

# Access to Bristol 2016/17

Experience life at the  
University of Bristol





## Access to Bristol

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# What is Access to Bristol?

Aimed at local students studying towards AS and A-levels (or equivalents), the Access to Bristol scheme gives you a taste of life as a student at the University of Bristol.

Access to Bristol offers 26 subject streams, reflecting the variety of academic activity at the University. You will take part in academic taster sessions within a subject, giving you an idea of what it is like to study at the University.

As well as developing your subject knowledge on one of the subject streams, our student support session will introduce you to other aspects of university life at Bristol. For example, visit the Students' Union, learn about what our careers service can offer you and hear about study abroad opportunities at Bristol.

On completion of the scheme, you will be invited to a graduation ceremony in the grand setting of the Great Hall in the Wills Memorial Building. This will be an occasion for you to celebrate your successful completion of the scheme with invited friends and family as well as giving you a taste of what a university graduation ceremony will be like.

*"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, Widening Participation and Student Recruitment Manager, University of Bristol



# Benefits of Access to Bristol



## What can Access to Bristol offer you?

- First-hand experience of what it's like to study at one of Britain's top universities
- Additional support with your A-level studies from our world-class teaching staff
- A boost to your CV and UCAS application
- The chance to meet local students from a range of backgrounds

*"Watching students on Access to Bristol apply themselves in a subject that they enjoy, showing that they are capable of university-level study is so rewarding. For many students the scheme helps them to make that final decision about the subject they wish to study and see that university is a viable option."*

Liam Dowson, Access to Bristol co-ordinator, University of Bristol

If you complete the Access to Bristol scheme you will also have access to the following benefits:

### Guaranteed offer

Successful completion of the Access to Bristol scheme will guarantee you an offer from the University of Bristol provided that you meet the entry requirements of the course you apply for. If a course holds interviews or auditions as part of the selection procedure, you will be guaranteed an interview or audition.

### Access to Bristol Bursary

If you successfully complete Access to Bristol and firmly accept your offer to study at the University of Bristol, you may be eligible for the Access to Bristol bursary. This includes a full tuition fee waiver for your first year and a cash maintenance bursary of £3,750 for each year of your course. To be considered you need to have a household income of £25,000 or below and be resident in England.

# Who we are looking for and how to apply

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 criteria. You must be:

- in your first or second year of A-level study (or equivalent), with the exception of the law stream which is a two-year programme and therefore open to students in Year 12 only;
- resident in a BA, BS or other local postcode within an hour's journey from 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 ability 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 a Low Participation Area (LPA);
- attend a contextual school/college.

## How do I apply?

If you would like to take part in Access to Bristol, apply online at **[bristol.ac.uk/access-to-bristol](http://bristol.ac.uk/access-to-bristol)** 1 to 23 September 2016.

We recommend that you discuss the scheme with your Head of Sixth Form.



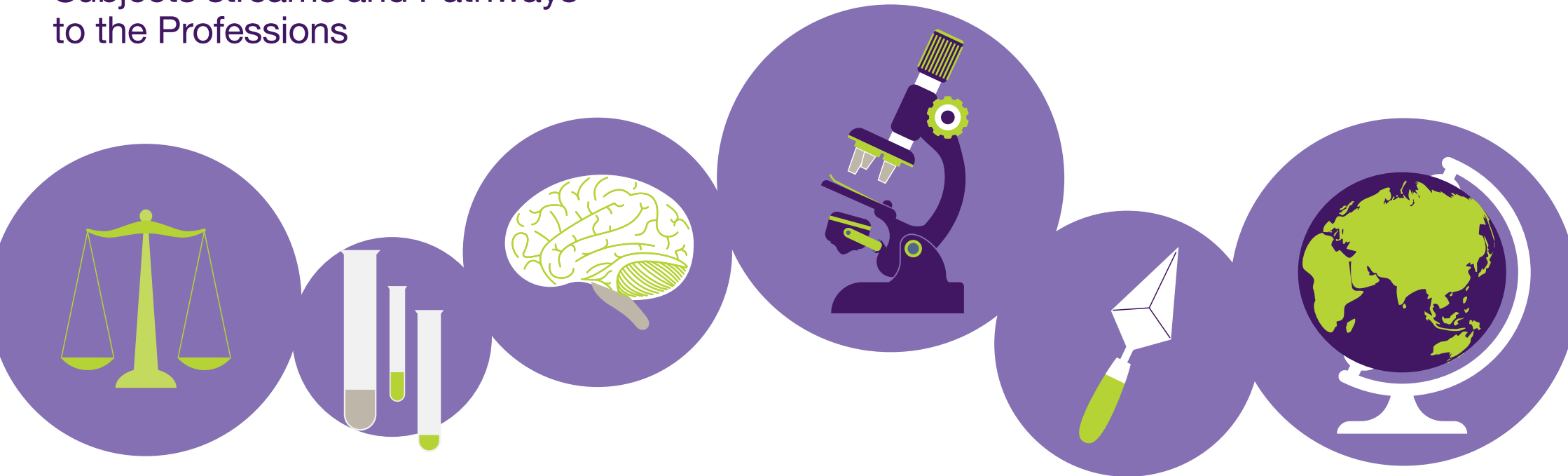
# Timeline and term dates

Sessions take place on Wednesday afternoons at the University of Bristol between 2 pm and 4.30 pm on the following dates:

\*Please note there is no session during half-term.

Autumn term*	Spring term*
12 October 2016	25 January 2017
19 October 2016	1 February 2017
2 November 2016	8 February 2017
9 November 2016	22 February 2017
16 November 2016	1 March 2017
23 November 2016	8 March 2017
30 November 2016	15 March 2017
7 December 2016	22 March 2017

# Subjects streams and Pathways to the Professions



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Term: Autumn

## Animal Sciences

This stream is suitable for students studying at least two sciences or Mathematics A-levels.



If you are interested in this course, you may enjoy Pathways to The Professions **page 33**

The Animal Sciences stream is run by members of staff from the Faculty of Health Sciences and will give an overview of studying animal-related courses at university. These courses include Veterinary Science, Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science and Zoology.

Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science and Veterinary Science are designed to equip you with an understanding of animal science, alongside the practice of animal treatment. You will learn in clinical environments, which have first-class facilities, and you will gain an understanding of the day-to-day experiences of professionals working in animal science careers.

On the Animal Sciences stream you also have the opportunity to explore medical sciences, such as anatomy, physiology and biochemistry, which are crucial to the study of animal sciences at university. You will find out more about these degree courses and see for yourself how these clinical-based subjects are taught at Bristol.

*"The Animal Sciences ambassadors were really friendly and chatty. They were really informative and helped me understand what a typical day is like for a vet student and what the assessments and exams are like."*

Karla, Access to Bristol student

Term: Autumn

## Archaeology and Anthropology

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

The University's Department of Archaeology and Anthropology houses a young, friendly, international community. It is well equipped with laboratories and IT resources and even has its own fleet of Land Rovers. World-leading experts will run the sessions on this stream and you will gain hands-on experience working with artefacts and bones.

These are exciting subject areas that encourage you to question and evaluate all that you see around you as you explore the history of humankind. You will work with our staff to see how we can uncover the past using both practical and theoretical perspectives.

You will have the opportunity to learn the basic skills involved in archaeological and anthropological research, including visits to laboratories and museums and a field trip to an archaeological site near Bristol. On this practical programme you will also gain access to our outstanding facilities.

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 anyone studying a wide range of A-level subjects, including history, biology, classics and of course, archaeology and anthropology.

*"Access to Bristol has been a great insight into my chosen course of archaeology and anthropology, along with university life itself. I also really enjoyed gaining hands-on experience of archaeology with our field trip to Stanton Drew, along with engaging in interesting discussions with like-minded people."*

Julia, Access to Bristol student



## Term: Spring Biological Sciences

This stream is suitable for students studying two sciences or Mathematics A-levels.

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.

The stream will be taught by leading experts in their field 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 a flavour of as many different aspects of biology as possible.

All of the sessions will be practical based – with any necessary theoretical aspects being taught alongside.

*“It has never been so important ever, for human beings to understand the workings of the world which is our home”.*

Sir David Attenborough, speaking at the official opening of the Life Sciences Building in 2014.



## Term: Autumn and Spring Biomedical Sciences

This stream is suitable for students studying two sciences or Mathematics A-levels.

If you are interested in this course, you may enjoy Pathways to The Professions page 33



The Biomedical Sciences stream is run jointly by schools from the Faculty of Health Sciences and Faculty of Biomedical Sciences. Subjects covered include human anatomy, physiology, pathology, pharmacology, biochemistry, medicine and dentistry. You will learn more about the human body, its structure and function, what can go wrong and how drugs work.

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 at a molecular, cellular, organ and whole-body level. This helps us to understand disease and to develop new treatments.

The sessions on this stream will give you a deeper understanding of biology and a feel for what it is like to study medicine, dentistry, medical sciences or biochemistry 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 of Bristol even more.”*

Rei, Access to Bristol student

## Term: Spring Chemistry

This stream is suitable for students studying Chemistry and Mathematics at A-level.



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 heavy emphasis on practical work in our undergraduate teaching laboratories, supplemented by lecture-based sessions. You will get hands-on experience of working in the 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 cutting-edge chemistry being produced at Bristol.

*"The scheme was fantastic. It gave me a deeper understanding of chemistry at university level and the benefits that the scheme brings are invaluable."*

Access to Bristol student

## Term: Spring Childhood Studies

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

This stream introduces participants to the BSc Childhood Studies degree offered by the School for Policy Studies.

The BSc Childhood Studies is a distinctive course considering the social science of childhood and adolescence, from birth to 19 years of age. It is an interdisciplinary subject, combining theoretical understandings from areas such as psychology, sociology, education, policy studies, law, health and social care, anthropology and history. It brings these perspectives together to understand children and young people's lives, and the political, economic and social environments in which they grow up, nationally and globally.

The staff teaching on our childhood studies course include world-leading researchers whose research focuses on children with disabilities, studies of poverty and child health in the developing world, safeguarding children in online worlds and children's health, wellbeing and education.

This stream aims to introduce you to policy topics that will develop your understanding while offering deeper insight into issues that cut across A-level subjects, such as sociology, law, politics, history, geography and psychology. You will also experience, first-hand, what it is like to study at university.

Previous Access to Bristol sessions have covered issues such as: addressing child poverty in the developing world; ensuring children achieve a healthy start in life; developing Bristol as a child-friendly city; FABKids (exploring food, activity and bodies); and children's rights to autonomy and self-determination. Sessions will be delivered by staff with research expertise in these areas and sessions will include debates, presentations and student exercises.

*"This was a really useful scheme; the lecturers were unbelievably helpful in helping me to decide which course would be right for me."*

Sophie, Access to Bristol student





## Term: Autumn

# Earth Sciences

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 which have shaped it since, and at how life first formed and has evolved. We consider the solid geosphere, the biosphere, the atmosphere and the hydrosphere. We use all of the sciences to help us to unravel the history of our planet, and to predict what may happen in the future.

On the Earth Sciences stream, you will learn more about the deep earth, how the parts we cannot access 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 any 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 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. By talking to them it made me feel more confident about being happy to be at Bristol."*

Gwynfor, Access to Bristol student



## Term: Spring and Autumn

# Economics, Finance and Management

This stream is suitable for students studying Mathematics at A-level.

The subjects and issues explored in the Economics, Finance and Management stream can be seen on the news on a daily basis and have an impact on everyday life, especially during economic downturns.

This stream gives you the opportunity to see how these subjects are delivered at a university level and to understand the role and work that economists, accountants, financiers and managers perform. The sessions aim to develop your ability to prepare and interpret economic and financial information alongside developing skills such as critical thinking and communication.

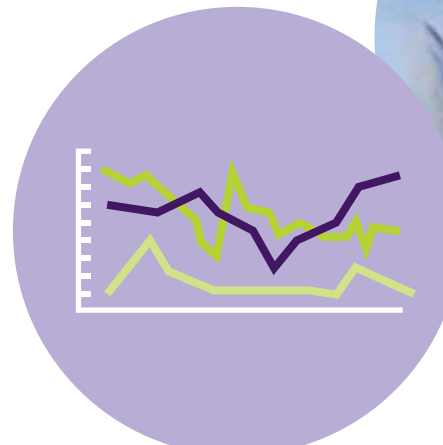
The programme is designed for those who are interested in the following questions: What is economics, accounting, finance and management? How do they interact? Why are professionals with these skills in demand in the world today? What do they contribute? How is the information that they generate useful? To whom is it useful?

These questions will be explored through the use of real world examples. Your time will be split between economics, accounting and finance and management. We will help you explore what these subjects mean and why they are important.

We welcome students taking A-levels in all subjects. However, because all of the degree courses offered in the School of Economics, Finance and Management require A-level Maths, you will need to be studying AS-level or A-level Mathematics to join this stream.

*"Brilliant, well worth it. The scheme really gives you an insight into what it will be like at university; it helped me understand what I want to do."*

Access to Bristol student



## Term: Autumn and Spring Engineering

This stream is suitable for students studying Mathematics and preferably Physics at A-level.

If you are interested in this course, you may enjoy Pathways to The Professions **page 33**



Ever wanted to solve problems using mathematics and physics? Engineering involves using these subjects in a practical way to create solutions for the world, from designing cities that engage with their residents to creating robotic healthcare solutions. If you are taking Mathematics and Physics at A-level, our Engineering stream may be of interest to you.

The University of Bristol's Faculty of Engineering will offer you the chance to attend academic sessions in the following areas of engineering: aerospace engineering, civil engineering, computer science, electrical and electronic engineering, engineering mathematics and mechanical engineering.

The stream is designed to expose you to what an engineering course would involve 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 that are required to pursue this subject at degree level.

*"It was an outstanding experience, which really helped my academic and team work skills. It was really nice to work with likeminded people."*

Leah, Access to Bristol student

## Term: Autumn and Spring English Literature

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 distinguished by its strong commitment to literary studies as a serious yet immediately pleasurable academic discipline. The research of staff in the English department covers literature, poetry and drama from the middle ages to the contemporary period, using many perspectives and literary theories.

The English Literature stream is designed to broaden your literary, critical, historical and intellectual horizons, providing an opportunity for you to develop your interest in the subject in new directions.

We will look at texts in a wide range of forms and from many different periods, reading, analysing and discussing 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.

*"The Access to Bristol programme 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."*

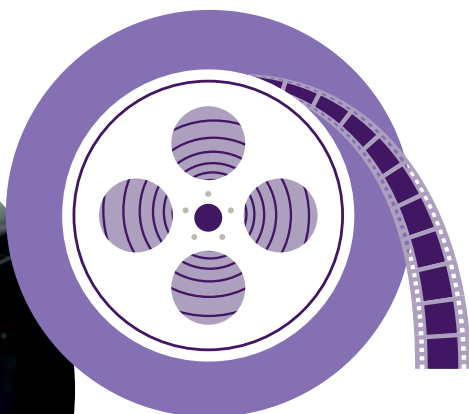
Gemma, Access to Bristol student



## 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 engage with one central question: how would you talk about culture? Perhaps you would refer to reality TV shows, or the news and 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, suitable for you if you like to combine critical thinking with a practical outcome.

*"I found it to be a great experience and enjoyed all the workshops. The teachers were really friendly and it was a good opportunity to meet new people and learn new things."*

Access to Bristol student

## Term: Autumn

# Geography

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 all these areas and you will learn about the latest developments in geography. As well as sessions based in the department, you will also 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. The stream is open to students studying a wide range of subjects. 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



## Term: Autumn and Spring Historical Studies

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

The Historical Studies stream will give you a taste of several different university degree courses, all of which have a historical dimension. You will work with staff from three areas of the School of Humanities: history, classics and ancient history, and history of art.

The Department of Classics and Ancient History examines various historical periods and topics from the archaeology of Bronze Age Greece to the religions of the later Roman Empire. 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 of History of Art has interests ranging from Medieval and Renaissance art to modernism, and

has particular focus on topics from Giotto to Picasso, to the visual culture of sport, and the relationships between art, music and text.

The sessions will introduce you to the ways in which history, classics and ancient history, and art history are 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 art and literature 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 any of these subjects at degree level. You do not need to have studied any of these subjects already. These sessions are also designed to give you a fresh insight into your A-level studies.

*"Access to Bristol was a fun and insightful scheme that has made me even more passionate about my subject and studying at University."*

Claire, Access to Bristol student



## Term: Autumn Law (Access to HE)

This stream is only for students who are currently studying for an Access to Bristol HE Diploma. You are normally expected to be a mature student.

Law is a major part of all our everyday lives: buying lunch, applying for a job, working for an employer, claiming benefit, driving a car, taking an exam, living in a property – all these things are governed by law. Law also plays a role in things that are more remote from most of us: war, international trade, companies, banks, immigration, the environment, science, medicine, the armed forces. This makes law 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, the police, accountancy, business, as well as working in the legal profession.

Students on the Access to Bristol 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. These will be taught in

small groups of less than ten students and large groups of up to several hundred, so that you can get an idea of the different types of teaching and learning at university.

The Access to Bristol Law stream also includes practical help with applying to university, including writing a personal statement, preparing for interview and taking the LNAT test.

Please note, dates for this stream may vary slightly from the Access to Bristol dates listed.

Year 12 students interested in law should look at the Pathways to Law program on page 22.

*"The scheme is fantastic for those who wish to understand higher education."*

Charles, Access to Bristol student





## Term: Two-year programme, Year 12 only

# Law (Pathways to Law)

Pathways to Law, run by the Sutton Trust and supported by the Legal Education Foundation, is a two-year programme which supports academically able students in Years 12 and 13 who are from non-privileged backgrounds and are interested in a career in law.

The programme will give you the chance to experience studying law at the University of Bristol, taking part in lectures and seminars on various aspects of law led by the University's internationally recognised academics.

You will also have the opportunity to participate in a three- to five-day legal work placement, where you will see what it's like to work at an established law firm. You will also attend a three-night residential conference in July of Year

12 at the University of Warwick where you will experience university life and meet students from the other Pathways to Law universities.

One of the most important elements of the Pathways to Law programme is e-mentoring. You will be matched to a current University of Bristol law student who you can talk to about studying at university or careers in law, and who will be happy to answer any other questions you may have.

Pathways to Law is a two-year programme which means we can only accept students who will be studying at school or college for the next two years. Eligibility for this programme differs from other Access to Bristol streams. For more information visit [bristol.ac.uk/study/teachers/post-16/pathways](https://bristol.ac.uk/study/teachers/post-16/pathways).



*Pathwaystolaw*



## Term: Autumn

# Liberal Arts

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

Studying the arts involves discovering the experiences of others and exploring how our own society and culture has been shaped by past ideas, events and works of art.

This stream allows you to sample the rich subjects on offer in the Faculty of Arts. Although our subjects are all distinct, we share a common goal to consider the human condition and explore the languages, cultures and societies that humans create. This could involve looking at how people have expressed themselves creatively in music, theatre, cinema, art and literature and how they have understood their place in the world for example, through religious beliefs or philosophical debate. You will explore how people have behaved and communicated, from anthropological observations of human interaction to historical investigation of events and societies, local and global, ancient and modern.

Each week, you will choose from a selection of sessions representing our arts subjects. You'll not only explore diverse topics but also the different ways in which individual subjects approach them. Some of our subjects, like English and history, will be very familiar but others, such as anthropology, might be completely new. Here 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 who are interested in broader university courses, such as our own Liberal Arts degree.

*"I found the access to Bristol scheme so interesting and helpful in so many ways. Primarily for me it enabled me to go from having no idea what I wanted to do at university or even if I was sure it would be a place I'd enjoy, to becoming motivated and feeling well equipped to successfully apply to a Russell Group university."*

Izzy, Access to Bristol Student



## Term: Autumn and Spring Mathematics

This stream is suitable for students studying Mathematics 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 maths 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, geometry, group theory and cryptography as well as styles of questions such as STEP and the Maths Challenge. You will come away with an overview of what mathematics is like at university level and knowledge of how to enhance your UCAS application.

An additional follow-up day in July is available for Access to Bristol students on the Mathematics stream (and some other mathematics-based streams). This will include topics requiring a certain level of expertise in calculus which will have been introduced into your A-level studies by this time.

*"The scheme gave me a fantastic insight into mathematics at Bristol University and has assured me that I am following the right path. The lecturer was incredibly helpful and was able to answer all my questions in regard to mathematics at university as well as applying to university."*

James, Access to Bristol student

## Term: Autumn and Spring Modern Languages

This stream is suitable for students studying A-level languages.

There's much more to modern languages than grammar and vocabulary!

Join this stream and discover how varied, broad and exciting a modern languages degree can be. Whereas at GCSE and A-level, language learning is necessarily the main or only focus, a modern languages degree at Bristol is divided between study of a language to an advanced level and study of the culture – history, literature, film, visual cultures, drama, philosophy, politics – of the countries where the language is spoken. Modern languages graduates leave university as excellent linguists, but also have a rounded and broad education in different aspects of the arts and humanities.

Sessions in this stream are a mixture of seminars and lectures. Roughly half the sessions focus on improving your understanding of how languages work. These include sessions in which you will be given a chance to learn a language, such as

Czech, Russian or Portuguese, from scratch, as many universities now allow you to take up a new language.

The remaining sessions will cover a wide range of cultures and subjects, eg French film, Communist Germany, Latin American sporting culture, or the Italian Renaissance. You will get the chance to meet current students who have spent a year abroad as part of their degree in places as diverse as Berlin, Bordeaux, Moscow, Rome, Buenos Aires and La Réunion.

*"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, Modern Languages



## Term: Spring Philosophy

This stream is suitable for students studying any A-level subjects.

The philosophy stream will give you a taste of philosophy at university level and is designed to develop skills for your future studies, such as critical thinking, debating and attention to detail.

Philosophy is concerned with fundamental issues concerning meaning and understanding, the nature of reality, knowledge, human existence and social justice. We welcome students from arts, social science and science and mathematics backgrounds. Philosophers need both formal logic (to reason correctly and rigorously) and interpretive skills (to read and understand difficult and challenging texts).

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, which are concerned with deep 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 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. In this stream staff from the School of Physics will introduce you to their work, ranging from quantum physics (the physics of the very small) to the formation of astronomical objects.

The School of Physics has active experimental research groups in particle and 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 activities in our £7 million refurbished teaching labs, all led by researchers active in their field.

*"Great opportunity to find out what studying physics at Bristol is like, which you can only really gain through these invaluable sessions."*

Adam, Access to Bristol Student



## Term: Autumn Politics

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 and how communities and states interact.

Politics students at the University of Bristol study the politics of individual countries and governments, as well as the relationships between countries, communities and individuals. Some of the key questions in the study of politics include:

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

On this stream you will be taught by academics who are leaders in many areas of political study. During the programme 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 will provide a range of critical tools to examine these issues and hold debates about issues in the news today. The study of politics provides you with excellent career prospects and our graduates are in high demand. The politics stream is open to all students regardless of which A-level subjects you are studying, but will be of particular interest if you want to study social sciences at university.

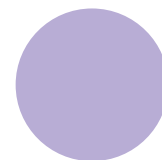
*"The scheme was highly informative and most enjoyable, playing an important role in my decision to choose this university; the care and attention shown to each applicant has really made this university stand out."*

Access to Bristol student



## Term: Spring and Autumn Psychology

This stream is suitable for students studying at least one science at A-level, including Psychology or Geography.



The Psychology stream is based in one of the most innovative and exciting departments of its kind 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.

The applications of psychology range from understanding mental and physical health problems, to developing artificial intelligence, from unlocking the power of memory and communication, to planning successful marketing campaigns.

By participating in this stream you will have 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 from the School of Experimental Psychology who are at the forefront of their fields and will have the opportunity to explore our state-of-the-art

facilities.

Studying psychology at university is possible even if you haven't studied it before. It is a uniquely broad subject that benefits and grows from individuals bringing a fresh, alternative perspective to a problem. Therefore, psychology students often come from a range of different backgrounds and study A-levels that are quite diverse, such as the arts and literature, mathematics and physics.

*"It was a great opportunity which I strongly recommend to every sixth form student who is thinking about applying to university. Attending the sessions really extends your knowledge of the subject area which will help to demonstrate your interest in the course both within your personal statement and during the interviews."*

Luca, Access to Bristol student



Term: Spring

## Religion and Theology

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 skills for future studies, such as critical thinking, debating and attention to detail.

Religion and theology attracts those who are interested in what people believe, why they believe, how those beliefs are expressed in life, art and ritual, and how those beliefs interact and influence the rest of society.

You will explore questions such as:

- From what underlying perspectives do people study religion and theology?
- What role do sacred texts play in certain religious traditions?
- How do we understand instances of tension within religion and spirituality?

Alongside exploring such broad issues, we will also look at a number of specific case studies of the type of work done within the department.

*"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



Term: Autumn

## Social Policy and Criminology

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 is a rigorous, critical, exciting and relevant subject. You will draw on disciplines such as sociology, politics, economics, criminology and history to analyse contemporary issues such as inequality, social justice, gender violence and health.

When studying criminology you will look at the cases and responses to crime. Criminology is becoming increasingly entwined with the study of social policy because the understanding of crime draws on ideas about social harm and offending in a social context. The BSc Criminology degree is a new course for 2017 entry at the University of Bristol.

This stream will introduce you to a range of topics in both the study of 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. You will experience first-hand, what it is like to study at university. Previous sessions have covered issues such as: poverty, inequality, attitudes to drugs, the prison crisis, gender-based violence and migration.

*"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



## Term: Autumn Sociology

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 moments of despair and tragedy. These stories also share things in common with the stories of others. We may be individuals but we have much in common. The Sociology stream will give you an insight into this academic subject. We seek 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, relations between men and women and between different ethnic groups. All of 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. Like the skin of an onion, we must peel back the 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 enable you to gain new and profound insights into things you might have thought you already understood.

*“Excellent scheme, broadened my horizons and made me realise subjects which interest me through the enthusiastic learning environment.”*

Eloise, Access to Bristol student

## Pathways to the Professions



4

pathways

If you are successful in gaining a place on Access to Bristol, you can also opt to enrol on to Pathways to the Professions. This additional programme consists of a series of activities designed to link you with local employers.

In addition to exploring the subjects that interest you academically, you can learn more about the professions that graduates will enter after completing their courses. There are four Pathways to the Professions streams:

- Economics, Management, Finance and Accounting
- Medicine
- Veterinary Sciences
- Engineering

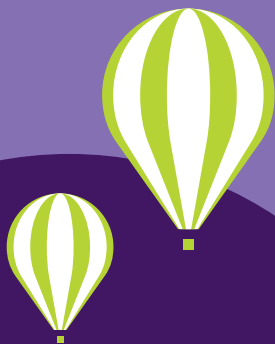
Engaging with the industries that you are interested in working for in the future can be a great addition to your UCAS application form. Activities on Pathways to the Professions will provide you with some excellent experiences that you can include in your personal statement. Activities will be completed from January to August 2017 and run outside of the Access to Bristol programme.

The types of activities will vary for each stream but could include:

- receiving an e-mentor who can guide you through the personal statement writing process;
- undertaking activities hosted and designed by local employers in order to give you a deeper insight in to the profession;
- shadowing local professionals;
- visiting the Head Offices of some of Bristol's biggest companies;
- learning more about the particular skills you need to develop for the career sector that interests you.

At the end of the scheme you will be asked to produce a written log book that details all of the industry related activities you have engaged with. You can then use this log book when attending future interviews or constructing your personal statement as evidence of your experiences.

If you are interested in taking part in this scheme, please tick the Pathways to the Professions box on your Access to Bristol application form.



## **Access to Bristol**

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We have made every effort to ensure that details are correct at the time of going to press (August 2016). However, as information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website [bristol.ac.uk/access-to-bristol](http://bristol.ac.uk/access-to-bristol).