Civil Engineering
Undergraduate study
Courses

Single Honours
BEng Civil Engineering
three years H205
MEng Civil Engineering
four years H200
MEng Civil Engineering with Study in Continental Europe
four years H201
MEng Civil Engineering with Study Abroad*
four years
MEng Civil Engineering with a Year in Industry†
five years

*Entry by transfer from H200 at the end of the first year.
†Entry by transfer subject to eligibility criteria.

Why study civil engineering at Bristol?

Civil engineers shape the basic structure of the world we live in. They are responsible for the creation and maintenance of much of the infrastructure that we often take for granted. Every reservoir, dam, bridge, road, tunnel and large building is designed and built by civil engineers. They are a vital part of multi-disciplinary teams tackling sustainable development challenges in both developed and developing countries.

Bristol’s Department of Civil Engineering has an international reputation for quality, with excellent teaching and research ratings. You will learn under the guidance of leading international researchers. The course structure is continually updated to reflect changing knowledge and the latest advances in civil engineering around the world. Working with professional institutions, we look five to ten years ahead and beyond, to anticipate the emerging needs and future shape of civil engineering.

If you want to make a difference to the world and to the quality of people’s lives this is the course for you. Our degree courses will develop your technical and project management skills, enabling you to be future leaders in the civil engineering industry. As a small department, one of six in a strongly integrated faculty, we offer a friendly and supportive learning environment. The small number of students admitted each year (around 90) means that we can get to know you individually and give you the kind of personal attention that is necessary for studio-based design teaching.

The Department of Civil Engineering is ranked in the top ten civil engineering departments in the UK.

Complete University Guide 2018

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2018. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2017). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University’s website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study, for the latest updates.
Our aim is to produce civil engineers who can influence the world we live in. You will learn about:
- environmental and sustainable engineering;
- designing and building major structures;
- project management;
- community and infrastructure planning, design and liaison;
- disaster risk management;
- urban infrastructure and smart cities.

The first two years of all our civil engineering courses cover the basics of engineering analysis and design. This includes structures, mathematics, soil and fluid mechanics, materials, computing and surveying, along with various optional units such as systems and technologies for smart cities.

Design and systems thinking are at the heart of the course. For example in the first year you will have to find a creative solution for designing and making a model bridge. Second year design includes steelwork and reinforced concrete. A water resources group project, in which you have to design a water supply system, including a dam in mid-Wales, is the highlight of the third year. There is a group design project in the fourth year based on real design problems which have emerged through our links with industry. Students have been associated recently with work on the Second Severn Crossing, coastal protection schemes, and flood forecasting for the Environment Agency.

‘The state-of-the-art facilities in the University convinced me that Bristol was the right choice. The laboratories are impressive, there are computer rooms all around the campus and some libraries are open 24 hours. The exchange programme is a great opportunity to broaden my view of the world and get to know a different culture.’
Victor Siqueira (MEng Civil Engineering)
What will you study?

In years three and four you can study specialist areas through optional units such as Sustainable Construction, Sustainable Systems, Wind and Marine Power, and Earthquake Engineering. The third and fourth years offer a major research project in which you can choose a problem related to one of the research areas of the department. Units in Professional Studies will widen your knowledge of the business, management, ethics and legal sides of the construction industry.

Students on the MEng with Study in Continental Europe or Study Abroad degrees will spend the third year at a partner university in Europe or farther afield. Your study plan will be arranged on an individual basis, depending on where you spend the year abroad – it may include projects and specialist subjects that are not taught at Bristol.

The three-year BEng Civil Engineering is particularly attractive to international students who may not require a four-year MEng degree to qualify as professional engineers in their own countries. It is also attractive for UK and EU students who do not want to commit initially to a four-year degree course.

Our course is demanding, but you will be guided by first-class engineers in a friendly and supportive environment. You’ll be encouraged to ask questions and challenge current thinking. The department provides an excellent teaching environment using a mixture of lectures, example classes, guided reading, computer-assisted learning, site visits and group work in laboratories and projects. The course is assessed through a combination of written examinations, reports and oral or poster presentations.

It is important that you enjoy your university education and feel supported throughout; you will have a personal tutor, with whom you can discuss academic or personal matters on an individual basis.

80 per cent of students are in work six months after graduation and 90 per cent of them are in professional or managerial roles.

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2016, MEng Civil Engineering.

Abdelrahman Alsardi (MEng Civil Engineering 2015–)

‘Bristol is one of the best places in the world to study civil engineering. The department has the largest shaking table in Europe and the lecturers are really inspiring and push you to challenge yourself. The course is very well rounded with elements of architecture and energy. Sustainability is integrated in the course, which is something that I am really passionate about. By the end of the second year, you’d be able to design a whole building out of steel or concrete.’
Our facilities
The department’s research activity provides a stimulating environment in which to study civil engineering. Our geotechnical, structural and hydraulic water engineering facilities are world class and students use these in their learning. The earthquake shaking table, the most advanced in Europe, is the heart of the Earthquake Research Centre and can test structures up to 15m high.

The Engineering Growth Project is a £14 million investment that will equip the Faculty of Engineering well into the 21st century. From autumn 2017 this major expansion of our facilities will include state-of-the-art equipment and large, flexible teaching, design, study and workshops spaces, enabling interactive teaching and learning for our students. Our new atrium will act as a social learning and meeting place and there are future plans for a new cafe and bookable project and study rooms.

Industrial Liaison Office
The Industrial Liaison Office (ILO) manage the Faculty of Engineering’s links with a diverse set of world-class engineering and technology companies and work to ensure that our students engage with industry from the very start of their studies.

As an engineering student at Bristol, you will benefit from an outstanding range of activities designed to enhance your employability. These include our Inside Track lecture series, where industry insiders offer first-hand insight into the engineering industry. Our Industrial Mentoring and internships schemes provide opportunities to gain valuable experience and make important connections, and our regular newsletter highlights further opportunities and industry events. See our website for more information: bristol.ac.uk/engineering/ilo.

‘Our internship scheme continues to attract support from a wide range of technology and engineering companies, allowing these companies to build relationships with our high-calibre students, who will form the engineering workforce of the future.’
Professor Andrew Nix, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering

Bristol graduates are recognised as being among the best in the country and are actively sought after by top employers. We regularly feature toward the top of national graduate employment tables.

Major recruiters of civil engineering graduates include:

• consultants – who plan and design projects and may supervise or plan implementation;
• contractors – who organise the execution of designs on sites, oversee the labour force and materials and consider time, cost and safety constraints;
• utility companies and local authorities, eg water, highways and drainage – who may act in both design and site management capacities;
• the Army, particularly the Royal Engineers;
• other large engineering industries, eg petroleum and mining, public transport, power generation and supply companies.

The University’s Careers Service provides careers information, advice and guidance for all students. This includes help on writing CVs, cover letters and application forms, setting up mock interviews, and organising relevant workshops, talks and presentations.
Making your application

Typical offer for BEng/MEng Civil Engineering*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug18-civilengineering for other qualifications.

A-levels A*AA (contextual AAB†) including A*A (contextual AA†) in Mathematics and a science subject (in any order).

IB Diploma 38 points overall (contextual 34†) with 18 at Higher Level (contextual 17†), including 6, 6 at Higher Level in Mathematics and a science subject.

English Language Profile E††

GCSEs Mathematics and English at grade C or above.

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-apply/#typical-contextual-offers.

††For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

Deferred entry Welcomed.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2017); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

We will look closely at your potential academic ability based on previous examination results and predicted grades and your intellectual motivation. We also look at what you say about your personal interests, including your extracurricular activities and positions of responsibility and the report provided by your academic referee.

In particular we are looking for:

• your interest in and commitment to the subject;
• evidence of clear thinking and understanding;
• problem-solving and analytical skills;
• clear evidence of relevant reading or research into the subject area;
• your standard of written English.

Additional criteria we consider includes your response to any challenges faced, teamwork skills and how appropriate our civil engineering course is to your declared interests and aspirations.

Further information
Find out more about the Department of Civil Engineering: bristol.ac.uk/civilengineering

Institution of Civil Engineers: www.ice.org.uk

The Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation: www.ciht.org.uk

Institution of Structural Engineers: www.istructe.org

Engineering Council: www.engc.org.uk

Engineering Development Trust – The Year in Industry: www.etrust.org.uk/ther-year-in-industry

Why choose Bristol?

Top 10 UK university (QS World University Rankings)

3rd most targeted university by top UK employers (High Fliers Research)

Rated in top 50 universities worldwide (QS World University Rankings)
Contact us

Enquiries Team
Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649
Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

Accommodation Office
Tel +44 (0)117 954 6640
Email accom-office@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/accommodation

Disability Services
Tel +44 (0)117 331 0444
Email disability-services@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/disability-services

Student Funding Office
Tel +44 (0)117 331 7972
Email student-funding@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding

University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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Student Marketing:
Tel +44 (0)117 394 1573
Email ug-publications@bristol.ac.uk

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Patrick Metcalfe, Nick Riddle, Dan Rowley
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