

Undergraduate admissions statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the [University's admissions principles and procedures](#).

Year of admissions cycle: 2015

Courses covered:

BSc Childhood Studies (L520)

BSc Childhood Studies with Quantitative Research Methods (L522)

MSci Childhood Studies with Quantitative Research Methods (L523)

BSc Childhood Studies with Management (L524)

Admissions process

1. Admissions team

Applications are assessed by a 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. Applications that are received on time (in line with UCAS deadlines) are guaranteed equal consideration.

All applicants are allocated scores based on their academic record, which forms 100 per cent of our assessment

Applications will be assessed on the basis of their application only; we will not take into account any additional information received from an applicant or institution, unless we have requested it.

We do not consider any direct applications to the University.

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

3. Interview or visit day

All applicants who receive an offer are invited to attend a departmental visit day. Visit day attendance is optional but we hope applicants will take the opportunity of visiting the University.

Mature applicants with offers will be invited to attend a dedicated mature students' visit day. This will involve specially prepared lectures and seminars relevant to their degree course, as well as talks by previous students on the 'mature student experience'.

4. Correspondence with applicants

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

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.

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 welcome applications for deferred entry (ie 2016), especially where it is shown that the gap year will be used to complete additional activities that will complement the course of study.

Criteria for assessing applicants

1. Academic entry requirements

Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Baccalaureate, GCSEs) can be found in the [undergraduate course finder](#). Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on their individual merits; [further information](#) is available.

2. Additional academic criteria

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

A-levels (or equivalent) may be in any subject (excluding General Studies and Critical Thinking). However, when we come to select applicants, all other things being equal, preference may be given to those showing aptitude in subjects that have the most relevance to the course applied for, specifically social science and science subjects.

We will also take account of previous academic qualifications, and credit is awarded for the best eight GCSE's achieved at grade C and above.

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

3. Personal statement criteria

In some cases we may refer to the personal statement and references to differentiate between applicants with very similar academic profiles.

If this is the case, we will assess the following:

- interest in and commitment to childhood studies;
- the applicant's declared interests and aspirations;
- evidence of understanding, analytical skills and critical thinking;
- relevant paid and unpaid work;
- positions of responsibility at school/college or work;
- non-academic achievement;

- standard of written English;
- responses to challenges faced;
- hobbies and interests.

4. Reference criteria

References should ideally be from a school or college, from a personal tutor confirming the academic potential of the applicant to study at degree level. Where this is not possible, a non-academic reference should confirm the relevant experience of the applicant. It should indicate the potential of the applicant for study at degree level.

The admissions team will take into account the following when assessing a reference:

- academic progress;
- interest in and commitment to the subject;
- appropriateness of the chosen Bristol course in relation to the applicant's declared interests and aspirations;
- evidence of clear thinking and understanding, analytical skills;
- positions of responsibility at school/college or work;
- non-academic achievement;
- responses to challenges faced;
- exceptional circumstances and/or the educational and social context in which an applicant applies, where there is clear evidence that this may have adversely affected academic achievement.

5. Additional tests

The vast majority of applications will be assessed on the basis of their application alone. However, applicants may be asked to provide supplementary written work in cases where the application form does not provide sufficient information on which to base a decision, or where it is necessary to distinguish between applicants presenting similar academic profiles.

Where additional written work is required, the following criteria will be considered when assessing the interview performance:

- standard of written communication;
- evidence of clear thinking and understanding;
- subject knowledge.

6. Interview

In the majority of cases, admissions decisions will be made on the basis of the application alone. However, in some cases an applicant may be invited to attend an interview in order to further discuss their application, ie if the applicant has been out of education for a number of years, or if a non-standard qualification is offered.

Where an interview is required, the following criteria will be considered when assessing the interview performance:

- interest in the subject;
- evidence of motivation;
- evidence of clear thinking and understanding;

- academic and non-academic achievement and/or experience;
- communication skills.

7. Mature applicants

We welcome applications from mature students, and receive a large number of applications from mature students each year. Applicants are encouraged to contact the admissions team before submitting an application to discuss their previous qualifications and experience, and their 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.

Mature applicants who receive an offer will be invited to attend a dedicated mature students' visit day (see **Admissions process: 3. Interview or visit day** above).

8. International applicants

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

www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries

We also consider applications for these courses through the Common Application system, and the same criteria and assessment used for UCAS applicants are applied. Applicants can only be considered through one application route; we cannot consider applicants through the Common Application who have also applied to Bristol and/or other institutions through UCAS.

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 for each course can be found in the [undergraduate course finder](#) and are explained at www.bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

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 can be provided in the application.

As part of our commitment to the UK national agenda on widening participation, we consider the educational context in which grades have been achieved, particularly if there is evidence that an applicant's current school or college performs below a defined threshold.

When assessing whether applicants meet our academic requirements, contextual criteria may be applied to those who attend and apply from a school or college which in the previous year ranked in the bottom 40 per cent in any of the following categories:

- average score per A-level entry

- average score per A-level entrant
- percentage of students applying to higher education.

If an applicant meets one of these criteria, we will raise their predicted/achieved grades by one grade in our rankings; ie an AAB applicant will be awarded the same academic score as an AAA applicant. Applicants still need to satisfy specific subject requirements. Contextual offers are usually one grade lower than the standard offer.

The University reviews its definition of educational disadvantage and low-performing schools each year and each case is considered on an individual basis.

We also consider evidence of clear motivation to study. This may include participation in higher education outreach activities, attendance at a University summer school or a targeted Access Scheme (such as Access to Bristol or Realising Opportunities where applicants receive special consideration and in some cases, guaranteed and/or lower offers; please see the [University's admissions principles and procedures](#) for more information). We do not take the following into consideration when making admissions decisions: the school type attended by an applicant (e.g. independent school, state school, academy), 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 course finder](#). Offers to applicants with non-standard qualifications will be made equivalent to the published A-level offer.

We recognise that some applicants may achieve higher than their predicted grades, and so we may also consider applicants who are predicted to achieve one grade below the entry requirements (as long as this is in a non-specified subject). Any offer made would be at the standard level.

We may make lower 'contextual' 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](#) (see also **Criteria for assessing applicants: 10. Contextual information** above).

Other

1. Transfers

Applications for direct entry into year two are considered from suitable applicants who have completed the first year of a degree with similar content at another institution. However, this is dependent on availability of places and the suitability of previous study.

2. Additional information

The University can only guarantee places if the exact terms of the offer are met, however offer holders would not automatically be unsuccessful if the terms of the offer are missed by one grade.

If offer holders do not meet the terms of their offer when exam results are released they may be considered as a 'near miss candidate'. All near miss candidates are reviewed mid-August after those who have met the terms of their offer have been confirmed. International offer holders may be reconsidered earlier depending when their exam results are released.

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to the Undergraduate Admissions Office: socsci-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 928 8154.