

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:

MEng Engineering Design (H150)

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.

All applications that are received on time (in accordance with UCAS deadlines) are guaranteed equal consideration.

Applications are assessed for academic competence, leadership ability, engineering interest and breadth of skills and interest. This process is carried out according to fixed rules and is the same for all applicants. The standard of academic competence is evaluated from predicted or actual grades in examinations, and you will get credit for offering more subjects. Leadership, initiative, engineering interest, and breadth of skills and interest are assessed by reading both the personal statement and the reference. The weighting for our assessment is as follows:

- GCSEs: 10%
- A-level: 35%
- Personal statement: 55%

Following our initial scoring, the highest-scoring applicants will be contacted to complete an additional form for more information about your skills and experience. 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

Applicants who have been asked to complete this additional form will be invited for interview when the form is returned to the admissions team. We do not accept applicants without interview because we are looking for more than just academic ability. Partner companies will be involved in the interview process, as they will be working with our students for summer placements and the third-year placement.

If you are an overseas student and are not able to come to Bristol for interview, we will make arrangements to carry out the interview either through one of our partner companies who have representatives in your country, or by Skype. EU applicants are normally expected to attend the interview at Bristol.

4. Correspondence with applicants

All correspondence will be sent to applicants 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 unsuccessful, to invite them to complete a form and then attend an interview, 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.

Successful applicants will be notified by email.

5. Deferred applications

Applications for deferred entry (ie 2016) are welcomed.

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

A-Level subjects General studies or Critical Thinking are not counted as part of offers, nor is it considered in the academic assessment of applicants.

3. Personal statement criteria

The course aims to recruit very able students with a physical science background and give them experiences that will make them able to take a significant role in major design exercises, later taking the leading role. Our industrial advisors insist that the leading graduates they recruit must have an extremely good understanding of engineering concepts and principles across a wide spectrum of engineering, but must also be expert in some discipline. The aim is to fit these students to be the engineering leaders of the future.

When assessing applicants' personal statements, we will look for:

- an interest in technical or engineering subjects, and any particularly strong performances in modules in mathematics or any closely related subject;
- a real grasp of some sort of activity that requires technical understanding (eg an understanding of the technical aspects of some sport, music, theatre or modelling);
- evidence of clear thinking, understanding and problem-solving skills;
- experience of leadership in some wide-ranging extra-curricular activities;
- evidence that you can work as part of a team (eg maybe you have worked as part of a group in a project at school, or maybe you have collaborated with others for part of a Duke of Edinburgh award);
- good written and oral communication skills, and the ability to express your ideas clearly.

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. Assessors will want to consider the accuracy and consistency of the predicted grades in the light of previous achievement, evidence of effort and a positive attitude towards studies. 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.

Referees should note that the reference would be used as a basis for the assessment of academic performance and as support for the personal statement. Assessors will want to consider the accuracy and consistency of the predicted grades in the light of previous GCSE and AS-level 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. Assessors will be interested in the applicant's potential for academic study and their contributions to school life.

5. Additional tests

The highest-scoring applicants from our initial assessment will be asked to complete an additional form to tell us more about their skills and experience.

A physical reasoning test will also be included in the interview (see **6: Interview** below).

6. Interview

The interview lasts for about 45 minutes and is used to decide whether an offer should be made.

Interviews are conducted by a member of the academic staff who have been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques and are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities, plus a representative of one of the companies that support this degree.

When an applicant attends for interview, the interviewers are looking for a wider range of interpersonal skills as well as leadership ability and engineering interest. The company representatives, who take part in the interviews, are naturally evaluating whether the

company would consider employing the applicant, as our sponsoring companies are expected to take the students for placements during the degree.

At interview, they will be looking to see that interviewees have skills in the following areas: teamwork, planning, the ability to control and direct, initiative, organisation, communication, analysis, problem-solving, self-motivation, intellectual curiosity, professionalism, technical competence, self-confidence, innovation, and the ability to listen and evaluate.

If interviewed, you will also sit a physical reasoning test. The test attempts to evaluate your ability to think. You will also be given a tour of the Faculty of Engineering and will have the opportunity to talk about the degree course with staff and current students. There is also a group design exercise.

7. Mature applicants

We welcome applications from mature students. Entrance requirements can be varied in suitable cases. Recent qualifications in mathematics and physics are essential. The reference will be used to confirm the relevant experience of the applicant and show evidence of responsibility and commitment. It should indicate the potential of the applicant for study at degree level.

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

Direct entry into year two will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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: eng-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 928 8150.