

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 in Engineering Mathematics (G161)

MEng in Engineering Mathematics with Study Abroad (G160)

BEng in Engineering Mathematics (G162)

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 applications are allocated scores based on the 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

Applicants to whom an offer is likely to be made are invited to attend one of our School pre-offer visit days; applicants are given the choice of several alternative dates for this visit, usually between November and March. The schedule for the pre-offer visit day allows applicants to find out more about the University and the content of our programmes. As part of the visit each applicant is offered a 20-30 minute one-on-one session with a member of academic staff.

These visit days are specifically tailored to prospective students, and give the admissions team an opportunity to clarify any issues that may not be clear in an application and inform their decision regarding details of a possible offer.

The visit days provides an opportunity for applicants to see the department, meet members of staff and students and gain a better understanding of the course and applications of engineering mathematics through presentations, informal discussions and an informal interview.

Although there are other opportunities to visit the department, such as University Open Days, offers are usually only made to applicants who visit as part of our programme of School pre-offer visit days.

Allowance may be made for applicants who cannot make a visit day due to exceptional circumstances, in these cases the applicant should inform the Admissions Team as soon as possible.

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 will consider applications for deferred entry. However deferred applicants should be aware that, in fairness to other applicants in the following cycle, we can only make a limited number of deferred offers in each cycle.

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

A-level Mathematics (or an equivalent qualification) is required for these degree courses.

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.

2. Additional academic criteria

We do not require either Physics or Further Mathematics A-levels as pre-requisites for the course, though either (or both) may be useful for the transition from school/college to these courses. We encourage applicants to take Further Mathematics at A or AS-level if possible.

Those who would benefit from studying AS/A-level Further Mathematics, but whose schools/colleges cannot provide tuition, can access tuition through the [Further Mathematics Support Programme](#).

3. Personal statement criteria

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

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

- demonstration of interest in and commitment to mathematics and engineering;
- evidence of strong mathematical, analytical and technical skills;
- relevant reading, research or experience beyond the A-level (or equivalent qualification) syllabus;
- appropriateness of the chosen course to the applicant's interests and aspirations;
- non-academic achievement and experience (for example, work experience in industry);
- positions of responsibility;
- teamwork;
- a good standard of written English, with clear expression, construction and argument.

4. Reference criteria

An applicant's reference should ideally be from a school or college, from a personal tutor confirming the academic potential of the applicant to study at degree level. It should also give evidence of the commitment of the applicant to academic study and contributions to school life. 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 and give evidence of responsibility and commitment as well as mathematical and problem solving capabilities. It should indicate the potential of the applicant for study at degree level

5. Additional tests

Not applicable.

6. Interview

Applicants who are invited to attend a pre-offer visit day are expected to do so as an indicator of commitment to their chosen course. The visit day includes an informal interview with an academic member of the department. Although primarily designed to establish that each applicant has applied to the appropriate course, the interviewer will also look at other criteria, which may include, but are not limited to:

- demonstration of mathematical, analytical and technical skills;

- evidence of clear thinking and understanding;
- evidence of interest in and commitment to the subject;
- non-academic achievement and/or experience;
- responses to challenges faced.

The interviewer does not make a selection decision. The informal interviews are used to determine the level of offer that may be made, and to provide a more comprehensive picture of each applicant for the admissions team.

Applicants who do not meet the standard entry criteria, but for whom the course may be suitable, are invited to a formal interview as part of the visit day. All interviews intended to select students are conducted by two people, including a member of staff with training in fair and effective recruitment techniques and are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

A decision will be made on your application after the visit day. This decision will take into consideration all aspects of the application (personal statement, reference and interview feedback).

7. Mature applicants

The School welcomes mature applicants. Evidence of recent study and examinations is expected. In some cases, mature applicants may be invited to a formal interview (see **6. Interview**).

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

Students enrolled on any engineering mathematics courses at Bristol may transfer to any other engineering mathematics course provided they meet the requirements of the course to which they are transferring. These include the standard of academic progress, course prerequisites and in some cases foreign language requirements.

For example, students enrolled on G161 MEng Engineering Mathematics can transfer to G160 MEng Engineering Mathematics with Study Abroad only if:

- they transfer before the deadline in year two;
- they meet the academic requirement for transfer to G160;
- and they meet the language requirements of the country they wish to study in.

Exceptionally, applicants may be admitted into year two of the degree. The requirements for entry into year two are clear demonstration of education and/or experience and skills that cover the majority of mathematics and engineering content taught in year two of our engineering mathematics course. This could be, for example, if a student has already successfully completed a substantial part of an undergraduate degree in mathematics, engineering or science.

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.