

# CHOOSING THE RIGHT COURSE AND UNIVERSITY FOR YOU



# We will cover

- Benefits of going to university
- How to choose a university
- How to choose a course
- Why choose Bristol

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# Benefits of Going to University

- Evidence suggests that:
  - Graduates stand a better chance of getting a job<sup>1</sup>
  - Graduates are likely to earn more than non-graduates<sup>2</sup>
  - UoB is a top 10 UK University with leading employers<sup>3</sup>
- Not just an academic qualification: going to university is a unique and personal experience



# Benefits of Going to University

- The majority of graduates (59%) were in full-time work 15 months after graduating, while 10.8% were in part-time employment.
- Of those graduates in work, 75% were in professional-level employment.
- 8.8% of graduates in work were self-employed or actively working towards this goal.
- 6.7% of graduates were engaged in further study, while 10.5% were both working and studying.
- Just 5.6% were unemployed, slightly higher than the previous year, but these figures still indicate a relatively healthy labour market.

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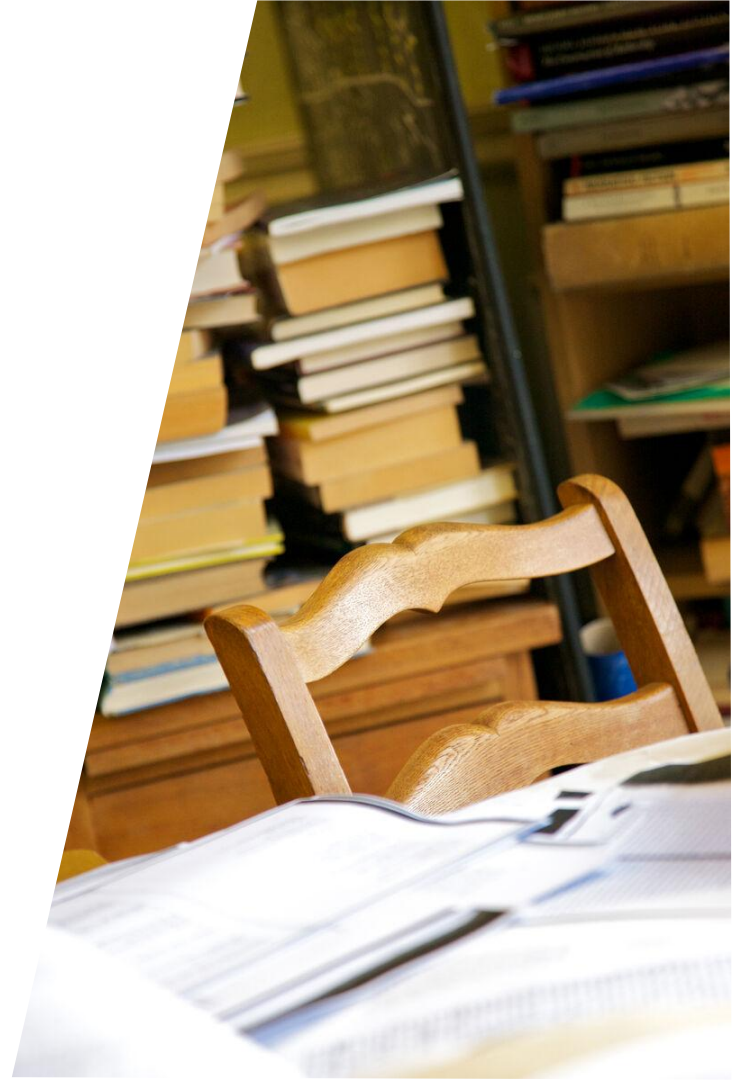
# Choosing your Course

This could be a subject you're already familiar with, or something completely new.

- Which subjects interest you?
- Practical or theoretical?
- Broad or specialist?
- Single or combined honours?
- Integrated masters?
- Year abroad?
- Any future career plans?



The Uni Guide has a great tool to help you decide which course may be right for you



# Choosing your Course

- Things to focus on:
  1. Entry requirements
  2. Course content
  3. Assessment methods
  4. Reputation of course
  5. Career prospects

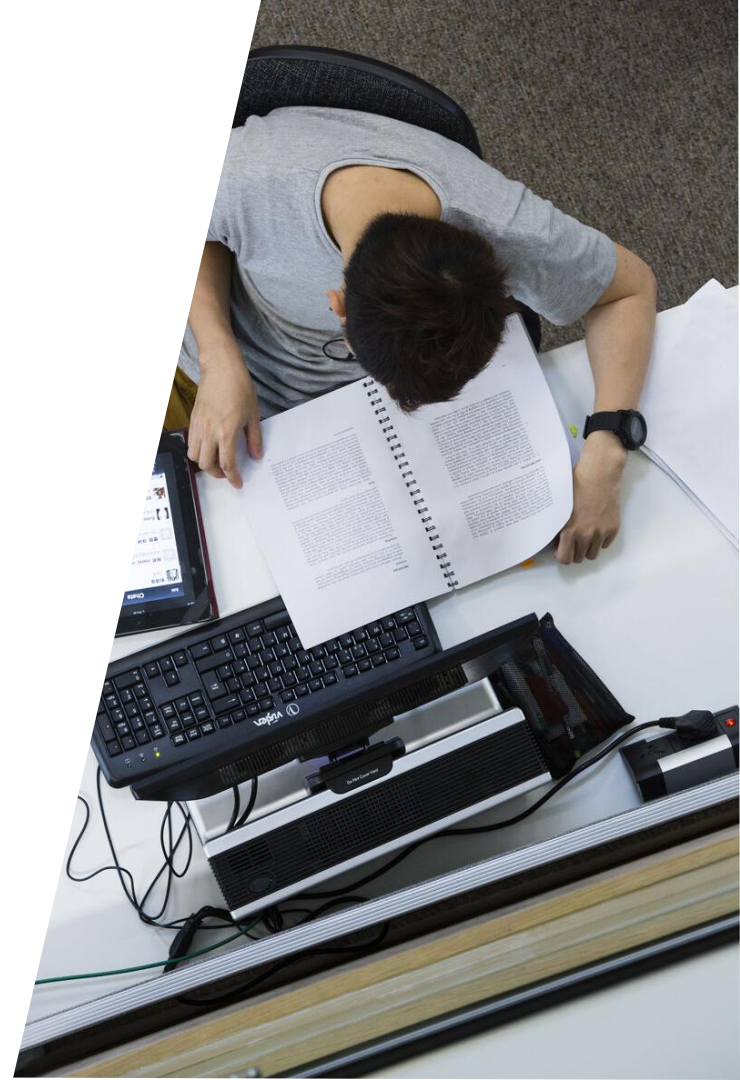


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# Choosing your Course: Entry Requirements

- Universities and colleges set their own entry requirements for higher education courses, and these vary widely depending on the subject and by institution.
  - Universities may name specific Level 3, qualifications in their entry criteria, such as A Levels, or they may list their entry criteria in UCAS Tariff points.
  - Does your chosen course interview?
  - Are there any admissions tests? LNAT / UCAT?
  - Further requirements; GCSE's



# Choosing your Course: Entry Requirements

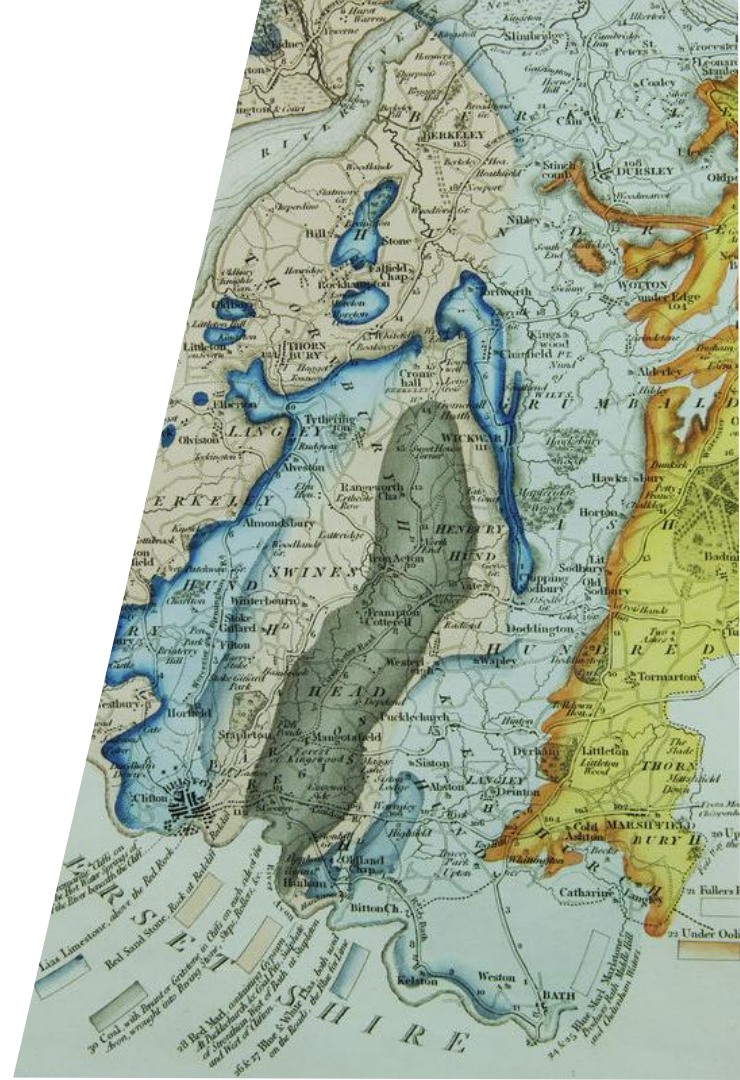
- We accept National 5s taken in S4, S5 or S6 to meet our [GCSE profile requirements](#).

Our Scottish entry requirements are listed on all undergraduate course pages. They are expressed in the format of two Advanced Highers and five Highers.

- We also consider applicants who are taking three Advanced Highers.

- EG:

A levels	3 Advanced Highers	Plus 5 Highers (if required)
A*A*A	AAB	AAAAB
AAA	AAC	AAAAC
ABB	ABB	AAAAB
ABB	ABC	AABBC



# Choosing your Course: Course Content and Assessment Methods

Course content varies between universities. For example, you'll need to consider;

- How many contact hours do you get with lecturers?
- Is teaching all lectures, or a mixture of lectures and seminars?
- For practical courses how much lab time will there be?
- What resources are available to support your studies at the University
- Is the assessment exams, coursework/essays, presentations, observations, group work or a combination of all of these?



# Choosing your Course: Reputation and Career Prospects

There are various ratings and rankings you can use to compare which course and/or university has the best reputation and career prospects. We recommend checking out;

- Teaching Excellence Framework
- Research Excellence Framework
- High Fliers Research
- Times Higher Education UK University Rankings
- QS World Rankings

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# Why Choose Bristol: Local to Bristol?

- Local students living in specific postcodes get a **guaranteed offer/interview** to study at the University of Bristol
  - All BS postcodes
  - Specific BA and SN postcodes
- You may also qualify for a **contextual offer** (up to two grades below standard entry!) -Eligibility applies.



Our Local and Commuter Students webpage has all the info you need to know



# Why Choose Bristol: Teaching Resources

- 9 libraries across faculties with Library Navigation Advice.
- 6 study centres with private pods, conference rooms, and social spaces.
- Teaching labs with state-of-the-art facilities.
- Further support includes Study Skills Advice, Financial Services, IT Services and more.

[bristol.ac.uk](http://bristol.ac.uk)



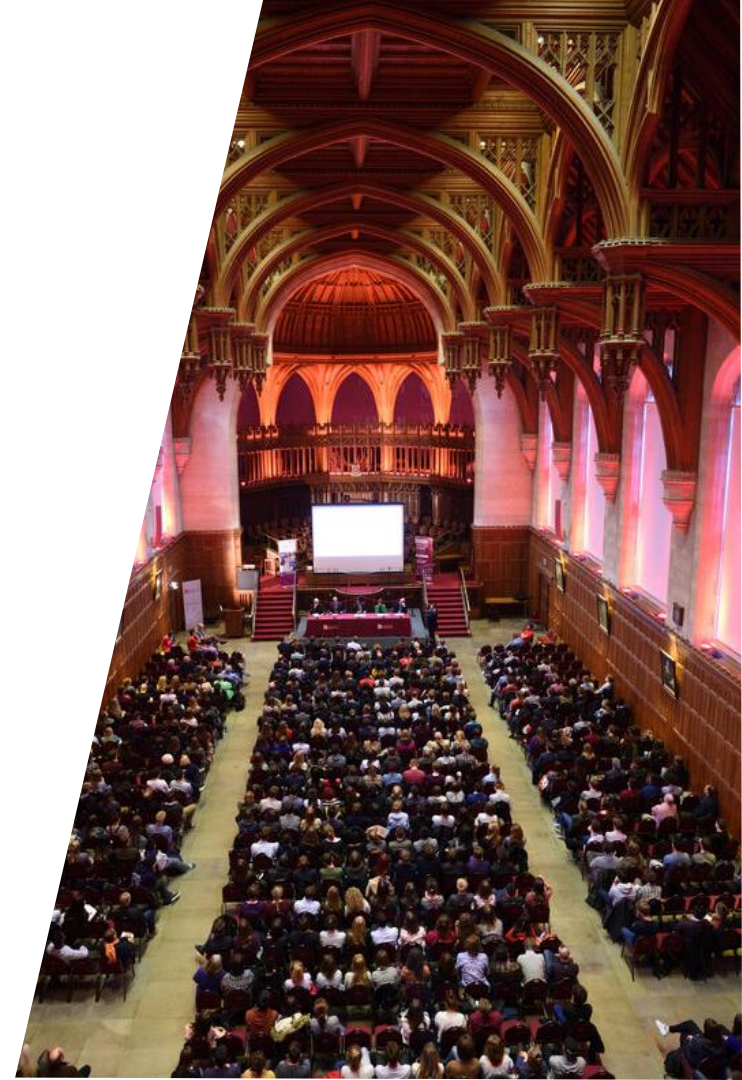
# Why Choose Bristol: Graduate Outcomes

- The graduate outcomes for the University of Bristol show that six months after leaving university, 89% of graduates are in work or further study. The typical graduate salary six months after leaving the University of Bristol is £30 - £33K a year.
- Discover Uni ([discoveruni.gov.uk](https://discoveruni.gov.uk)) has some very good subject specific data on degree outcomes.

Average earnings for all full-time Finance courses  
For graduates from University of Bristol

After 15 months	After 3 years	After 5 years
<b>£34,000</b>	<b>£40,500</b>	<b>£57,000</b>
Typical range: £29,000 - £40,000	Typical range: £32,000 - £50,000	Typical range: £44,000 - £74,500
Data from 20 people (55% of those asked).	Data from 30 people.	Data from 35 people.
Data for students graduating 2021-22 Source: <a href="#">Graduate Outcomes survey</a>	Data for students graduating 2014-16 Source: <a href="#">Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) dataset</a>	Data for students graduating 2014-16 Source: <a href="#">Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) dataset</a>

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# Top Tips for Helping You Decide

- Identify **your** priorities
- Engage with your school or college support – careers advice, progression tutors, etc
- Speak to family and friends
- Attend open days and taster days
- Participate in outreach programmes
- Research online – The Complete University Guide has some fantastic tools to support you



# University of Bristol Open Days

- Open days offer a wide variety of talks and displays to give visitors a taste of university life and a chance to see for themselves what makes Bristol a great place to live. The University's schools and departments taking part will host subject talks and interactive demonstrations.
- Our next undergraduate open days will take place in June 2025.



Book onto our next open day



# University of Bristol Outreach Projects

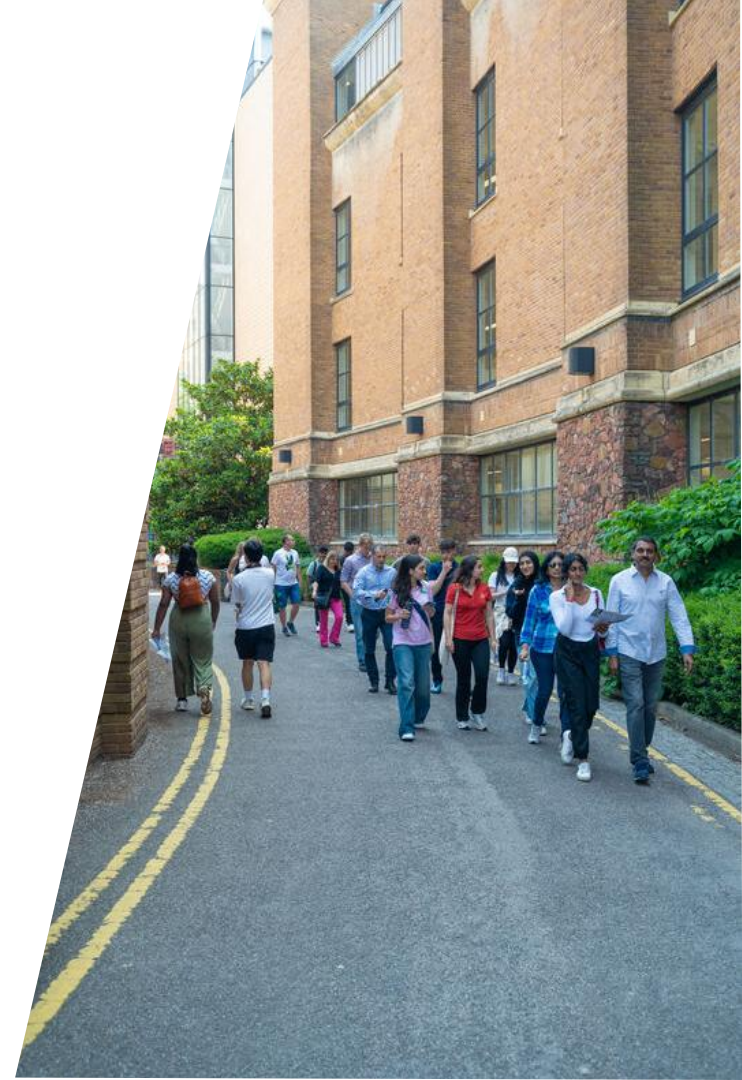
- Our post-16 programmes give a taste of what it is like to study at Bristol. Participants who successfully complete Access to Bristol, the Insight into Bristol summer school, Next Step Bristol, or the Virtual Summer School are eligible to receive admissions benefits such as the Guaranteed Contextual Offer.
- These programmes are designed to support state-educated students from underrepresented backgrounds, prioritising those who meet our widening participation eligibility criteria listed on each programme's webpage.



Explore our current outreach projects

# Access to Bristol

- Typically held on a Wednesday for six weeks. First week online followed by five on campus sessions.
- The Access to Bristol scheme is for local students taking A-levels, BTECs, Access to HE courses or equivalents.
- A unique way to experience what studying at the University of Bristol as a local student might be like
- A chance to discover more about a subject you are interested in from current university students and academic staff
- A fantastic enrichment opportunity that will offer tailored information, advice and guidance to help students make an informed decision about higher education
- Check the website for Eligibility Criteria



Find out more on our webpage!

# Bristol Scholars

- This one-week in-person course will offer you the best possible preparation for your degree.
- The Bristol Scholars Scheme allows Headteachers and Heads of Post-16 to nominate Year 13/Access to HE students based on their individual circumstances and academic potential.
- Bristol Scholars receive pre-entry support, including e-mentoring from a current University of Bristol student, designed to empower Bristol Scholars to succeed in post-16 education and therefore enable them to progress to study with the University.



Find out more on our webpage!



# Insight into Bristol

- Hybrid Summer School residential programme taking place in July
- Participants in the summer school will get the opportunity to experience student life at the University of Bristol by:
  - Attending academic sessions in an assigned subject stream delivered by our world-leading academics
  - Getting to know current University of Bristol students, including some of our student societies
  - Taking part in social activities throughout the week



Find out more on our webpage!

# Next Step Bristol

- All virtual events will run during after-school hours and in less busy periods of your school year. Throughout the year there will likely be four online sessions and the opportunity to attend one on-campus event.
- This programme is a collaboration between current students, societies and the Widening Participation team. You will receive advice, information and support during your final year of school or college, and we will support your transition to becoming a University of Bristol student via a series of virtual events.
- Please check the website for Eligibility Criteria.



Find out more on our webpage!

# Virtual Summer School

- The three-day online event comprises academic talks, social sessions, and information, advice and guidance to help you make informed choices about your future options in Higher Education.
- The Virtual Summer School is open to Year 12 students and offers many of the benefits of an in-person program but is accessed online via Zoom.
- Please check the website for Eligibility Criteria.



Find out more on our webpage!

# New Yr13 Virtual Project

- Programme for state-educated, Year 13, UK domiciled students only.
- Will consist of a series of virtual sessions to provide insight into the University of Bristol to help students make informed choices about their Higher Education options.
- Please check the website for Eligibility Criteria.



Complete our expression of interest form to be notified when applications open

# THANK YOU

Email [choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk) for any  
general enquiries



# REFERENCES

1. <https://standout-cv.com/stats/uk-graduate-statistics>
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/graduates-continue-to-benefit-with-higher-earnings>
3. <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/statistics/highfliers-graduate-market-report-2024.pdf>

