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:

MEng in Engineering Mathematics (G161)
MEng in Engineering Mathematics with Study Abroad (G160)
BEng in Engineering Mathematics (G162)

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.

All applications are allocated scores on the academic record and the personal statement/ reference.

The weighting is as follows:

A-Level: 100%

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

3. Interview or visit day

Applicants to whom we expect to make an offer are invited to attend one of the Departmental Visit Days, normally from November to March. The visit is to allow students to find out more about the University and the content of our programmes. The visit also allows us to personalise offers as appropriate. As part of the visit each applicant is offered a 20-30 minute one-on-one session with a member of academic staff. Details of the offer are confirmed through UCAS.

Although there are other opportunities to visit the department, such as University Open Days, if a candidate is invited to attend a Visit Day then they are expected to attend even if they have attended another University event. This is because the Visit Day is specifically tailored to prospective students, as well as giving the Admissions Team an opportunity to clarify issues that may not be clear from the application forms and to help decide on the details of any offer that may be made. The day provides an opportunity for both the applicants to see the Department, meet members of staff and students and gain a better understanding of the course and applications of Engineering Mathematics through presentations, informal discussions and interview. Allowance is made however for a candidate that cannot make a Visit Day due to any exceptional circumstance, if this is the case then the applicant should inform the Admissions Team as soon as possible.

4. Correspondence with applicants

All correspondence relating to an application's status will be sent 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

We will consider applications for deferred entry.

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.bristol.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014/sections/EMAT/dept_intro

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/

Candidates are expected to demonstrate high academic ability, normally equivalent to AAA at A level.

Allowance is made for:

- candidates who have extenuating circumstances;
- candidates who have relevant additional skills, knowledge or experience;
- mature candidates with relevant work experience and/or university Access qualification;

- candidates from a school or college whose published academic performance indicators are below the national average.

For those taking A levels, Mathematics A level is required for this degree programme. For those students studying other qualifications, an appropriate level of Mathematics will also be required.

2. Additional academic criteria

We do not require either Physics or Further Mathematics A-levels as pre-requisites for the course, though either (or both) may help the transition to university. Nevertheless we would like to encourage applicants to take Further Mathematics at A or AS level if possible. Students who would benefit from studying AS/A level Further Mathematics, but whose schools/colleges cannot provide tuition, can access tuition through the Further Mathematics Support Programme (www.furthermaths.org.uk).

A level subjects General Studies or Critical Thinking are not counted as part of offers, nor considered in the academic assessment of applicants.

Candidates for whom English is not their first language are expected to demonstrate that their command of English is of a sufficiently high standard, normally equivalent to that required to satisfy the University's English language criterion. English Language requirements can be found in the UG Prospectus and on the Universities Policy page.

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

We will check the personal statement and reference for evidence of mitigating circumstances. In some cases we may need to refer to the personal statement and reference to differentiate between applicants with very similar academic profiles. If this is the case, then the criteria will include the following:

- demonstration of interest in and commitment to Mathematics and Engineering;
- strong Mathematical, analytical and technical skills;
- relevant reading, research or experience beyond the A level syllabus;
- appropriateness of the chosen course to the candidate’s interests and aspirations;
- non-academic achievement and experience (for example, work experience in industry);
- positions of responsibility;
- team working;
- written English, expression, construction, argument.

4. Reference criteria

The information contained within each reference is carefully considered for each applicant. Evidence of potential to complete the course may include, but is not restricted to:

- applicant's motivation;
- applicant's ability to work independently;
- applicant's powers of analysis & expression;
- applicant's special circumstances

5. Additional Tests

Not applicable.

6. Interview

Candidates who are invited to attend a Departmental Visit Day are required to do so as an indicator of commitment to their chosen course. The Visit Day includes an informal interview with an academic member of the department. Although primarily designed to establish that each candidate has applied to the appropriate course and whether the student's details have changed in any way since the original UCAS form was submitted, the interviewer will also look at other criteria, which may include, but are not limited to:

- demonstration of Mathematical, analytical and technical skills;
- evidence of clear thinking and understanding;· evidence of motivation and commitment;
- interest in the subject;
- non-academic achievement and/or experience;
- responses to challenges faced.

The interviewer does not make a selection decision. The informal interviews are used to determine the level of offer and to provide a more comprehensive picture of each candidate for the Admissions Team.

Candidates who do not meet the minimum entry criteria, but for whom the course may be suitable, are invited to a formal interview as part of the Visit Day. All interviews intended to select students are conducted by two people, including a member of staff with training in fair and effective recruitment techniques and are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

After the visit, candidates are able to track their decision through UCAS. This decision, made by the Admissions Team, will have taken into consideration all aspects of the application (personal statement, reference and interview feedback).

7. Mature applicants

The school welcomes mature applicants. Although there are no fixed academic requirements, evidence of recent study and examinations is expected. In some cases mature applicants may be invited to interview.

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/EMAT/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

Candidates enrolled on any Engineering Mathematics courses may transfer to any other Engineering Mathematics course provided they meet the requirements of the course they are transferring to. These include the standard of academic progress, course prerequisites and in some cases, foreign language requirements. For example candidates enrolled on G161 MEng in Engineering Mathematics can transfer to G160 MEng in Engineering Mathematics with Study Abroad only if they transfer before the deadline in Yr2, they meet the academic hurdles for transfer to G160, and they meet the language requirements of the country they wish to study in.

Exceptionally, candidates may be admitted into Yr2 of the programme. The requirement for entry into Yr2 is clear demonstration of education and/or experience and skills that encompass the majority of Mathematics and Engineering contents taught in Yr1 of the Engineering Mathematics course. This could be, for example, if a student has already successfully completed a substantial part of an undergraduate course in Mathematics, Engineering or Science.

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.