

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 Education Studies (X300)

BSc Psychology in Education (X301)

1. Admissions process

1.1. Admissions team

Applications are assessed by a centralised team in close co-operation with 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.

Applications are scored and ranked based on their academic record, according to their achieved or predicted A-level or equivalent results with the following weighting:

- Academic score: 50%
- Personal statement: 50%

Applications 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

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 receive an offer will be invited to attend a visit day to learn more about the degree, as well as exploring the University campus and the city of Bristol. Applicants are normally given a choice of dates to attend a visit day. We do not normally expect international applicants to attend a visit day unless they are resident in the UK (for instance, at school here), however they are encouraged to attend wherever possible.

Although applicants are actively encouraged to participate, attendance is not compulsory and does not affect any decision made by the admissions team, nor does it form a part of the selection process.

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 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 may 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 and 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

We look for academic potential as well as academic attainment so far. Admissions staff will draw on both actual and predicted attainment, the educational context of an applicant, along with information in both the personal statement and the academic reference in making this assessment. A-levels in General Studies and Critical Thinking are not included in our assessment of applicants or included in the terms of offers.

Applicants who have not previously studied social science subjects may wish to indicate in their personal statement how their chosen A-level (or equivalent) studies are relevant to the particular degree and/or explain why they are choosing to take a different academic direction for their degree.

We also take previous academic qualifications into account, and credit is awarded for GCSEs achieved at grade C and above.

2.3. Personal statement criteria

The personal statement forms a crucial part of the selection process in assessing each applicant's motivation and suitability for the chosen course of study. When assessing personal statements, we will look for:

- A sense of the individual – what interests you and why;
- Evidence of interest in, and commitment to, the chosen subject;
- Evidence of critical thinking, understanding and analytical skills;
- Positions of responsibility at school/college or work;
- Non-academic achievement or experience;
- A high standard of written English;
- Responses to any challenges faced;
- Work experience;
- Voluntary work both at school/college and within the community;
- Additional hobbies, interests and activities.

2.4. Reference criteria

References will be assessed for information on the applicant's motivation, ability to work independently, and 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 be from the applicant's 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. It should indicate the potential of the applicant for study at degree level.

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

- an overall assessment of the applicant, in particular their suitability for further study;
- appropriateness of the chosen Bristol course in relation to the applicant's declared interests and aspirations;
- positions of responsibility at school/college or work, or other non-academic achievement.

2.5. Interview

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

All interviews are conducted by at least two people, at least one of whom has been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques, and are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

2.6. Mature applicants

We welcome applications from mature students. Applications from mature students are assessed holistically, taking into account factors such as relevant work experience and personal circumstances that may have interrupted or prevented previous degree level study. We may 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.

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 on the relevant course page via the online [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](#).

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 **2.9. Contextual information** above).

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.

4. Other

4.1. Deferred applications

We will consider applications for deferred entry (ie 2018 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

We will consider applicants who resit their qualifications.

4.3. Transfers

Applications for direct entry into year two of the course are not possible due to this being a new course for 2017 entry.

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 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 39 41637.