Outreach activities and events: bristol.ac.uk/study/outreach/activities
Undergraduate open days: bristol.ac.uk/opendays