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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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Liberal Arts



Undergraduate study



Courses

Single Honours

BA Liberal Arts

three years 2ZB7

MLibArts Liberal Arts with Study Abroad

four years 2T23

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 liberal arts at Bristol?

Liberal arts combines in-depth study of a single discipline with interdisciplinary exploration of other subjects. The Faculty of Arts at Bristol is home to researchers who are passionately committed to the ideals of liberal education. It is a place where an interdisciplinary outlook comes naturally and is practised on a daily basis. Our Liberal Arts courses aim to capture the best of Bristol's education and research and make it available in an innovative and intellectually adventurous environment. You will be encouraged and expected, with appropriate guidance, to take responsibility for your own curriculum, making connections between units.

In year one, you will have flexibility of choice to discover new subjects. Your studies will also benefit from the many opportunities afforded by the rich cultural life of the University and the city of Bristol.

You can choose from either a three-year BA or an integrated, four-year master's degree with study abroad (MLibArts). Each distinctive course offers its own advantages. You will also take part in the Bristol Futures programme, which builds knowledge and experience in the fields of innovation and enterprise, global citizenship and sustainable development.

'The liberal arts degree equips you with the necessary skills to specialise in your personal interests with a broader perspective. Both the core units in the first two years and my year abroad have allowed me to develop this open-minded and interdisciplinary approach when studying modules from my history pathway and while making progress in Spanish.'

Emily (MLibArts Liberal Arts with Study Abroad)

What will you study?

In the first two years you will take a combination of Liberal Arts core units and a choice of optional units from the full range of disciplines offered within the Faculty of Arts: bristol.ac.uk/arts/about/schools.

The core units* are:

- Critical Writing in the Humanities
- The History of the Present
- Experiencing the Aesthetic
- Ideas and Society.

These units introduce key concepts, skills and methods within the humanities through the study of classic texts, seminal ideas and overarching themes. You will also be required to take the core unit Arts in the Age of Data, intended to develop your quantitative skills. Finally, you will begin or continue your studies in either an ancient or a modern language.

Your subject pathway will be one of the disciplines taught by a department in the Faculty of Arts. There is also a cross-departmental pathway in Medieval Studies. At least one quarter of your credit points are taken in the pathway.

Students who choose to do the three-year BA Liberal Arts will spend their final year in Bristol, where one of their required units will be The Public Role of the Humanities (available as an option in MLibArts). Those who choose the four-year master's (MLibArts) will spend their third year abroad, subject to satisfactory academic progress.

In the final year you will earn two thirds of the required credits by choosing a combination of units from your subject pathway and other options. The remaining credits will be gained through the completion of a dissertation in a topic of your choice. In this year particularly (although not exclusively), there will be possibilities to work with external partners, combining such experience with academic assessment.

*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-liberalarts for the most up-to-date information.

Teaching and learning

Liberal arts teaching at Bristol offers an education at the forefront of the subject, closely integrated with the acquisition of the key skills and attributes sought by employers for a wide range of careers. Our diverse range of assessments ensures that you gain a thorough training in advanced research, source analysis and sharing your findings in a number of ways.

We ensure that you graduate with experience in formal writing and presentation skills and in using digital formats and other media to present knowledge, ideas and arguments. You will be experienced in working individually and in groups, and in making connections with and communicating to audiences beyond the University.

Throughout the course there is a strong emphasis on forging links, developing skills and taking responsibility. You will be encouraged to take advantage of the many cultural and intellectual activities offered across the University by incorporating them into your assessed work.

Guidance and assessment

You will receive personal guidance throughout the course, particularly with respect to the choice of options and the development of a coherent academic agenda. If you study abroad you will receive advice from both Bristol and the relevant partner institution in selecting units of study that will develop and extend your knowledge and skills. It is anticipated that you will develop a strong sense of identity and mutual support with other students in your year, fostered through core units, group meetings and activities.

Assessment will be varied and closely tailored to the learning objectives of units. In addition to traditional essays and examinations, projects, presentations, portfolios, peer review exercises and online contributions are some of the alternative modes of assessment.

The Faculty of Arts is based in the Woodland Road complex, a series of converted Victorian villas at the heart of our Clifton campus.



'My degree challenges me to think in a way that I haven't before. Interdisciplinarity is a key part of the course, and I love how I learn something new every week.'

Lauren (MLibArts Liberal Arts with Study Abroad)

Careers and graduate destinations

The skills that arts students traditionally bring to the workplace are now, more than ever, valued in every part of the employment market. Our students go on to succeed in careers as diverse as the subjects they study here – commerce, tech start-ups, law, accountancy, theatre, museums, publishing, the charity sector, journalism, politics, education and international relations, to name just a few. Arts graduates also go on to work in sectors perhaps not immediately associated with arts disciplines, such as engineering and IT.

To ensure arts graduates continue to be appealing to employers, the Bristol Skills Framework enables students to recognise their development in areas such as academic writing, problem solving, group work, and individual and group presenting. We will equip you with the tools to market your skills, your achievement and your potential in whatever career path you choose to pursue after you graduate.

Our Liberal Arts degrees offer high academic standards, strong disciplinary grounding, interdisciplinary breadth, innovative methods and emphasis on engagement beyond the University. This unique combination of knowledge, understanding and skills makes your degree especially attractive to employers.

The BA Liberal Arts will provide a platform for application to a master's degree, while the MLibArts Liberal Arts with Study Abroad will satisfy the M-level requirement for admission to a PhD programme.

'The interdisciplinary nature of my degree has given me the chance to explore a wide variety of topics, while giving me the tools of critical thinking, analysis and problem solving.'

Vicky (BA Liberal Arts)

Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2016/17. Data from Liberal Arts degrees was not available at the time of printing, so destinations have been taken from degree subjects across the Faculty of Arts. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired.



Graduate employers

Penguin Random House
Ipsos MORI
Civil Service
Atlantic Pictures
British Council



Career destinations

Editorial Assistant
Commercial Analyst
Teacher
Marketing Executive
Translator

Making your application

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-liberalarts for more information about our courses.

Typical offer for BA Liberal Arts

A-levels AAA (contextual ABB) including A in an Arts subject and A (contextual B) in another essay-based subject.

IB Diploma 36 points overall (contextual 32) with 18 at Higher Level (contextual 16), including 6 at Higher Level in an Arts subject and 6 at Higher Level (contextual 5) in another essay-based subject.

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, a list of arts and essay-based subjects, and our English language requirements, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-liberalarts.

Further information

You can find out more about the Faculty of Arts, including a full list of subjects taught within the faculty, on the website: bristol.ac.uk/arts.

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-liberalarts.



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

bristol.ac.uk/students