

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:

LLB Law (M100)
LLB Law with Study in Continental Europe (M100)
LLB Law with Study Abroad (M100)
LLB Law and French (MR11)
LLB Law and German (MR12)

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 must be submitted through UCAS or Common App; we cannot consider any direct applications.

Applications that are received on time are guaranteed equal consideration.

The weighting for our assessment is as follows:

A-level (or equivalent): 40%
GCSEs: 20%
Personal statement: 15%
Additional test (LNAT): 25%

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

3. Interview or visit day

Successful applicants are invited to attend a visit day, but attendance is not obligatory.

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.

Applicants who receive an offer will receive an invitation to a visit day.

5. Deferred applications

The Law School welcomes deferred-entry applications. However, only a limited number of offers may be made to applicants in this category in order to ensure fairness to those applying in the next admissions cycle.

Criteria for assessing applicants

1. Academic entry requirements

Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Bacc, 14-19 Diploma, 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 through the [International Office](#).

2. Additional academic criteria

In order to ensure that applications are assessed fairly and that the particular circumstances of each individual applicant are taken into account, members of the Admissions team score applicants using the following weightings to make up the overall scoring:

- A-level grades achieved/predicted in the three best A-levels (or equivalent): 40%
- GCSEs at grade C or above: 20%
- Personal statement and reference: 15%
- National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT): 25% (see **5. Additional tests** below).

All A-level subjects are acceptable, with the exception of General Studies and Critical Thinking. No A-level subject is considered any more or less important than any other. A-level Law is acceptable, but does not confer any advantage in the admissions process.

The Law School requires applicants to take three A-levels in one two-year sitting. You are allowed to resit individual modules within each A-level, as long as you complete three A-levels within two years. The Law School does not accept resits of the entire A-level or the final A-level examination, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Applicants for LLB Law and French (MR11) and LLB Law and German (MR12) require A-level grade A (or equivalent) in the relevant language. Applicants who are not successful for MR11 and MR12 are automatically considered for LLB Law (M100).

3. Personal statement criteria

The personal statement forms a crucial part of the selection process in assessing each candidate's motivation and suitability for the chosen course of study. When looking at each applicant's personal statement, the selectors look for the following:

- Demonstrated interest in, suitability for, and commitment to Law;
- Evidence of analytical skills and independent thinking;
- Evidence of effective communication skills;
- Non-academic achievement and/or experience, or extra-curricular interests (which could include such things as sport, arts, drama, music, paid or voluntary work), which indicate the likely contribution an applicant will make to the life of the University.
- Academic potential and performance not reflected in the scoring system.

4. Reference criteria

References will be assessed for information on the applicant's motivation, ability to work independently, powers of analysis and expression. We will also consider information which suggests the applicant's performance does not reflect their ability, such as educational context and special circumstances.

5. Additional tests

All applicants seeking admission for all undergraduate Law degrees must sit the National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT). There are two sections to the test: a multiple choice section and an essay writing section. The results help us to differentiate between our many excellent applicants. Full details relating to the LNAT are available on the [LNAT website](#).

6. Interview

We only interview a selection of suitable mature applicants. All interviews are conducted by two people, with at least one trained in fair and effective recruitment, and are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities. Non-mature applicants are interviewed only in exceptional circumstances.

The criteria for assessing interview performance may include, for example:

- Demonstrated interest in, suitability for, and commitment to the subject;
- Evidence of clear thinking and understanding, problem solving and analytical skills;
- Standard of spoken English;
- Appropriateness of the Bristol course in relation to the applicant's declared interests and aspirations;
- Non-academic achievement and/or experience, or extra-curricular interests, that indicate the likely contribution a applicant will make to the life of the University;
- Positions of responsibility held;
- Other relevant skills.

7. Mature applicants

For mature applicants, evidence of recent study and examinations is expected within the last 3 years. All mature applicants are required to sit the LNAT; the LNAT score and essay are used as an indication of an applicant's aptitude for a degree in law. Suitable mature applicants are invited for interview by two members of the academic staff, including at least one who has undergone University training in fair and effective recruitment.

8. International applicants

The LNAT is a requirement for all applicants, and there are test centres all over the world. Full details are available on the [LNAT website](#).

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

www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries

We also consider applications through the Common Application system, and the same criteria and assessment used for UCAS applicants are applied.

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 is provided in the UCAS 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 [undergraduate course finder](#). 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

The Law School supports the general principle that University of Bristol students can transfer between degrees but they have no automatic right to do this. Transfer applicants will be assessed for transfer both on their academic merits and also against the balance of teaching resources and commitments at the time of application.

The Law School does not accept transfers into year two or three. All applications will only be considered for entry into year one.

2. Additional information

Qualifying Law Degree

The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) stipulates in its guidance for providers of recognised law programmes that the maximum time for completion of a qualifying law degree is 'the normal period for completion of the degree programme plus one year'.^[ELG1] This applies to both the Law Society and the Bar Council.

Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to the Undergraduate Admissions Office: law-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 928 8276.