About the University of Bristol

The University of Bristol has its origins in the late 19th century and gained its Royal Charter in 1909. It is one of the most popular and successful universities in the UK, and was ranked within the top 30 universities in the world in the QS World University rankings 2013.

Bristol is a member of the Russell Group of UK research-intensive universities, and a member of the Worldwide Universities Network, a grouping of research-led institutions of international standing.

The Research Excellence Framework 2014, which assessed the quality of the research at every UK university, ranked Bristol among the country’s top research institutions. Thirty-six per cent of the University’s research received the top 4* rating, defined by the Higher Education Funding Council for England as ‘world leading’. This is six per cent above the sector average, placing Bristol 10th in the Russell Group.

The University’s research is world renowned for its impact across a broad spectrum of disciplines. Our researchers tackle some of the world’s most urgent issues in the areas of health and disease, climate change, food security, energy and social justice. The University has been awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher Education – the highest accolade for any academic institution – in recognition of its leading-edge research in obstetric and neonatal practice, which has made a positive difference to mothers and babies throughout the world.

The University of Bristol is dedicated to academic achievement across a broad range of disciplines. It is made up of 25 academic schools, organised into six faculties: Arts; Engineering; Medical and Veterinary Sciences; Medicine and Dentistry; Science; and Social Sciences and Law. It has over 15,000 undergraduates and nearly 6,000 postgraduate students from more than 100 countries. Eleven Bristol graduates and members of staff have been awarded Nobel Prizes.

The University is also a major force in the economic, social and cultural life of Bristol and the region. It works hard to build effective links with the community and its industries, through high-quality research collaboration and productive knowledge exchange, the creation and support of new companies and enterprises, and the licensing of intellectual property. Engaging the public is a vital part of university life and an area in which staff and students are actively involved.
In March 2014, Bristol was declared the best UK city to live in by *The Sunday Times*. The paper’s survey, Best Places to Live in Britain, awarded Bristol top place by virtue of its ‘great shopping, buzzing social scene and glorious scenery’. It also cited the city’s ‘bucketloads of history and heritage from Brunel to Banksy, along with a great choice of housing, fantastic transport links […] and a real sense of growing economic importance and creative energy’. The accolade followed another survey of ‘The most liveable cities in Britain’, in which Bristol also came first.

2015 sees Bristol become European Green Capital, beating rivals Brussels, Glasgow and Ljubljana in a tightly fought contest. The Bristol bid was led by the Green Capital Partnership, of which the University of Bristol is a member. Funding worth £2 million to support and enhance sustainable living in the city was announced recently and the ‘Bristol 2015 Neighbourhood Partnerships Fund’, worth £250,000, is the first of three grant-funding streams to be announced this summer. The funding boost will open up opportunities for communities and organisations across the city, including the University of Bristol, to play an active part in identifying and delivering projects for Bristol’s European Green Capital year.