Undergraduate admissions statement
This statement should be read in conjunction with the University's admissions principles and procedures.

Year of admissions cycle: 2016

Courses covered:
MArts Anthropology with Innovation (XD50)
MEng Computer Science with Innovation (G404)
MEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering with Innovation (H604)
MArts Film and Television with Innovation (4M50)
MSci Geography with Innovation (F805)
MArts History with Innovation (V104)
MSci Management with Innovation (N204)
MArts Music with Innovation (W304)
MSci Physics with Innovation (F306)
MSci Psychology with Innovation (C804)
MArts Theatre with Innovation (2Q50)

1. Admissions process

1.1. Admissions team
Applications are assessed by a centralised team in close co-operation with the admissions tutor(s).

1.2. 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 for Innovation courses are assessed initially in relation to the chosen subject specialism’s selection criteria so the relevant subject admissions statement should also be consulted. For example if you are interested in applying for MArts History with Innovation please refer to History’s Admissions statement for details on their selection criteria. Once applicants have met the chosen specialism’s selection criteria they will be assessed on the innovation criteria. Following initial scoring, the highest-scoring applicants will be contacted and invited to attend an interview. Prior to the interview applicants will be asked to complete and email back an additional form which will be used in the interview.

Applicants are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, or age.
1.3. Interview or visit day
All applicants who are selected for interview must attend in order to be considered. No offers for the Innovation courses are made without the applicant first attending an interview. This does not mean that we interview all applicants (see 2.5. Interview below).

All applicants who are selected for interview who are living in the UK will be interviewed in the UK at the University of Bristol, all those who live overseas will be interviewed via Skype.

1.4. Correspondence with applicants
All correspondence relating to an applicant’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 unsuccessful, to invite them to attend an interview and complete an additional form, or to inform them that their application has been assessed and put on ‘Hold’ pending a decision later in the cycle.

Successful applicants will be notified through UCAS and by email after their interview.

If you submitted your application by 15 January then the final deadline by which you will receive a decision is 7 May. Most decisions are made well before this date. We monitor the number of offers we make carefully and may hold some applications until later in the cycle.

2. Criteria for assessing applicants
To assess an application we require:

- A full academic history from age 16 onwards, including any retakes or uncompleted qualifications.
- Predicted grades for any qualifications you are currently taking. Predicted grades can only come from your school or referee. These must include an overall grade (if applicable) AND where a particular subject is specified in the entry requirements, the achieved grades or predicted grades for that subject, and any related or major subjects you are studying.
- If predicted grades are not available, then we will accept a transcript showing the results of your previous year’s courses or examinations.

2.1. Academic entry requirements
Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Bac, 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.

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

Applications that are received on time are guaranteed equal consideration.
2.2. Additional academic criteria
A-level subjects General Studies or Critical Thinking are not counted as part of offers.

2.3. Personal statement criteria
All applications for Innovation courses are also assessed in relation to the chosen subject specialism’s selection criteria, so the relevant subject admissions statement should also be consulted with regards to personal statement criteria.

Once applicants have met the chosen specialism’s selection criteria they will be assessed on the innovation criteria where we will look for an enthusiasm for entrepreneurship, design and/or innovation, extracurricular activities and a passion to make a difference/change the world within your personal statement.

2.4. Reference criteria
References will be assessed for information on the applicant’s motivation, ability to work independently, powers of analysis and expression. If the referee believes the applicant’s performance does not reflect their ability, due to educational context and/or special circumstances, the applicant should complete an extenuating circumstances form at bristol.ac.uk/applicants/applied/extenuating-circumstances/. We are unable to consider extenuating circumstances without this form.

All applications for Innovation courses are also assessed in relation to the chosen subject specialism’s selection criteria so the relevant subject admissions statement should also be consulted with regards to reference criteria.

2.5. Interview
The purpose of the interview session (morning or afternoon) is to provide the applicant with an opportunity to demonstrate evidence of skills and attributes that are appropriate to succeed on the innovation degree programmes. Applicants scores once attending an interview session will be used to decide whether an offer should be made or not.

Interviewers are looking for a wide range of interpersonal skills, as well as leadership and teamwork ability, entrepreneurial, innovation and chosen subject specialism interest.

Applicants are invited to attend an interview session which will consist of a series of multiple mini interview assessments and a group working exercise. In addition you will find out more about each of the innovation specialism degree structures, tour the University Precinct and will have an opportunity to meet staff and current students.

Applicants are required to complete a form prior to attending the interview day which will be used as part of one of the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) stations.

At the interview, applicants will move around a series of MMI stations, each taking five minutes, and will be assessed on a particular criterion at each. Each station will be directed by an interviewer as appropriate. Interviewers are looking for evidence of skills in the following areas: teamwork, planning, initiative, organisation, communication, analysis, problem-solving, self-motivation, curiosity, professionalism, entrepreneurialism, self-confidence, innovation, and the ability to listen and evaluate. Interviews are undertaken in
accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities. At least one member of the interviewing staff is trained in fair and effective recruitment.

2.6. Mature applicants
We welcome applications from mature students. We will interview mature applicants, as described in 2.5. Interview above.

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

While we do accept foundation programmes please be aware that they are designed for applicants who have not been able to take the correct level of qualification in their home country. Therefore, we do not consider applicants who are taking a foundation programme and have previously completed A-levels or equivalent qualifications that do not meet our entry grade requirements, except in exceptional circumstances.

2.8. 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 bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

2.9. Contextual information
We take a holistic approach to assessing all applications, ensuring that an applicant’s educational and social contexts are taken into consideration, where supported by clear evidence that this may have adversely affected academic performance. 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.

Applicants may be eligible for a contextual offer if they are currently applying from (or in the 15/16 academic year were in full-time education in) a school ranked in the bottom 40 per cent in any of the following categories for the: 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 during the scoring process; i.e. 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.
To be eligible for a contextual offer, applicants currently attending school must apply from a school in the list below:

[2016 cycle list here]

Applicants not currently attending school must have been in full-time education in one of the following schools in the academic year 15/16:

[2015 cycle list here]

Please note that we use the "applying from" school code or the education history listed on the UCAS form to determine an applicant's eligibility for a contextual offer. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure these are correct.

The University reviews its definition of educational disadvantage 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, comprehensive school, academy) or an applicant’s parents' experience of higher education.

3. Offers

3.1. Typical 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.

Applicants applying to one of our innovation courses who are not successful in gaining a place will not automatically be considered for the single honours programme. However, we will do so if we have places available on the single honours course.

4. Other

4.1. Deferred applications
Applications for deferred entry will not be considered before or after the application has been submitted. This is due to the small number of places available.

4.2. Resits
All applications for Innovation courses are also assessed in relation to the other subject’s selection criteria so the other relevant admissions statement should also be consulted.
4.3. Transfers
Transfers may only be considered if there are places available on the courses after confirmation of A’level results/end of August and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4.4. Extenuating Circumstances
If your education has been significantly disrupted through health or personal problems, disability or specific difficulties with schooling you will need to submit an extenuating circumstances form (available from bristol.ac.uk/applicants/applied/extenuating-circumstances/) to Undergraduate Admissions.

The information provided on the form will be treated confidentially, and will help us to accurately assess your academic performance in light of your situation.

4.5. Policies
All applications are considered in line with our Admissions policies and procedures.

We are committed to the provision of high quality, fair and transparent admissions procedures for all our applicants. We recognise, however, that there may be occasions when applicants believe that they have cause for complaint. At this point applicants should follow our Applicant feedback and complaints procedures.

Should an applicant believe that University admissions principles and procedures have been inconsistently or incorrectly applied, these complaints procedures provide a mechanism for objective review.

4.6. 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 narrowly missed.

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 in August after publication of A-level results. International offer holders may be reconsidered earlier depending when their exam results are released.

4.7. Contacts for enquiries
Any enquiries should be addressed to our Enquiries team: choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 3941626.