

## Undergraduate admissions statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the [University's admissions principles and procedures](#).

**Year of admissions cycle:** 2017

### **Courses covered:**

BSc Childhood Studies (L520)

BSc Childhood Studies with Quantitative Research Methods (L522)

MSci Childhood Studies with Quantitative Research Methods (L523)

BSc Childhood Studies with Management (L524)

## 1. Admissions process

### 1.1. Admissions team

Applications are assessed by a centralised team in close co-operation with School Recruitment and Admissions Officer(s).

### 1.2. Application assessment methods

We consider all applications on an equal basis. We do not segregate applications by the type of educational institution attended.

All applications that are received on time (in accordance with UCAS deadlines) are guaranteed equal consideration.

We score and rank applications based on their academic record, according to their achieved or predicted A-level or equivalent results.

Please see sections 2.3 and 2.4 for how we may use your personal statement and reference.

We will assess your application on the basis of your UCAS form (or Common Application) only; we will not take into account any additional information you send us, unless we have requested it

We do not discriminate on the grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, or age.

### 1.3. Interview or visit day

All UK candidates who receive an offer are strongly encouraged to attend one of our visit days. You will be able to learn more about the degree, the School for Policy Studies, and the wider Faculty of Social Sciences and Law; as well as exploring the University campus and the city of Bristol. We will normally give you a choice of dates to visit. We do not normally expect international applicants to attend a visit day unless you are resident in the UK (for instance, at school here); however, you are encouraged to attend wherever possible.

## 1.4. Correspondence with applicants

We will send all correspondence relating to your application's status by email.

We will acknowledge receipt of your application by email, to establish contact and let you know about the process to be followed.

We will then notify you whether your application has been successful or unsuccessful, or to inform you that your application has been assessed and put on 'Hold' pending a decision later in the cycle.

If you submitted your application by 15 January then the final deadline by which you will receive a decision is 5 May. We make most decisions well before this date. We monitor the number of offers we make carefully and hold some applications until later in the cycle.

## 2. Criteria for assessing applicants

To assess an application we need:

- Your 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 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 from the [International Office](#).

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

Applications that are received on time are guaranteed equal consideration.

### 2.2. Additional academic criteria

We evaluate your academic ability from your predicted or actual grades achieved in examinations.

A-levels (or equivalent) may be in any subject (excluding General Studies and Critical Thinking). However, when we come to select applicants, all other things being equal, preference may be given to those showing aptitude in subjects that have the most relevance to the course applied for, specifically social science and science subjects.

We will also take account of previous academic qualifications, and credit is awarded for the best eight GCSEs achieved at grade C and higher.

We do not count A-levels in General Studies or Critical Thinking in our assessment, nor do they count towards meeting our entrance requirements.

### **2.3. Personal statement criteria**

In some cases we may refer to personal statements and references to differentiate between applicants with very similar academic profiles.

When we do this, we assess the following:

- your interest in, and commitment to, Childhood Studies as an academic subject;
- your declared interests and aspirations related to the course;
- evidence of understanding, analytical skills and critical thinking;
- relevant paid and unpaid work;
- positions of responsibility you have held at school/college or work;
- non-academic achievements;
- your standard of written English;
- responses to challenges you have faced;
- your hobbies and interests.

### **2.4. Reference criteria**

We will use your reference for information about your motivation, ability to work independently, and powers of analysis and expression. If your referee believes that your performance does not reflect your ability, due to educational context and/or special circumstances, you should complete an extenuating circumstances form at [bristol.ac.uk/applicants/applied/extenuating-circumstances/](http://bristol.ac.uk/applicants/applied/extenuating-circumstances/). We do not consider extenuating circumstances without this form.

References should be from your school or college, from an academic tutor confirming your potential to study at degree level. Where this is not possible, a non-academic reference should confirm any relevant experience you may have, explaining how that experience may indicate your potential for study at degree level.

We take into account the following when assessing a reference:

- evidence of academic potential;
- evidence of clear thinking and understanding, and analytical skills;
- non-academic achievement;
- responses to challenges you have faced; and
- exceptional circumstances and/or the educational and social context in which you are applying, where there is clear evidence that this may have adversely affected academic achievement.

### **2.5. Interview**

In the majority of cases, we make admissions decisions on the basis of the application alone. However, in some cases we may invite an applicant to attend an interview in order to discuss further their application, for example, if the applicant has been out of education for a number of years, or if a non-standard qualification is offered.

If we invite you for interview, we will consider the following criteria when assessing interview performance:

- your interest in the subject;
- evidence of motivation;
- evidence of clear thinking and understanding;
- academic and non-academic achievement and/or experience; and
- communication skills.

## **2.6. Mature applicants**

We may interview a selection of suitable mature applicants. All interviews are conducted by two people, at least one of whom is 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.

## **2.7. International applicants**

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

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

You need to demonstrate that you have sufficient ability to understand and express yourself in both spoken and written English in order to benefit fully from your degree course.

You can find the English Language requirements for each course in the [undergraduate course finder](#) . They are explained at [www.bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements](http://www.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.

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 state 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 applies from a school which 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 two grades 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. Applicants not currently attending school must have been in full-time education in one of the following schools in the academic year 15/16:

### [Contextual Offer Schools](#)

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).

## 4. Other

### 4.1. Deferred applications

We will consider applications for deferred entry. However you 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.

### 4.2. Resits

The Childhood Studies programmes will consider applicants who resit their qualifications.

### 4.3. Transfers

We consider applications for direct entry into year two from suitable applicants who have completed the first year of a degree with similar content at another institution. However, this is dependent on availability of places and the suitability of previous study.

Students, in principle, can transfer between Childhood Studies programmes, subject to approval, but there is no automatic right of transfer between programmes. Transfer is subject to sufficient space being available and the applicant meeting the academic criteria and requirements for the new programme. Applicants should read our [Student Transfer Policies](#) for more information.

### 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 at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/applicants/applied/extenuating-circumstances/>) to Undergraduate Admissions.

We will treat the information provided on the form confidentially. It will help us to assess accurately your academic performance in light of your situation.

#### **4.5. Policies**

All applications are considered in accordance with our [Admissions policies and procedures](#).

We are committed to following 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](#).

If you believe that the University's admissions principles and procedures have been inconsistently or incorrectly applied, these complaints procedures provide a mechanism for objective review.

#### **4.6. Additional information**

We 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 were narrowly missed.

If offer holders do not meet the terms of their offer when exam results are released they may be considered as 'near miss candidates'. 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](mailto:choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk) or +44 (0)117 39 41637.