

## 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:

BSc Mathematics (G100)  
MSci Mathematics (G103)  
BSc Mathematics with Statistics (G1G3)  
MSci Mathematics with Statistics (G1GH)  
BSc Mathematics with Study in Continental Europe (G101)  
MSci Mathematics with Study in Continental Europe (G104)  
BSc Mathematics and Philosophy (VG51)  
MSci Mathematics and Philosophy (GV15)  
BSc Mathematics and Physics (GFD3)  
MSci Mathematics and Physics (GFC3)

## 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 applicants are allocated scores based on their academic record, which forms 100 per cent of our assessment (85 per cent A-levels or equivalent, 15 per cent GCSEs).

We do not consider any direct applications to the University. All applications that are received on time (in accordance with UCAS application cycle deadlines) are guaranteed equal consideration. Please note that it is sometimes necessary to delay making decisions until the majority of applications have been received, so as to ensure fair consideration for all candidates.

Applications will be assessed on the basis of their application only; we cannot take into account any additional information received from an applicant or institution, unless we have requested it.

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 hold an offer will be invited to attend one of the mathematics visit days held in the Spring term. Attendance at a visit day is strongly encouraged, but it is not compulsory and plays no role in the selection process.

### **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**

We will consider applications for deferred entry (ie 2016). 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.

### **2. Additional academic criteria**

We rank applicants according to the subjects offered at A-level (or equivalent) and predicted/actual grades. Applicants with preferred subjects will score higher than those without preferred subjects, but all applicants are considered

The weightings we use to rank subjects at A-level (or equivalent) are:

Weighting 1:

Chemistry; Mathematics; Further Mathematics; Physics; Biology; Economics;  
Computing; Computer Science; Information Technology.

Weighting 0.6:

All other subjects (Except General Studies and Critical Thinking).

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 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, when reading and assessing the personal statement we will look for the following:

- exposure to Further Mathematics;
- overall subject choice (including STEP if this is being taken);
- excellent post-16 performance;
- mathematical ability beyond the classroom;
- other factors including sports, music, student representation, service, etc.

### **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 school reference to back up the qualities demonstrated in the personal statement.

Please note - cross school/joint honours degrees may have additional criteria specific to the partner school. Prospective applicants are therefore strongly advised to refer to the admissions statement provided by the partner school for their intended course of study.

### **5. Additional tests**

Not applicable.

### **6. Interview**

Interviews will be reserved for cases where the application relies on non-standard academic qualifications. Interviews will be conducted by two members of the school admissions team who will have undergone appropriate University training in fair and effective recruitment techniques. All interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

### **7. Mature applicants**

We may interview mature applicants to be sure that their level of academic ability is equivalent to our standard requirements (see **6. Interview** above).

### **8. International applicants**

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

[www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries](http://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](http://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).

If you are not qualified or have an unsuitable academic background for the course to which you originally applied, we may offer you the opportunity to be considered for an alternative course in a related subject area. In such cases applicants will receive an email notification providing a list of the alternative options. Please note that receipt of this email does not guarantee that an offer will be made.

## Other

### 1. Transfers

Requests for transfers to our courses may be made from suitable applicants from other degree courses within the University at the end of year one. We would only consider a transfer into year one of a mathematics course.

Transfer into year two of a mathematics course is possible for students who have successfully completed year one of a mathematics course at another university. Conditions would apply; these include:

- entry scores (A-levels) in line with those of the current cohort;
- experience of a mathematics course elsewhere that supports study of our year two units;
- success in that course usually at or above a 60 point average;
- and a strong reason for requesting a transfer.

We may set a condition of success in certain University of Bristol examinations if an applicant is unable to meet the above conditions.

### 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 rejected 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: [sci-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:sci-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk) or +44 (0)117 3371203..