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If you have any questions about courses, applications or student life at Bristol, please contact the Enquiries Team.

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Education Studies



Undergraduate study



Courses

Single Honours

BSc Education Studies

three years X300

BSc Education Studies with Study Abroad

four years X304

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2020. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2019). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study, for the latest updates.

Why study education studies at Bristol?

Our BSc Education Studies course equips you to answer big questions about education and social change. It is an interdisciplinary social science degree that opens doors to careers that make a positive difference.

The course will introduce you to the full range of disciplinary perspectives that shape the study of education, including sociology, psychology, cultural theory, philosophy and history. You will explore education in diverse settings, from schools, workplaces, social and cultural spaces, to digital and online communities – globally and locally. You will investigate how learning happens for different people, including children, young people, adults and communities.

You will have the opportunity to investigate and problem solve during your degree, developing a broad range of research skills that will equip you to tackle complex problems in novel ways. Our interactive and research-based approach to teaching will provide you with a range of transferable skills. You will also have the chance to apply your learning in practice, spending time in a school, community organisation, or other setting where education matters.

You will be part of a vibrant, diverse and collegial body of staff and students in a school that has provided an excellent student experience for over 100 years. You will learn from and with inspiring researchers and wonderful teachers, making use of the excellent IT, teaching and library facilities at our school in Berkeley Square in the heart of Bristol, close to Clifton Village.

Bristol is a top five UK university for education in the *THE* World University Rankings 2019.

What will you study?

Year one

The first-year units will introduce you to core concepts and theoretical perspectives that are integral to the study of education from different disciplinary perspectives. You will learn how social science research methods can be used to answer educational questions, with opportunities to apply these insights to your own enquiries.

You will meet your personal tutor in Welcome Week and they will support you over your three years at Bristol, working with you to develop academic study skills and to plan your professional development.

Core units*

- Education and Social Change
- Introduction to Psychology in Education
- Learning Lives
- Researching Educational Questions.

Optional units

Optional units can be selected either from within the school or from a wide range of units offered elsewhere in the University under our open units scheme.

The School of Education's mission is to develop learning and leadership.

Year two

In your second year you will study the core unit Researching Education in the City. As you explore the diversity of education in Bristol, you will design and conduct a small-scale research study. Your other core unit will examine policy change in education, and you will begin to understand how decisions are made on questions such as: 'At what age should we start and leave school?' and 'Which subjects should be compulsory?'.

In the second year you start to develop your own interests and expertise, choosing four optional units. The options include Education in Practice, which allows you to conduct a placement in a school or other education setting.

Core units*

- Researching Education in the City
- Education Policy and Research.

Four optional units from a selection, for example:

- Education in Practice
- Educational Statistics
- Developmental and Educational Psychology
- Curriculum Design for Learning

- Education Viewed from the Global South
- Social Psychology and Individual Differences
- Language, Literacies and Identities.

Year three

In year three you will continue to develop your interests through optional units and will showcase your expertise in an 8,000-10,000-word dissertation. This project allows you to apply the research skills you have developed via an original investigation into a topic that fascinates you.

You will choose four optional units from a selection, for example:

- Globalisation and Education
- Digital Cultures and Participatory Learning
- Pedagogies for Social Justice
- Atypical Development
- Peace and Conflict Psychology
- Children in a Global Context.

*It is possible that units for future academic years may change, for example due to staff changes or developments in the field. Please see bristol.ac.uk/ug20-education for the most up-to-date information.

Teaching methods

You will be joining a friendly and supportive learning community of students and staff. We use a wide range of teaching approaches, designed to support your intellectual and personal development, including lectures, workshops, seminar discussion, guided independent study and tutorials. You will have the chance to collaborate with others and to develop as an independent learner, gaining confidence and skills in conveying your ideas, presenting evidence and building a compelling argument.

Assessment and feedback

Throughout the course you will receive supportive formative feedback from your tutors on your assignments and presentations. This will help you develop your skills and deepen your understanding. We use a wide range of assessments and few unseen exams, setting us apart from other courses.

Assessment formats will include a mixture of essays, research reports, examinations, the use of blogs and reflective journals, and poster and slide presentations.



'The professors are really supportive and friendly - they are willing to provide extra support throughout the course. My peers are all passionate about education, which builds a great environment.'

Estelle (BSc Education Studies)

Careers and graduate destinations

Our BSc Education Studies will equip you for routes into teaching (Primary PGCE* and Schools Direct routes), educational research, academia, educational publishing, and a range of jobs in the private, charity and community sectors.

It also offers excellent preparation for careers working with children, young people, schools and families in roles with local government and charitable organisations. Graduates from social sciences degrees at Bristol go on to leading careers in business and in the public and non-profit sectors.

The course will help you to develop a set of transferable skills that will help you to make a positive difference in any career, including presentation skills, research skills, critical thinking and problem solving, policy analysis, communication for both specialist and non-specialist audiences, team working, and using evidence to make a compelling argument.

*This course will not qualify you to follow a Secondary PGCE.

Bristol is the second most targeted university by top UK employers.

High Fliers Research 2019



Our education studies course can equip you for routes into teaching, research, publishing and more.

Making your application

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-education for more information about our course.

Typical offer for BSc Education Studies

A-levels ABB (contextual BBC).

IB Diploma 32 points overall (contextual 29) with 16 at Higher Level (contextual 14).

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

Selection process UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-education.

Application advice for education

We are looking for enthusiastic and committed students who have a genuine interest in education. We very much welcome applicants from all backgrounds, including mature students and candidates with non-standard qualifications.

We do not normally interview, so please demonstrate your commitment and suitability for the degree when writing your application statement. You could show this by the way you talk about your own studies, work experience and other interests – what has interested you and why?

Further information

Find out more about the School of Education at the University of Bristol: bristol.ac.uk/education.

This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: bristol.ac.uk/ug20-education.



Read more about how we support you when you are here:

bristol.ac.uk/students