

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 Mechanical Engineering (H300)

MEng Mechanical Engineering with Study in Continental Europe (H301)

BEng Mechanical Engineering (H305)

Admissions process

1. Admissions team

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

2. Application assessment methods

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. Applications that are received on time (in accordance with the deadlines of the UCAS application cycle) are guaranteed equal consideration.

When assessing an application the Admissions Team will consider the following;

- An applicant's academic potential, and their potential to succeed on our programme.
- Evidence that the applicant is committed to, and enthusiastic about, the study of Mechanical Engineering, and that the course will suit their declared interests and aspirations.
- Evidence that the applicant can balance their academic and non-academic work.

All applications are allocated scores on the academic record and the personal preference.

The weighting is as follows:

Academic score 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 who are made an offer are invited to attend one of our Visit Days, which take place on Wednesday afternoons in the Spring term. They are designed to allow students to decide whether to accept their offer, by finding out more about our courses and the University. The day includes lunch and tea; a tour of the Department, and halls of residence, as well as the surrounding area; presentations about Mechanical Engineering at Bristol; and opportunities to talk to staff and current students. Students are welcome to bring along family or friends.

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 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.

Applicants who receive an offer will receive an invitation to a visit day.

5. Deferred applications

We are happy to receive applications for deferred entry; typically about 20% of our students defer 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 at:

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2014/sections/MECH/210/admissions#entry>

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

The standard of academic ability is evaluated from the predicted or actual grades achieved in examinations.

Qualifications in Maths and Physics are required. Applicants will also receive credit for having completed Further Maths at A level or AS level (or equivalent). A-level General Studies and A level Critical Thinking are not counted as part of offers, nor is it considered in the academic assessment of applicants.

We will also take account of previous academic qualifications, and credit is awarded for GCSE's (or equivalent) achieved at grade A/A*.

Those who are applying to study in Continental Europe (H301) are usually expected to achieve a GCSE grade A/A* (or equivalent) in the appropriate language, or have substantial other language experience.

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 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

We will use the reference as a basis for the assessment of academic performance and as support for the personal statement. Assessors will consider the accuracy and consistency of the predicted grades in the light of previous academic 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.

5. Additional Tests

Applicants whose subjects/grades are below our usual requirements, as published in the online prospectus, are not usually made an offer.

If we suspect that an applicant with predicted grades lower than our published entry requirements may have been disadvantaged during their studies, then we may invite them to interview. The interview would be used to confirm (or to challenge) these grades and/or to establish if they have been disadvantaged during their studies. All interviews will be conducted by 2 people, at least 1 trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques, and undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

6. Interview

See section 5 above.

7. Mature applicants

Mature applicants are encouraged to contact the Admissions Team by telephone or email before submitting an application, in order to discuss suitability for the course. We treat each

such case individually, but the main concern is to ensure that the applicant's qualifications prepare them for the rigours of full-time study, perhaps after a gap of several years. Recent qualifications, especially in mathematical subjects, are a definite advantage when applying. We will also take note of any relevant experience, and evidence of responsibility and commitment.

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/MECH/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

In the first year of study it is usually easy to transfer from one Mechanical Engineering programme to another; therefore, you should apply for only one course. If you are unsure about which programme you would like to follow, then you are advised to apply in the first instance for the MEng in Mechanical Engineering (H300). Subject to progress in the first two years, some MEng students may be required to transfer to the BEng.

Transfers into the second or third year cannot be considered for any of the Mechanical Engineering courses at Bristol.

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.