

Undergraduate admissions statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the University's admissions principles and procedures.

Year of admissions cycle: 2014

Courses covered:

Engineering Design (H150)

Admissions process

1. Admissions team

Applications assessed by centralised team in close co-operation with Admissions Tutor/s.

2. Application assessment methods

All applications must be submitted through UCAS; we cannot consider any direct applications.

All applications are considered on an equal basis. Applications are not segregated by the type of educational institution attended. All applications are acknowledged by email on receipt (starting in mid-September), to establish contact and inform the applicant of the process to be followed.

Forms are scored for academic competence, leadership ability, engineering interest and breadth of skills and interest. This process is carried out according to fixed rules and is the same for all candidates applying. The standard of academic competence is evaluated from predicted or actual grades in examinations, and you will get credit for offering more subjects. Leadership, initiative, engineering interest, and breadth of skills and interest are assessed by reading both the personal statement and the reference.

Once the initial scoring has been done and is of the standard we require, then you will be contacted further to complete an additional form (for more information about your skills) and submit a piece of written work (to assess communication, competence, organisation of material, and presentation).

The weighting is as follows:

GCSE's: 10%

A-Level: 35%

Personal statement 55%

Applicants are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, or age.

3. Interview or visit day

Candidates who are successful at this stage will be invited for interview. We do not accept students without interview because we are looking for more than just academic ability. Partner companies will be involved in the interview process, as they will be working with our students for summer placements and the third year placement.

If you are an overseas student and are not able to come to Bristol for interview, we will make arrangements to carry out the interview either through one of our partner companies who have representatives in your country, or by Skype. EU students are normally expected to attend for interview.

4. Correspondence with applicants

All correspondence will be sent to applicants by email.

All applicants should be contacted when we receive their application, to establish contact and to inform the applicant of the process to be followed. Applicants will then be notified if their application has been successful or unsuccessful, or to inform them that their application has been assessed but that we will not be able to make a final decision until later in the cycle.

5. Deferred applications

Applications for deferred entry are welcomed.

Criteria for assessing applicants

1. Academic entry requirements

Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Bacc, 14-19 Diploma, GCSEs) can be found in the online Undergraduate Prospectus: <http://www.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014>

Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on their individual merits; further information is available at:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/study-at-bristol/how-to-apply/country-specific/>

2. Additional academic criteria

A-Level subjects General studies or Critical Thinking are not counted as part of offers, nor is it considered in the academic assessment of applicants.

AS results: We are aware that many institutions do not certify their AS results as a matter of policy. Students will not be penalised for not quoting their AS grades. However we would definitely encourage candidates to tell us about any particularly strong performances in modules in Mathematics or any closely related subject.

3. Personal statement criteria

The course aims to recruit very able students with a Physical Science background and give them experiences that will make them able to take a significant role in major design exercises, later taking the leading role. The aim is to fit these students to be the Engineering Leaders of the future.

A degree programme with such a wide scope makes significant demands on its students and so those wishing to enter must exhibit great potential. Only then can the programme help to form the sort of graduate who can, in the future, lead major design teams. Our industrial advisors insist that the leading graduates they recruit must have an extremely good understanding of engineering concepts and principles across a wide spectrum of engineering, but must also be expert in some discipline. You must be excellent at communicating your ideas and must understand the full context in which engineering takes place. To match these requirements the programme requires you to study in both depth and breadth.

- You will need to demonstrate in your personal statement and application form that you have experience of leadership in some of your wide ranging extra-curricular activities.
- You will need to have an interest in technical or engineering subjects.
- You will need to have a real grasp of some sort of activity that requires technical understanding, for example, an understanding of the technical aspects of some sport, music, theatre, or modelling.
- You should show evidence of clear thinking and understanding. You should be able to extract the essential elements of a problem and analyse possible solutions.
- You should have good written and oral communication skills.
- You should show that you can work as part of a team. For example, maybe you have worked as part of a group in a project at school, or maybe you have collaborated with others for part of a Duke of Edinburgh award.

4. Reference criteria

Referees should note that the reference would be used as a basis for the assessment of academic performance and as support for the personal statement. Assessors will want to consider the accuracy and consistency of the predicted grades in the light of previous GCSE and AS level achievement (or reasons why this is not the case), evidence of effort and a positive attitude towards studies, and if there are any educational or special circumstances. Assessors will be interested in the applicant's potential for academic study and their contributions to school life.

5. Additional Tests

Once the initial scoring has been done and is of the standard we require, then you will be contacted further to complete an additional form (for more information about your skills) and submit a piece of written work (to assess communication, competence, organisation of material, and presentation).

6. Interview

Interviews are conducted by a member of the academic staff who have been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques and are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities, plus a representative of one of the companies that support this degree programme. The interview lasts for about 45 minutes and is used to decide whether an offer should be made. When a candidate attends for interview, the interviewers are looking for a wider range of interpersonal skills as well as leadership ability and engineering interest. The company representatives, who take part in the interviews, are naturally evaluating whether the company would consider employing the applicant, as our sponsoring companies are expected to take the students for placements during the degree programme.

At interview, they will be looking to see that you have skills in the following areas: teamwork, planning, the ability to control and direct, initiative, organisation, communication, analysis, problem-solving, self-motivation, intellectual curiosity, professionalism, technical competence, self-confidence, innovation, and the ability to listen and evaluate.

If interviewed, you will also sit a physical reasoning test. The test attempts to evaluate your ability to think. You will also be given a tour of the Faculty and will have the opportunity to talk about the programme with staff and current students. There is also a group design exercise.

7. Mature applicants

We welcome applications from mature students. Entrance requirements can be varied in suitable cases. Recent qualifications in Mathematics and Physics are essential. The reference will be used to confirm the relevant experience of the applicant and show evidence of responsibility and commitment. It should indicate the potential of the applicant for study at degree level.

8. International applicants

International applicants will be subject to the criteria as detailed here:

www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries

We also consider applications through the Common Application system, and the same criteria and assessment used for UCAS applicants are applied.

9. English Language requirements for non-native speakers

All applicants are required to demonstrate that they have sufficient ability to understand and express themselves in both spoken and written English in order to benefit fully from their degree course.

English Language requirements can be found in the Undergraduate Prospectus and at: www.bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements

The specific IELTS standard required for this programme can be found in our online prospectus:

http://www.bristol.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014/sections/XEND/dept_intro

10. Contextual information

We take a holistic approach to all applications, ensuring that the educational and social context in which an applicant applies is taken into consideration, where supported by clear evidence that this may have adversely affected academic achievement. This may include time spent in Local Authority care, information about which is provided in the UCAS application. Such applications will have one grade lifted for their academic score: e.g. an AAB applicant will be awarded the same academic score as an AAA applicant. Applicants still need to satisfy specific subject requirements.

We also consider evidence of clear motivation to study. This may include attendance at a University summer school, a targeted Access Scheme (such as Access to Bristol or Realising Opportunities), or participation in other higher education outreach activities.

We do not take the following into consideration when making admissions decisions: the school type attended by an applicant, or whether an applicant's parent has any experience of higher education.

Offers

Typical offers for A-levels and other UK qualifications can be found in the entry data in the online Undergraduate Prospectus. Offers to applicants with non-standard qualifications will be made equivalent to the published A-level offer.

We may make lower offers based on whether an applicant is deemed to have experienced educational disadvantage, as defined in section 7.5 of the University's admissions principles and procedures.

Other

1. Transfers

Direct entry into Year 2 will be considered on a case by case basis.

2. Additional information

Not applicable.

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to the Undergraduate Admissions Office: eng-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 928 8150.