Faculty of Engineering
Department of Computer Science
Mathematics admission exam 2019
Information for applicants

Who is this for?

- Some applicants to University of Bristol Engineering courses who are applying without an A-level mathematics qualification or evidence of Mathematics study to A-level standard, eg BTEC, Access to Engineering etc.

- You will be informed by the admissions team if this applies to you. If you are unsure please get in touch using the information on the admissions contact page.

What is the purpose of the admission exam?

Engineering courses at the University of Bristol are challenging, and students without A-level Mathematics or equivalent have struggled in the past. The first year covers a broad range of concepts that are fundamental to many other units across the course and we want to ensure that applicants are prepared to succeed. We are doing this in two ways:

- an entry exam that assesses applicants’ ability to handle the mathematical challenges in the first year of the course;
- offering support throughout the first year to address any issues students may have.

What is the format of the exam? What will I need?

The exam is a one-hour, online, multiple-choice test with questions based on the A-level topics detailed below. Applicants will sit the exam in standard exam conditions, and cannot use notes etc. You will be provided with:

- Access to a University of Bristol computer, there is no need to bring a laptop.

Prior to the test, you will have the opportunity to join the Computer Science Department visit day along with other applicants.
Accessibility advice for disabled applicants

If you are invited to a test date, and you are usually entitled to extra time in assessments due to a disability (such as dyslexia) and you wish to be given extra time in the Maths test, you must:

1. Contact the admissions team on admissions-eng@bristol.ac.uk to advise them that you wish to be granted extra time, and explain the reason for this. Please quote your UCAS Personal ID number in your correspondence.

2. Send hard-copy documentary evidence of your entitlement to extra time in assessments to the Admissions Office 10 days before the test at the very latest.

Completing these two steps will give you 25 per cent more time to complete the test. If you do not complete these steps, we will not be able to provide you with extra time.

What is covered in the exam?

This diagnostic test consists of questions covering UK AS and A2 Mathematics topics, including Core 1, 2 and 3, and Mechanics 1 and 2 units. The test has three sections: maths (25 questions), quantitative comparison (14 questions), and graphs (6 questions).

What’s the pass mark?

Your exam result will be taken into consideration by the admissions team as one of a number of different pieces of information - we do not publish a specific pass mark, but you should aim to perform at a level equivalent to our contextual offer grades. For reference, an A grade at A-level is usually around 80 per cent and a B grade 70 per cent. Achieving a high mark in the test does not guarantee you will be offered a place.

After the exam

You will be informed as to whether you have been offered a place through UCAS, the University’s standard admissions system.

If you accept your offer we strongly encourage you to read around and get a head-start on relevant maths content, and other material that may be important for your course - see the Unit Catalogue for details. Topics that are important across a number of courses include:

- A-level Mathematics
  - Pure Core 1-4
  - Further Pure 1-4
  - Mechanics 1-4