

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:

BA English Literature and Community Engagement

Admissions process

1. Admissions team

Applications assessed by Admissions Tutor/s in department.

2. Application assessment methods

All applications forms are considered independently by members of the selection team. All applicants will normally be contacted within 3 weeks of the application deadline to establish contact and inform the applicant of the process to be followed. We will invite some applicants to attend an interview at the University within 6 weeks of the application deadline. We will ask some applicants to produce a short piece of written work on a specified topic in advance of the interview. This written work may be discussed at the interview.

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

3. Interview or visit day

Interviews for this course are normally held as part of the application process, prior to offers being made.

4. Correspondence with applicants

Normally all applicants are contacted within 3 weeks of interview, by e-mail in the first instance, to inform them whether or not their application has been successful; further information is provided by post, including on registration, within 6 weeks.

5. Deferred applications

If a student may wish to defer their place they are encouraged to state this in their application. The department also offers a range of preliminary short courses, which may be suitable for some students who are not able to commence their studies at the pace and/or in the format offered on the degree in the first instance.

Criteria for assessing applicants

1. Academic entry requirements

The course is open to all. The course is designed in a format that we hope makes it especially accessible for mature students (i.e. those over the age of 21) from the local area, who may have to balance studying with other commitments. Potential applicants should note that accommodation cannot be offered. Applications from those returning to education after a gap are encouraged and we admit students from a wide range of educational backgrounds who have some knowledge of, and plenty of enthusiasm for, the subject. Each application is judged on its own merits and we welcome applications from potential students who may have no prior qualifications, who are able to demonstrate their readiness to undertake the course through the personal statement and at interview; such applicants may be asked to complete a piece of written work as part of the application process. For those applicants completing a prior qualification, we would normally expect a good pass in a relevant Access course or in the University's Reading English Literature (REL) short course or a grade 'B' or above in A-Level English Literature. However, any prior award might be supplemented by evidence of wider reading and interest in the subject and, again, each application will be judged on its own merits.

2. Additional academic criteria

Not applicable.

3. Personal statement criteria

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
- Applicant's relevant academic experience and/or experience in community settings

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.

6. Interview

We will invite some applicants to attend an interview at the University within 6 weeks of the application deadline.

7. Mature applicants

The programme is specifically designed to be accessible to mature applicants, and we welcome applications from students of all ages. Current students on the course range in age from 21 to late 70s.

8. International applicants

Not applicable, as the course is only offered part-time.

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/ENGL/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

Applicants who are interested in transferring are encouraged to contact the Admissions Tutor/s directly; applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

2. Additional information

N/A

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to the Admissions Tutor: gareth.griffith@bristol.ac.uk