

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:

Single Honours:

BSc Economics (L100)

BSc Economics with Study in Continental Europe (L101)

BSc Economics and Econometrics (L140)

BSc Economics and Finance (LN13)

BSc Economics with Study Abroad (entry by transfer)

Joint Honours:

BSc Economics and Mathematics (LG11)

BSc Economics and Politics (LL12)

BSc Philosophy and Economics (VL52)

1. Admissions process

1.1. Admissions team

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

1.2. Application assessment methods

We consider all applications received on an equal basis. Applications are not segregated by the type of educational institution attended.

All applications that are received before the January deadline set by UCAS are guaranteed equal consideration.

All applicants are allocated scores based on their academic record and predicted grades. In some cases we may need to refer to the personal statement and reference to differentiate between applicants with very similar academic profiles. If this is the case, then the respective weightings (academic to personal statement/reference) are as follows:

BSc Economics	90:10
BSc Economics with Study in Continental Europe	90:10
BSc Economics and Econometrics	90:10
BSc Economics and Finance	90:10
BSc Economics and Mathematics	90:10
BSc Economics and Politics	90:10
BSc Philosophy and Economics	90:10

When assessing an application the admissions team will consider whether the applicant's academic potential is such that it is likely they would be successful on the degree. The admissions team takes into account a wide variety of factors which include, but are not limited to, actual academic performance to date and predicted results for qualifications currently being studied. Other factors include those described in "2. Criteria for assessing applicants" below.

Because of the very high number of applications we receive, and to ensure that all those applying on time are treated fairly, a number of applications will be held until March before a decision is made.

Applicants will be assessed on the basis of information within 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.

1.3. Visit day

All UK candidates who receive an offer are strongly encouraged to attend one of our visit days. This gives you the opportunity learn more about the degree, and to view the Faculty, the wider University and the city of Bristol. We 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.

You will be able to find information about the visit days, together with details of campus tours for those unable to attend, on the school website at:

bristol.ac.uk/efm/courses/undergraduate/open-days.html

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 successful or unsuccessful, or to inform them that their 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 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 need:

- 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.

2.2. Additional academic criteria

The following indicates the general ranking process we use, however academic potential is the essential characteristic we are seeking to evaluate.

Mathematics

All of the Economics degrees at the University of Bristol have a strong mathematical component and applicants are required to offer a high level mathematics qualification, such as A-level Mathematics or its equivalent. Applicants who are taking a Foundation course need to be studying mathematics to A-level standard as part of their course to be eligible for consideration.

Languages

Those who are applying to study in continental Europe (L101) are usually expected to achieve at least AS-level grade B (for French or German) or GCSE grade A (for Italian or Spanish) or to demonstrate the same level of language proficiency with evidence of equivalent qualifications or experience.

Economics

We teach you on the assumption that you have no prior learning in the discipline of Economics, and therefore an A-level in Economics is **not** required. However, if you **are** studying A-level Economics then your performance in it is a useful indication of your analytical skills; and if we make you a conditional offer we may include A-level Economics as part of the conditions of entry.

Subject combinations at A-level

When making offers below AAA, we may specify in which subjects or modules the applicant must earn the A grades, according to which we feel are most relevant to their chosen course. In ranking applicants, we take account of academic performance to date. We give equal consideration to other qualifications (for example overseas qualifications) of the same standard to A-level.

Excluded subjects

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.

2.3. Personal statement criteria

In cases where we refer to the personal statement and reference to differentiate between applicants, the criteria will include the following:

- evidence of clear thinking and understanding;
- intellectual curiosity; reading or research beyond the A-level (or equivalent) syllabus;
- a high standard of written English (while taking into account that English will be a second language for some applicants);
- for degrees involving Study in Continental Europe, skills and interest in foreign language and culture;
- non-academic achievement or experience;
- any positions of responsibility held;
- voluntary work both at school/college and within the community;
- any work experience.

In all cases, assessors will aim to take account of the opportunities available to applicants.

Please note, all applications for Joint Honours courses are also assessed in relation to the other subject's selection criteria so the other relevant admissions statement should also be consulted

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.

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.

The reference will be included in the assessment of the personal statement, with the following taken into account:

- predictions of examination results (and, where the qualifications are unusual, to explain their meaning);
- an overall assessment of the applicant, in particular their suitability for further study;
- a discussion of earlier exam results, especially if they were influenced by personal or medical circumstances (and are therefore a poor guide to ability);
- discussion of the applicant's intellectual curiosity, interests and suitability for the subject;
- discussion of the applicant's other interests.

2.5. Interview

For these courses, applicants are not routinely interviewed. In the majority of cases, admissions decisions will be made on the basis of the application information alone. In exceptional circumstances where an interview is deemed necessary, it will be conducted by at least two people, with at least one of whom has been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques, and undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

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 an applicant will make to the life of the University;
- Positions of responsibility held;
- Other relevant skills.

2.6. Mature applicants

The school welcomes mature applicants. For mature applicants, evidence of recent study and examinations is expected within the last 5 years. In some cases mature applicants may be invited to interview (see 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.

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).

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](#).

3.2 Aspirational Offers

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.

3.3 Alternative Offers

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.

4. Other

4.1. Deferred applications

We will consider applications for deferred entry. 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.

4.2. Resits

The School of Economics Finance and Management will consider applicants who resit their qualifications.

4.3. Transfers

Transfers between degrees within the School of Economics may be possible at the end of the first year, subject to satisfactory attainment in appropriate subjects.

We only accept students for direct entry into the second year in exceptional circumstances, please contact the [Admissions Office](#) for further 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: 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 assess fairly 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 implementation 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 will not automatically be unsuccessful if the terms of the offer are narrowly missed.

If offer holders do not meet the terms of their offers 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 or +44 (0)117 928 8153.