Mathematics
Undergraduate study
Courses

Single Honours
BSc Mathematics
three years G100
BSc Mathematics with Statistics
three years G1G3
BSc Mathematics with Study in Continental Europe
four years G101
MSci Mathematics
four years G103
MSci Mathematics with Statistics
four years G1GH
MSci Mathematics with Study Abroad
four years G105
MSci Mathematics with Study in Continental Europe
four years G104

Joint Honours
BSc Economics and Mathematics
three years LG11
BSc Mathematics and Computer Science
three years GG14
BSc Mathematics and Philosophy
three years VG51
BSc Mathematics and Physics
three years GFD3
MEng Mathematics and Computer Science
four years GG1K
MSci Mathematics and Computer Science
four years G101
MSci Mathematics and Philosophy
four years GV15
MSci Mathematics and Physics
four years GFC3

Why study mathematics at Bristol?

Mathematics develops your ability to deal with abstract concepts as well as calculations, and to use each to inform the other. It helps develop deductive and inductive thinking, clear and precise communication, critical thinking, modelling and assessing risk.

Now is an exciting time to be studying mathematics at Bristol because the school is moving to a new home, The Fry Building, an iconic building in the heart of the University precinct. The building is being completely renovated and remodelled to provide a first-class, modern environment for teaching and research in mathematics, with lecture theatres, tutorial rooms, computer laboratories and plenty of social, study and interaction spaces for students and staff.

We are one of the top five research departments in the UK. Research strengths in the school include: number theory; dynamical systems; analysis; group theory and representation theory; logic; Bayesian modelling and analysis; behavioural biology; multiscale methods; signal processing and time series; probability theory; quantum chaos and random matrix theory; quantum information theory; fluids; dynamical systems and statistical mechanics; materials science.

The school is strongly committed to undergraduate teaching. Lecturers are passionate about the subjects they teach, which are often related to their research expertise.

£33 million renovation of the Grade II listed Fry Building, the new home for the School of Mathematics, due to open in January 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 first year provides a broad foundation in mathematics. Single Honours students follow a prescribed programme of study, which includes calculus, linear algebra, analysis, number theory and group theory, probability and statistics.

The first year syllabus prepares the ground for subsequent study. There is increasing choice in later years and by the third year students can either study a broad range of mathematics or choose to specialise. For example, you could concentrate on themes such as mathematical physics, probability theory, ergodic theory, number theory or continuum mechanics.

Students on mathematics with statistics courses take core units in probability and statistics. Students on mathematics with study in Continental Europe courses usually study a modern language in place of a mathematics unit in years one and two. Joint Honours students usually divide their studies equally between mathematics and the partner school.

In year two of your course you can take an outside unit in a subject unrelated to mathematics and in year three you can take some units outside the department which are related to mathematics.

In years three and four we offer a range of individual and group undergraduate projects, some of which provide an opportunity to study and even contribute to mathematics at the frontiers of research.

**Teaching and assessment**

Teaching is mainly through lectures. Lectures take place in large groups in the first years, which become smaller in subsequent years, with approximately 10-80 students in most third and fourth year units. In your first year you will have ten to 12 hours of lectures per week. In later years there are typically nine hours of lectures per week.

Lectures are supported in several ways. Our philosophy is to provide the most support in the first year in the form of tutorials, where tutors discuss homework and answer questions to help smooth the transition to university.

Support is tapered in subsequent years encouraging students to become more independent. Most first and second year units have a weekly problems class, which is devoted to worked examples. Lecturers are always happy to discuss questions informally, for example after lectures or during drop-in sessions. The school has also introduced a popular Maths Café, where students can get help on specific second year units from their peers who studied those units in previous years.

Solving problems is essential to learning mathematics. Weekly or bi-weekly problem sheets are assigned in almost all units. Work is marked and solutions and feedback provided. Most units are assessed by examination. First-semester units are examined after the Christmas vacation; second-semester units in May and June.

**Personal tutors**

You will be assigned a personal tutor, normally one of your first-year subject tutors, and they will remain with you throughout the duration of your degree course. They will get to know you and follow your progress through your course, provide academic advice, and are a first point of contact should any problems arise.

‘I’ve enjoyed the variety of choice I have within mathematics; it’s such a large subject so it enables me to focus on the areas that interest me the most.’

Jessica Holding (BSc Mathematics 2015-)

bristol.ac.uk/ug-study
Careers and graduate destinations

A mathematics degree from Bristol will be highly prized by employers and is an excellent starting point for a wide range of careers. Bristol mathematics graduate earnings are above the graduate mean salary.

The skills you acquire will make you an attractive prospect to employers in many fields. Highly prized attributes that a mathematics degree at Bristol develops include skills in: comprehending and drawing inferences from an abstract conceptual framework; formulating tractable problems from complex questions; presenting cogent arguments and analysing their merits; predicting outcomes and evaluating risks.

Making your application

Typical offer for BSc/MSci Mathematics*

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

A-levels A*A*A including A* in Mathematics, and a listed subject; or A*AA including A* in Mathematics and A in Further Mathematics (contextual AAA† including Mathematics and a listed subject or AAB† with AA in Maths and Further Maths).

IB Diploma 40 points overall (contextual 36†) with 18 points at Higher Level including 6, 6 at Mathematics and a listed subject.

English Language Profile E††

GCSEs Grade C in English Language.

†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.

Accepted subjects include Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics and Computer Science. STEP Paper achievement may be included as part of an alternative offer.

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

Deferred entry Welcomed, but please seek advice about maintaining relevant skills.

*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.

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2016/17 and are the third most targeted university by top UK employers (High Fliers Research, 2017).
Contact us

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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.

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

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