

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:

Accounting and Finance programmes:

BSc Accounting and Finance (NN43)

BSc Accounting and Finance with Study in Continental Europe (NN34)

BSc Economics and Accounting (LN14)

Economics programmes:

BSc Economics (L100)

BSc Economics with Study in Continental Europe (L101)

BSc Economics and Econometrics (L140)

BSc Economics and Finance (LN13)

Management programmes:

BSc Accounting and Management (NN42)

BSc Economics and Management (LN12)

BSc Management (N200)

BSc Management with Study in Continental Europe (4H56))

Joint honours degrees*:

BSc Economics and Mathematics* (LG11)

BSc Economics and Politics* (LL12)

BSc Philosophy and Economics* (VL51)

**Joint Honours degrees: please also refer to the admissions statement for the other subject to be studied.*

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. 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 respective weighting ratio out of 100 (academic to personal statement/reference) is as follows:

BSc Economics	75 : 25
BSc Economics with Study in Continental Europe	75 : 25
BSc Economics and Econometrics	75 : 25
BSc Economics and Mathematics	75 : 25
BSc Economics and Politics	50 : 50
BSc Economics and Management	75 : 25
BSc Economics and Finance	75 : 25
BSc Economics and Accounting	75 : 25
BSc Management	75 : 25
BSc Management with Study in Continental Europe	75 : 25
BSc Accounting and Finance with Study in Continental Europe	75 : 25
BSc Accounting and Management	75 : 25
BSc Accounting and Finance	75 : 25

When assessing an application the admissions team will consider whether the applicant's academic potential is such that it is likely they would be successful on the degree. The admissions team takes into account a wide variety of factors which include, but are not limited to, actual academic performance to date and predicted results for qualifications currently being studied. Other factors include those described in **Criteria for assessing applicants** below.

Because of the very high number of applicants, and to ensure that all those applying on time are treated fairly, a number of applications will be held until March before a decision is made.

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 have been made an offer of a place will be invited to attend one of our School of Economics, Finance and Management visit days, usually held in February and March. These visit days are held purely to help applicants decide which offer to accept and play no role in the selection process.

Information about the visit days, together with details of precinct tours for those unable to attend the visit days, will be provided on the school website at:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/efm/courses/undergraduate/open-days.html>

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

Deferred applications (ie for 2016 entry) are welcomed. Applications for 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 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 following indicates a general ranking process which we use, however academic potential is the essential characteristic we are seeking to evaluate.

Mathematics

All of the accounting, economics, finance and management degrees at the University of Bristol have a strong mathematical component and applicants are required to offer a high level mathematics qualification, such as A-level Mathematics or its equivalent. We may specify conditions in certain core modules.

Applicants who are taking a Foundation course need to be studying mathematics to A-level-standard as part of their course to be eligible for consideration.

Economics

Applicants will be taught on the assumption that they have no prior knowledge of economics, and therefore an A-level in this subject is not required. However, if the applicant is studying A-level Economics then their performance in it will be a useful indication of their analytical skills, and if an offer is made it will include A-level Economics in its conditions.

Languages

Those who are applying to study in continental Europe (NN34, L101, 4H56) are usually expected to achieve at least AS-Level grade B (for French or German) or GCSE grade A (for

Italian or Spanish) or to demonstrate the same level of language proficiency with equivalent qualifications or experience.

Subject combinations at A-level

When making offers below AAA, we may specify in which subjects or modules the applicant must earn the A grades, according to which we feel are most relevant to their chosen course.

Academic performance to date

In ranking applicants, we take account of academic performance to date, and strongly encourage applicants to state their grades in A1 Mathematics modules. We give equal consideration to other qualifications (for example overseas qualifications) of the same standard.

Excluded subjects

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 cases where we need to refer to the personal statement and reference, the criteria will include the following:

- interest in and commitment to the subject;
- evidence of clear thinking and understanding;
- intellectual curiosity; reading or research beyond the A-level (or equivalent) syllabus;
- a high standard of written English (while taking into account that English will be a second language for some applicants);
- for degrees involving Study in Continental Europe, skills and interest in foreign language and culture;
- non-academic achievement or experience;
- positions of responsibility;
- hobbies or pastimes;
- voluntary work;
- work experience.

In all cases, assessors will aim to take account of the opportunities available to applicants.

Please note that Joint Honours degrees may have additional criteria specific to the partner subject. Prospective applicants are therefore strongly advised to refer to the admissions statements provided by partner schools for their intended course of study; these can be found in individual course entries in our [undergraduate course finder](#).

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 as well as

mathematical and problem-solving capabilities. It should indicate the potential of the applicant for study at degree level.

We expect the reference to provide:

- predictions of examination results (and, where the qualifications are unusual, to explain their meaning);
- an overall assessment of the applicant, in particular their suitability for further study;
- a discussion of earlier exam results, especially if they were influenced by personal or medical circumstances (and are therefore a poor guide to ability);
- discussion of the applicant's intellectual curiosity, interests and suitability for the subject;
- discussion of the applicant's other interests.

5. Additional tests

Not applicable.

6. Interview

The school only interviews in exceptional circumstances, for example in the case of mature students whose qualifications may provide a poor guide to academic ability.

All interviews are conducted by at least two people, at least one of whom has been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques, and are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

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 (see **6. Interview** 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 assessing all applications, ensuring that an applicant's educational and social contexts are taken into consideration, where supported by clear evidence that this may have adversely affected academic performance. 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, comprehensive 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 grades than predicted, and so we may also consider applicants who are predicted to achieve one grade below the entry

requirements (as long as this is not in a required 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

Transfers between degrees within the School of Economics, Finance and Management may be possible at the end of the first year, subject to satisfactory attainment in appropriate subjects.

We only accept students for direct entry into the second year in exceptional circumstances, as described at <http://www.bris.ac.uk/efm/courses/undergraduate/faq/second-year-entry.html>

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 were missed by one grade.

If offer holders do not meet the terms of their offers when exam results are released they may be considered as 'near miss candidates'. 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 upon the release dates of their exam results.

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to the Undergraduate Admissions Office: socsci-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 928 8153.