

Undergraduate Admissions Statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2019/>

Year of Admissions cycle:
2019

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)
BSc Childhood Studies with Study Abroad (L525)

1. Course-specific information

1.1 Admissions process

Applicants are scored and ranked on their academic record, according to their achieved or predicted results, with the following weightings:

GCSE 20% | A-level 80%

1.2 Academic criteria

Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Bac, GCSEs) can be found in the undergraduate course finder: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/>

Other qualifications, including international qualifications, are considered on an individual basis.

1.3 Personal statement criteria

We may refer to the personal statement and reference to differentiate between applicants with similar academic profiles. In these cases, we use the following criteria:

- Evidence of interest in, and motivation and commitment to, studying childhood studies and associated issues (for example, children's rights, poverty, education and child development)
- Suitability of the course in relation to interests, other disciplines studied and/or future plans or aspirations
- Non-academic achievement, interests and/or experience beyond the curriculum relating to childhood studies, such as volunteering, paid work or social care

1.4 Interviews

For these courses, applicants are not routinely interviewed. In most cases, admissions decisions are made on the basis of application information alone.

In exceptional circumstances where an interview is deemed necessary, applicants are interviewed by at least two people, at least one of whom has been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques. Interviews are conducted in accordance with the University's Equality and Diversity Policy.

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, and of problem-solving and analytical skills; standard of spoken English; suitability 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.

1.5 Mature applicants

Applicants must provide evidence of study and examinations within the past five years. Where applicants do not have recent educational qualifications to support their application, relevant experience may be taken into consideration. In some cases, mature applicants may be invited to interview.

Where applicants do not have recent educational qualifications to support their application, relevant experience may be taken into consideration. We welcome mature applicants, and assess such applications holistically, taking into account factors such as relevant work experience and personal circumstances that may have interrupted or prevented previous degree-level study. Mature applicants who do not meet our standard entry requirements and who cannot demonstrate recent study, relevant employment history or life experience are usually advised to gain some academic experience before reapplying. Current and prospective applicants in this position should consider applying to our Foundation Year in Arts and Humanities (<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/study/foundation/>) or taking an Access course, A-level, Open University foundation module or equivalent. Please contact the Admissions team regarding the suitability of your intended programme.

Further information can be found on our web pages: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/mature/>

1.6 Aspirational offers

We recognise that some applicants may achieve higher grades than predicted, so we may also consider applicants who are predicted to achieve grades slightly below those specified in the entry requirements (usually in a non-specified subject). Any offer made is at the standard level.

1.7 Alternative offers

Applicants who are not qualified or have an unsuitable academic background for the course to which they originally applied are generally not considered for an alternative course.

1.8 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (ie. applying in 2018/19 for 2020 entry) are accepted, and are treated in the same way as non-deferred applications.

1.9 Resits

The department will consider applicants who resit their qualifications.

1.10 Transfers

Suitable applicants from other degree programmes within the University may request to transfer to our courses.

We expect transferring students to begin their studies in the first year of their new course, but suitably qualified applicants who have completed the first year of an appropriate degree programme at another institution may seek entry to year two. Such applications must be submitted in the usual way through UCAS, indicating the year of entry as year two, and outlining clearly in the personal statement the reasons for requesting the transfer.

Transfers into year three are not considered in any circumstances.

All transfers are at the department's discretion and depend on spaces being available.

Please refer to our web page for further information on transfers:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/transfers/>

2. General

2.1 Admissions team

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

2.2 Admissions process

Because of the very high number of applications we receive, and to ensure that all those applying on time are treated fairly, some applications may be held until May 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.

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

Applicants are not discriminated against on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

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 the applicant is currently taking. Predicted grades can only come from a 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 the applicant is studying.
- If predicted grades are not available, then we will accept a transcript showing the results of a previous year's courses or examinations.

2.3 Correspondence with applicants

All correspondence relating to an applicant's status will be sent by email.

We monitor the number of offers we make carefully and may hold some applications until later in the cycle.

Applicants will 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.

For applications that are submitted by 15 January, the final deadline by which applicants will receive a decision is 2 May. Most decisions are made before this date.

2.4 Reference criteria

References should ideally be from a school or college, from a personal tutor. 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 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, an explanation of their meaning);
- an overall assessment of the applicant, in particular the suitability and academic potential of the applicant to study at degree level;
- 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.

If the referee believes the applicant's performance does not reflect their ability, due to educational context and/or special circumstances, they should advise the applicant to complete an extenuating circumstances form (see 2.8 Extenuating Circumstances)

2.5 International applicants

International applicants will be subject to the criteria as detailed on our International web page: <http://www.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.

2.6 English language requirements

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 on our English Language web page: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/language-requirements/>

2.7 Contextual information

As part of our commitment to the UK national agenda on widening participation, we consider the context in which grades have been achieved and make contextual offers. Contextual offers are usually two grades lower than the typical offer. Applicants may receive a contextual offer for the following reasons: attendance at an aspiring state school or college; residence in an area with low progression to higher education; completion of a University of Bristol outreach programme; time spent in care.

Full details of the contextual offer scheme can be found here:

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entry-requirements-qualifications/contextual->

[offers/](#) and within the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures for Undergraduate Courses.

2.8 Extenuating circumstances

If an applicant's education has been significantly disrupted through health or personal problems, disability or specific difficulties with schooling they will need to submit an extenuating circumstances form to Undergraduate Admissions:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/your-application/extenuating-circumstances/>

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

2.9 Policies

All applications are considered in line with our Admissions principles and procedures:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2019/>

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.

2.10 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.

2.11 Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to our Enquiries team: choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk or +44 (0)117 394 1649.