

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 Mechanical Engineering (H300)

MEng Mechanical Engineering with Study in Continental Europe (H301)

BEng Mechanical Engineering (H305)

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.

All applications are allocated scores based on the academic record and the personal statement and reference. The weighting is as follows:

- GCSEs: 40%
- A-level (or equivalent): 50%
- Personal statement and Reference: 10%

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 who have been made an offer are invited to attend one of the department's post-offer visit days, normally from November to March. The visit is to allow applicants to find out more about our course content and the University, and applicants are encouraged to ask questions about any aspect of the degree courses on offer.

There are other opportunities to visit the department, such as University open days; if an applicant is invited to attend a visit day then we would encourage them to attend even if they have attended one of these other University events, because the visit day is specifically tailored to offer holders.

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 welcome applications for deferred entry (ie 2016). We will follow the same process when considering applications for deferred entry.

Due to the large number of over-qualified applications that we receive each year, we may make deferred offers to promising applicants that apply in the current 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

Those who are applying to study in Continental Europe (H301) are usually expected to achieve an appropriate language qualification, or have substantial other language experience.

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

The personal statement provides clear indications of the applicant's suitability for the course. The personal statement is assessed using the following criteria:

- demonstration of interest in and commitment to engineering;
- strong mathematical, analytical and technical skills;

- relevant reading, research or experience beyond the A-level 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;
- team working;
- written English: expression, construction and argument.

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.

It should give evidence of the applicant's commitment to academic study and contributions to school life. Our selectors will want to consider the accuracy and consistency of the predicted grades in the light of previous achievements, evidence of effort and a positive attitude towards studies.

Assessment of the reference will be included within the assessment of the personal statement.

5. Additional tests

We would only require applicants to undertake tests or written assessments as part of a formal interview (see **6: Interview** below). If you are invited to a formal interview, you may also be asked to complete a short test of a mathematical nature.

6. Interview

The department does not usually interview applicants apart from in the following circumstances:

- to clarify issues that may not be clear from the application;
- mature applicants who have been away from education for some time and whose qualifications provide a poor guide to academic ability (see below);
- applicants whose qualifications cannot be exactly equated to A-levels.

The interview panel will consist of two or three members. At least one of the interviewers will be trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques and all interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities. In the course of such interviews, applicants may be asked to complete a short test (see **5: Additional tests** above).

7. Mature applicants

Mature applicants are encouraged to email the Admissions Team before submitting an application, in order to discuss suitability for the course. We treat each such case individually; however, we need to ensure that the applicant's qualifications prepare them for the rigours of full-time study, perhaps after a gap of several years. Recent qualifications,

especially in mathematical subjects, are a definite advantage when applying. We will also take note of any relevant experience, and evidence of responsibility and commitment.

Mature applicants may be called to interview (see **6: Interview** above).

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.

Due to the large number of over-qualified applications that we receive each year, we may make deferred offers to promising applicants that apply in the current cycle.

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

In the first year of study, students can usually transfer from one mechanical engineering degree to another; therefore, you should apply for only one course. If you are unsure about which degree you would like to follow, then you are advised to apply in the first instance for MEng Mechanical Engineering (H300). Subject to progress in the first two years, some MEng students may be required to transfer to the BEng.

Direct entry into the second or third year cannot be considered for any of the mechanical engineering courses at Bristol.

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.