

International Foundation Programme Admissions Statement



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

Year of Admissions cycle:
2026

Courses covered:
International Foundation Programme:

- Arts, Law and Social Sciences pathway
- Business and Economics pathway
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics pathway.

1. Admissions process

All applications are considered on behalf of the University of Bristol by Kaplan International Pathways, who will assess the application for evidence of academic achievement and potential. All applications are considered on an equal basis.

Applicants are asked to complete an application via the University's partner Kaplan International Pathways (www.kaplanpathways.com/how-to-apply/uk-universities/application-form/). Receipt of an application will be confirmed by email.

Applicants will be asked to provide supporting documents (for example, an IELTS test (UKVI SELT), high school graduation certificate and transcript, passport and details of any previous UK study). Some students may also be required to write a personal statement.

Applications are assessed by Kaplan admissions staff on behalf of the University of Bristol against agreed criteria and policies. Decisions on applications will usually be reached within 48 hours and will be communicated to the applicant by email. If an offer is made, conditions of the offer and requirements for accepting the offer will be detailed in the offer letter from Kaplan.

Offers can be accepted or declined online. Applicants should pay the deposit within the required timeframe as stated in their offer letter. The University will only be made aware of a candidate's unconditional offer status when all documents and the deposit have been provided to Kaplan. Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) numbers will start to be produced in May onwards for unconditional offer holders who have been confirmed to the University by Kaplan.

We do not discriminate against applicants on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

2. Academic criteria

Entry requirements, including English language requirements, are listed on the Kaplan website: www.kaplanpathways.com/colleges/university-of-bristol-pathways/

When applying, applicants are required to specify the undergraduate degree they would like to progress to after successfully completing the International Foundation Programme (IFP). This information will be used to make an appropriate offer for the IFP, which may include specified subjects related to the applicant's preferred degree. For further information on specified subjects, email bristol-ifp@kaplan.com.

Please also refer to Section 12 for more information about English language requirements.

3. Personal statement criteria

We do not typically require a personal statement. However, if we request a personal statement we would look for evidence of the following:

- Academic background
- Reasons for choosing study in the UK
- Initial academic choices for future study.

4. Interviews

Interviews are not usually required. If more information is needed about an application in order to make a decision, then applicants may be required to attend a virtual interview as part of the selection process.

Where an interview is required, the following criteria will be considered when assessing the interview performance:

- Academic achievement and potential
- Interest, motivation and commitment to the programme
- Communication skills.

5. Mature applicants

No additional qualifications are required; all applicants are treated the same. However, we may ask for information about what the applicant has been doing for the intervening years (this is to assess whether an applicant might be better applying directly for undergraduate studies).

6. Deferred applications

Deferrals to the next academic intake are permitted. Applicants should state their reason for deferral request and notify Kaplan of any changes to their contact details, study history or immigration status. Checks will be made to ensure the validity of English language qualifications (SELTs).

7. Resits

We will consider applications from students who have taken resits.

8. Transfers

We would not normally consider a transfer request from one Foundation Programme within the UK to the University of Bristol International Foundation Programme.

9. Admissions team

Applications are assessed by Kaplan in close consultation with the University of Bristol's Admissions Office and the Centre for Academic Language and Development.

10. Correspondence with applicants

Kaplan will correspond with applicants using the email address provided on the application form. If an applicant nominates an Agent, they will also send correspondence to the Agent. If the contact details change, applicants should inform Kaplan by email: bristol-ifp@kaplan.com.

11. International applicants

These courses are only available to international applicants.

12. English language requirements

Entry requirements, including English language requirements, are listed on the Kaplan website: www.kaplanpathways.com/colleges/university-of-bristol-pathways/.

An English language test used for entry to the IFP must be a Secure English Language Test (UKVI approved) for any candidates requiring a CAS, eg IELTS, and must be valid at the start of the International Foundation Programme (ie less than two years old).

14. 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 complete and submit an extenuating circumstances form to bristol-ifp@kaplan.com. Extenuating circumstances forms should be submitted at the point of application or prior to receipt of academic results.

The information provided on the form will be treated confidentially and will help us to fairly assess academic performance in light of the situation. The form can be found on the Kaplan website: www.kaplanpathways.com/da/bristol-extenuating-circumstances.

15. Progression to undergraduate studies

Progression to an undergraduate degree is based on successful completion of the IFP and meeting the entry requirements for undergraduate study. The applicant's first choice of degree is not guaranteed. Progression requirements are reviewed annually and are subject to change. If progression requirements for your chosen pathway do change, this will be communicated to you.

Kaplan will communicate the expected progression requirements from the IFP qualification for the desired undergraduate degree in their offer letter for the IFP. This will include any additional requirements for particular courses, such as:

- Successful completion of the National Aptitude Test for Law (LNAT, www.lnat.ac.uk) for those wishing to progress to law courses;
- Successful completion of our work experience and aptitude requirements for veterinary courses; we currently ask all candidates to satisfactorily complete a supplementary admissions questionnaire (SAQ) to meet this requirement.

These additional tests will be requested during the year of IFP study and do not need to be completed before joining the IFP.

Veterinary courses also require incoming students to satisfy Occupational Health checks before being able to register on their undergraduate course. This will be requested during the year of IFP study ahead of progression to undergraduate study.

The University may occasionally need to update progression requirements ahead of students commencing the IFP. Any changes to progression requirements will be communicated to offer-holders by email.

16. Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to Kaplan through the online form, available at www.kaplanpathways.com/colleges/university-of-bristol-pathways/contact/.