

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:

Foundation Year in Arts and Humanities (direct entry)

Admissions process

1. Admissions team

The admissions team for this programme consists of a professional selection team, working in close cooperation with the programme directors, Tom Sperlinger (Department of English) and Richard Pettigrew (Department of Philosophy)

2. Application assessment methods

You need to apply for this course directly to the University; not through UCAS.

The application form can be found at:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/courses/foundation/apply/>

Please return the completed application form to:

Foundation Year in Arts and Humanities
University of Bristol
Faculty of Arts
3/5 Woodland Road
Bristol
BS8 1TB

If you have any questions, please call us on +44 (0)117 331 7349, or email us at arts-fyah@bris.ac.uk.

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

3. Interview or visit day

We will invite some applicants to attend an interview at the University within six weeks of the application deadline.

4. Correspondence with applicants

All applicants will be contacted within two weeks of the application deadline to establish contact and inform the applicant of the process to be followed.

5. Deferred applications

Considered

Criteria for assessing applicants

1. Academic entry requirements

There are no formal entry requirements for this course*. Each application will be judged on its own merits and we are actively looking to recruit students from a wide range of ages and educational, ethnic and social backgrounds. We are looking for applicants who are highly motivated to study on the Foundation Year and who have the potential to succeed in university study beyond it.

Where a high number of applications are received, priority may be given to:

1. Applicants without prior experience of higher education and/or who do not already hold a qualification at QCA level 3 (e.g. A-levels or an Access to HE Diploma).
2. Applicants who have strong reasons for wishing to progress to a degree programme in the Faculty of Arts at Bristol.
3. Applicants from groups that are currently underrepresented in higher education. This may include:
 1. Applicants from low-performing schools
 2. Mature applicants (over the age of 21)
 3. Applicants from areas where there is a low level of participation in higher education
 4. Applicants from socio-economic groups 4-7
 5. Applicants from minority ethnic groups
 6. Disabled applicants

*Please note, although there are no formal qualifications, if English is not your first language, you will need to achieve a pass in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) at 6.5 or above with a pass at 6.0 for each part.

2. Additional academic criteria

We will ask some applicants to produce a short piece of written work on a specified topic in advance of the interview. We will ensure that applicants receive information about this written work at least three weeks before it is due. This written work may well be discussed at the interview.

3. Personal statement criteria

Applicants will be asked to provide a personal statement: this is your chance to tell us about your experiences of study in the past (whether positive or negative); your reasons for wanting to return to study now; why you wish to study on the Foundation Year in particular; what you would like to achieve by the end of the course; whether you would like to go on to study for a degree; your interest in any of the arts and humanities, for example books, films, music, art, drama, religion, philosophy or history; your other hobbies and interests.

Personal statements are assessed qualitatively on the basis of the following criteria:

- Interest in and commitment to the programme
- Evidence of academic potential
- Appropriateness of this programme to the interests and aspirations declared in the statement
- Non-academic achievement/experience, extra-curricular activities, positions of responsibility
- Written English, expression, construction, argument
- Responses to opportunities and challenges the applicant has faced

4. Reference criteria

- Applicant's motivation
- Applicant's ability to work independently
- Applicant's powers of analysis and expression

5. Additional Tests

We will ask some applicants to produce a short piece of written work on a specified topic in advance of the interview. We will ensure that applicants receive information about this written work at least three weeks before it is due. This written work may well be discussed at the interview.

6. Interview

We will invite some applicants to attend an interview at the University within six weeks of the application deadline.

7. Mature applicants

Where a high number of applications are received, priority may be given to mature applicants (over the age of 21)

8. International applicants

Although there are no formal qualifications, if English is not your first language, you will need to achieve a pass in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) at 6.5 or above with a pass at 6.0 for each part.

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/>

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

Not applicable

2. Additional information

Not applicable

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to the Undergraduate Admissions Office:

arts-fyah@bris.ac.uk. or +44 (0)117 331 7349.