

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:

BSc Psychology (C801) 3 years

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.

All applications must be submitted through UCAS; we cannot consider any direct applications. All applications that are received on time (in accordance with the deadlines of the UCAS application cycle) are guaranteed equal consideration.

The applications are scored and ranked according to their achieved or predicted A2 results and their GCSE results (or equivalent), with the following weighting:

- A level: 80%
- GCSE score: 20%
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Applicants are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, or age.

3. Interview or visit day

Successful applicants will be invited to attend one of our post offer visit days in the Spring.

4. Correspondence with applicants

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

All applicants will 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.

5. Deferred applications

Applications from students seeking deferred entry are treated in the same way as for those seeking direct 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 [Undergraduate Prospectus](#). Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on their individual merits; [further information](#) is available

Please note that we consider all A-level and GCSE level qualifications (or equivalent). Please make sure to include all such qualifications in your UCAS application.

Our preferred A-levels are Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Human Biology, Psychology, English Language, English Literature and History.

Please note that applicants taking both Maths and Further Maths are required to have their third A level from the list of preferred subjects.

All other A Levels are fully considered as well. This is the list of weightings we use to rank A-level subjects:

Weighting 1:

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Human Biology, Psychology, English Language, English Literature and History.

Weighting 0.6:

Latin and Modern Languages, Economics, Geography, Marine Science and Geology

Weighting 0.4:

All other subjects

Weighting 0:

General Studies and Critical Thinking

We may make alternative offers to applicants offering an EP (Extended Project) or those taking a fourth A Level.

Applications for all degree programmes whether for immediate or deferred entry, will be treated in a similar manner on a rolling basis as received, without regard to the type of educational institution attended, and without regard to any family history of educational attainment.

Applications from those proceeding more or less directly from sixth forms and colleges are assessed on the basis of information contained in the UCAS form; interviews are rarely requested from these applicants and only if the Admissions Team consider that the evidence from the written application is ambiguous, or indicate circumstances where additional information would be helpful.

2. Additional academic criteria

Not applicable.

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:

Applicants should be well informed, and appreciate the status of Psychology as a biological science. Admissions Tutors look for a clear and convincing enthusiasm for psychological research as a focus for academic study: statements about specific interests and aspirations will be considered in relation to the content of the programme. Evidence of initiative in extending a scientific interest in Psychology beyond formal classroom provision will be recognised by Admissions Tutors: any other information considered relevant by the applicant will also be noted. The statement should be well written in terms of its structure and power of expression. Those applying for deferred entry will be expected to justify this in their statement.

4. Reference criteria

We look for strong, though not necessarily unqualified support from school/college or other referees. Information about the candidate's particular achievements, and challenges faced, are also taken into account. The reference will often include evidence of the candidate's potential for further academic study, independent and original thought and unsupervised learning across the curriculum. We will also consider information relating to educational or special circumstances that explains why an applicant's performance may not reflect their true ability.

5. Additional Tests

No additional tests of aptitude or otherwise will be set in the 2014/15 admissions cycle.

6. Interview

Interviews will be reserved for cases where the application relies on non-standard academic qualifications. Interviews will be conducted by two members of the School Admissions Team who will have undergone appropriate University training in fair and effective recruitment techniques. All interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities. Criteria for Assessment by Interview are as follows:

1. Evidence of awareness, and elementary knowledge, of the scientific merits and requirements of the course.
2. Evidence of clarity of verbal and written expression.

3. Evidence of academic potential, either through background qualifications or experience.
4. Evidence of motivation for learning, questioning and applying knowledge within psychological science.

7. Mature applicants

Please see information in section 6.

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/PSYC/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

Internal

We consider requests for transfers to our courses from suitable applicants from other degree programmes within the University at the end of Year One. Students who have completed a first year of study and who seek to transfer are typically expected to obtain a minimum of 60% overall during their first year of their undergraduate degree and to have met the criteria, as specified, for entry at Year One. Transfers are dependent on the availability of places.

External

We consider applications from suitable applicants who have completed the first year of a degree programme at another institution for entry direct into Year One (or Year Two), but this is dependent on the availability of places, and the demonstration of levels of academic achievement and profiles consistent with the ongoing cohort of current undergraduates. Students who seek to transfer are typically expected to obtain a minimum of 60% overall during their first year of their undergraduate degree in Psychology from another University.

All transfers are at the discretion of the Admissions Team. For further details of transfer procedures please contact the Undergraduate Admissions Office.

2. Additional information

Not applicable.

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to the Undergraduate Admissions Office: sci-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 3317203.