

ACCESS TO BRISTOL 2026/27

**EXPERIENCE LIFE
AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRISTOL**





ACCESS TO BRISTOL 2026/27

Email access-to-bristol@bristol.ac.uk

CONTENTS

What is Access to Bristol?	2	Economics	16
Benefits of Access to Bristol	3	Engineering	17
How to apply	4	English Literature	18
Programme structure and term dates	5	Film and Television	19
Subject streams	6	Geography	20
Requirements	7	History	21
Biological Sciences	8	Law	22
Biomedical Sciences	9	Mathematics	23
Business Management	10	Medicine	24
Chemistry	11	Modern Languages	25
Childhood and Education Studies	12	Physics	26
Computer Science	13	Psychology	27
Dentistry	14	Social Sciences	28
Earth and Environmental Sciences	15	Veterinary Sciences	29

WHAT IS ACCESS TO BRISTOL?



Aimed at local students studying A levels, and equivalents, Access to Bristol gives you a taste of student life at the University of Bristol.

Access to Bristol offers a range of subject streams, reflecting the variety of academic activity at the University. You will take part in academic taster sessions within your chosen subject, which will give you an idea of what it is like to study at Bristol.

As well as developing your subject knowledge in one of the subject streams offered, you will also be given the opportunity to take part in a study skills session and a general student life panel session to support your transition to higher education. You will be able to speak with current university students about their first-hand experience studying at the university, and go on a guided tour of our city centre campus.

'It's fantastic to see so many local students using Access to Bristol to explore studying at the University of Bristol. The contextual offer available to those who complete Access to Bristol is a fantastic way to support students to make a successful application to our UK top ten university.*'

Sarah-Jane Steele
Head of Student Success (Diversity),
Student Journey

*QS World University Rankings 2027.

BENEFITS OF ACCESS TO BRISTOL

What can Access to Bristol offer you?

- First-hand experience of what it is like to study at one of the UK's top ten universities.
- The opportunity to learn more about the subject you're interested in.
- The chance to meet local students who are interested in the same subject as you.
- A way to demonstrate your passion for a subject to universities and employers.

If you complete the Access to Bristol scheme, you will also have access to the following benefits.

If you are studying A levels:

For most courses, you will be guaranteed an offer at the contextual level, provided that you meet the full entry requirements of the course applied for. Students undertaking the appropriate subjects but not predicted the contextual offer will usually be made an aspirational offer.

Please note: we do not currently have a contextual version of BTEC entry requirements. This means that your offer will not be made any lower than stated.

If the course holds interviews as part of the selection process, you will be guaranteed an interview (for example, Medicine or Dentistry). The interview will only be guaranteed if your predicted grades meet the contextual entry requirements and you meet the GCSE subject requirements.

If you are studying Access to HE:

We encourage Access to HE learners who will be 21 or older on the first day of their undergraduate studies to apply to our Mature Pathway to Bristol project, which offers more bespoke support, tailored information and guidance, additional flexibility, and opportunities to meet and engage with other like-minded mature learners.



Find out more by contacting mature-pathway@bristol.ac.uk.

If you are an Access to HE student who will be under the age of 21 when starting your undergraduate studies, you may still wish to apply to Access to Bristol. Access to HE students who complete Access to Bristol receive the same benefits as mature Access to HE students who complete the Mature Pathway to Bristol.

Please note: the Access to HE qualification is already at the contextual level, in recognition that students returning to study may face additional barriers to entering HE. This means that your offer will not be made any lower than stated.

For most courses, Access to HE students will be guaranteed an offer to study, providing full entry requirements are met. For some courses, including Medicine, Dentistry, and physics-intensive courses, Access to HE students will be guaranteed an interview instead, provided they are on track to meet the entry requirements of their chosen course(s).

HOW TO APPLY



How do I apply?

If you would like to take part in Access to Bristol, apply online between 2 September and 27 September 2026 at: bristol.ac.uk/access-to-bristol

We recommend that you discuss this scheme with the head of your sixth form or college before applying.

Access to Bristol is designed for students who have the grades, motivation and potential to succeed at a Russell Group university. The scheme is only open to students who meet all of the following criteria.

You must:

- be a Home fee student (see www.bristol.ac.uk/study/fee-status for further information);
- currently attending a state school or college;
- be resident in a BA, BS or other local postcode within an hour's journey of the University of Bristol (including South Wales);
- be in your first or second year of A Level study (or equivalent);
- have the academic ability to study at the University of Bristol (including meeting the GCSE entry requirements for your chosen course and studying any required Level 3 subjects). Applicants must have the potential to meet the contextual entry requirements for their chosen course.
- Applicants must have the potential to meet the contextual entry requirements for their chosen course.

The scheme is very popular and there is high demand for places. If a subject stream is oversubscribed, we will prioritise students who meet our widening participation criteria:

- are or have been eligible for free school meals;
- live in an IMD quintile 1 or 2 area as defined by your home postcode;
- are from an Asian background or of a mixed background featuring this group*;
- have spent three or more months in local authority care;
- are currently an estranged student;
- are from Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater (GTRSB) communities;
- attend an aspiring state school or college;
- are from any other minority ethnic background;
- are part of the first generation in their family to go to university;
- have caring responsibilities;
- have refugee status;
- have a disability;
- have a parent or carer who currently serves in the UK Armed Forces, or who has done so in the past.

*With additional priority assigned to students who are of have been eligible for Free School Meals.

See bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers for full details of aspiring state schools and other eligibility criteria.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND TERM DATES

For the 2026/27 iteration of Access to Bristol, a Study Skills session will take place online at the start of each term. This session aims to support students with the soft skills needed to transition from level 3 study to higher education, and has been developed in

collaboration with the University's Study Skills team. As always, Access to Bristol participants will be expected to attend all sessions to successfully complete the scheme, including the online Study Skills session and five on-campus sessions.

AUTUMN TERM 2026:

28 October (online), 4 November, 11 November, 18 November, 25 November, 2 December (on campus)

SPRING TERM 2027:

20 January (online), 27 January, 3 February, 10 February, 24 February, 3 March (on campus)



SUBJECT STREAMS

Year group eligibility

Please note that certain subject streams are only open to specific year groups. Year 12 students may apply for any stream that runs in Spring, as well as Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Sciences which run in Autumn. Year 13 students may apply for any stream that runs in Autumn, excluding Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Sciences. Access to HE students may apply for any stream that runs in Autumn, as well as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Sciences. Where an Autumn stream is undersubscribed, we may invite Year 12 students to join this stream. Year 12 students will be able to indicate their preference for an Autumn stream on the application form.

Stream	Term	Page
Biological Sciences	Autumn	8
Biomedical Sciences	Autumn and Spring	9
Business Management	Spring	10
Chemistry	Spring	11
Childhood and Education Studies	Autumn	12
Computer Science	Autumn	13
Dentistry	Autumn	14
Earth and Environmental Sciences	Spring	15
Economics	Autumn	16
Engineering	Autumn and Spring	17
English Literature	Autumn and Spring	18
Film and Television	Spring	19
Geography	Spring	20
History	Spring	21
Law	Autumn and Spring	22
Mathematics	Autumn	23
Medicine	Autumn	24
Modern Languages	Spring	25
Physics	Spring	26
Psychology and Neuroscience	Autumn and Spring	27
Social Sciences	Spring	28
Veterinary Sciences	Autumn	29

REQUIREMENTS

When selecting successful candidates consideration will be given to whether applicants are on track to meet the entry requirements of their chosen course, depending on their current qualifications.

When selecting successful candidates consideration will be given to whether applicants are on track to meet the entry requirements of their chosen course, depending on their current qualifications.

We advise that if you're unsure whether you meet the course entry requirements for your preferred course that you:

- Go to **bristol.ac.uk/ug-study** to look at the entry requirements for each degree course.
- Check whether your qualification meets requirements for undergraduate study.
- If you are still unsure after checking the course page, please do get in touch.



Term: Autumn

Year Group: Year 13 and Access to HE students

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES



The Biological Sciences stream will give you a flavour of the variety of study areas in Biological Sciences at the University of Bristol. This state-of-the-art undergraduate teaching laboratory will be your home for these sessions while you delve into the fascinating natural world in which we live.

This stream will be taught by members of the School of Biological Sciences who are extremely enthusiastic about working alongside Access to Bristol students. You will be able to ask them about their own research fields and the career pathways that led them to where they are today. You will take a wide range of undergraduate practical classes as well as sessions related directly to our research areas.

We aim to give you an insight into as many different aspects of Biology as possible. You will gain practical lab-based experience, as well as engaging with content through lectures and seminars.

'Access to Bristol has given me a very positive outlook on the University of Bristol because of how friendly the students were to me, and the fact that every student I encountered said they enjoyed what they do. Access to Bristol was organised, supportive and fun to be a part of, making me love the University even more.'

Rei, Access to Bristol student

You can find out more about the School of Biological Sciences [here](#).

Term: Autumn and Spring

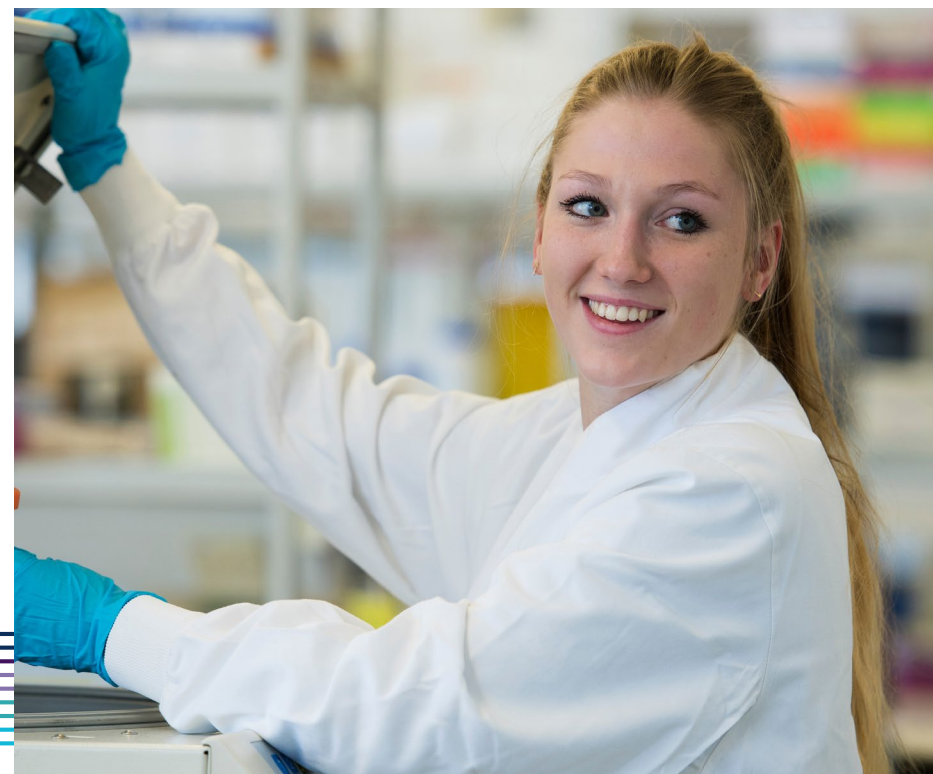
Year Group: Year 12 (Spring), Year 13 and Access to HE (Autumn Term)

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

The Biomedical Sciences stream is run by the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences and subjects covered may include: physiology, pharmacology, neuroscience, biochemistry, and cellular and molecular medicine. You will learn more about the human body, its structure and function, what can go wrong and how drugs work to prevent and treat disease. Biomedical Science underpins and shapes modern medical processes and procedures. The principles we discover in the lab are put into practice so we can gain an understanding of how the body works as a molecular, cellular, organ and on a whole-body level. This helps us to understand

disease and develop new drug treatments. The sessions on this stream will give you a deeper understanding of human health and disease, and provide a greater feel for what it is like to study in this field at university. You will gain practical lab-based experience, as well as engaging with content through interactive seminars and have the opportunity to ask questions and find out about the wide variety of related career options.

You can find out more about the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences [here](#).



Term: Spring
Year Group: Year 12

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT



The Business School stream will focus on the significant changes that face individuals, organisations, communities, and policymakers in the 21st century.

These changes are driven by processes of globalisation, inequality, entrepreneurialism, consulting and innovation in the advent of digital network economies, and the challenges of environmental, economic and social sustainability. The topics studied are distinctively interdisciplinary, covering broad topics such as work and employment, marketing, accounting, financial management, strategy, operations, and innovation.

This stream gives you the opportunity to explore the sorts of topics you might study as part of an undergraduate degree and how these subjects are delivered in a typical classroom setting. The sessions aim to develop critical thinking and analytical skills, which are highly attractive to employers and for future job prospects. The programme is designed for those who are interested in questions such as:

- What do we mean by business and management?
- What does studying Accounting and Finance look like?
- How can we think critically about business, accounting, finance and managerial practice?
- How and why is the study of business and finance management useful? To whom is it useful?
- What are the impacts and prospects of business and management on the global challenges facing our society?

These questions will be explored through academic rigour with real-world relevance. At the University of Bristol you can combine this subject with 'Innovation', helping you find creative ways to apply your specialism to challenges that matter. One of your taster sessions could give you the chance to experience this exciting combination.

Find out more about the University of Bristol Business School [here](#).

Term: Spring
Year Group: Year 12

CHEMISTRY

This stream is designed to give you a taste of what it is like to study chemistry at university. Bristol's chemistry department is the highest-rated research department in the UK (REF, 2021). Bristol chemists work at the forefront of a wide range of areas, from developing new pharmaceuticals that fight disease, to advancing forensic science methods and understanding and preventing the causes of climate change.

As a student on the Access to Bristol scheme, you will have the unique opportunity to study alongside our staff who are leading experts in these diverse fields, and find out more about where a degree in chemistry could take you. You will gain practical experience working in our teaching laboratory.

Working with our research chemists, you will see and hear about some of the most cutting-edge chemistry being produced at Bristol.

'The scheme was fantastic. It gave me a deeper understanding of chemistry at university level. The benefits that the scheme brings are invaluable.'

Access to Bristol student

Visit [here](#) find out more about the School of Chemistry.



Term: Autumn
Year Group: Year 13 and Access to HE

CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION STUDIES



This interdisciplinary stream introduces participants to the BSc Childhood Studies degree, offered by the School for Policy Studies, alongside the BSc Education Studies degree, offered by the School of Education.

- BSc Childhood Studies considers the social science of childhood and adolescence nationally and globally, from birth to 19 years.
- BSc Education Studies uses qualitative and quantitative research methods to investigate education across the life-course and across international contexts, to explore issues of inequality.

Sessions will include debates, presentations and student exercises. This stream will introduce you to complementary topics that span childhood studies and education studies. You might explore issues such as children's rights, educational inequalities, and attitudes and behaviours in education and beyond. It will draw on A level subjects such as Sociology, Law, Politics, History, Geography and Psychology.

To find out more about the School of Education visit [this page](#).

Term: Autumn
Year Group: Year 13 and Access to HE students

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Overview

By participating in Access to Bristol on the Computer Science stream, you will have the opportunity to attend various academic sessions relating to or Computer Science courses, in addition to sessions relating to our AI and Engineering Mathematics courses.

Computer scientists are at the heart of societal change. This subject stream is designed to give you a taste of what it's like to study BSc Computer Science at Bristol.

BSc Computer Science provides a thorough grounding in the fundamentals of computer science combined with opportunities to specialise in a range of advanced areas. We constantly review our curriculum to ensure it remains at the leading edge.

You will also study the mathematics and statistics underpinning modern computer science; how a modern computer architecture is organised; concurrent and networked computing; and the foundations of human-computer interaction, cybersecurity and theoretical and data-driven computer science.

Our courses are taught by internationally-renowned experts with a passion for computer science. We work closely with industry, enabling you to gain knowledge from leading companies, work with industrial mentors and spend time with them on internships.

Our teaching facilities include a new collaborative lab, designed for flexibility and usability and equipped with state-of-the-art audiovisual technology and Linux machines. It's a brilliant addition to our modern building, which also houses the popular Hackspace - a creative space for hacking, making and crafting - and a large atrium that's a hive of activity.

"On my course there are a few special moments where something really clicks and suddenly I feel like I'm completely in my element."

Catt, BSc Mathematics and Computer Science

Career Prospects

There is strong and growing demand for computer science skills. Our courses provide a balance between leading-edge topics and technical and transferable skills such as teamwork, communication and entrepreneurship. This means Bristol graduates have a wide range of career opportunities and a high earning potential.

Typical career routes include:

- Software, products and services
- IT and commerce
- Media
- Startups
- Postgraduate study.

Find out more about the School of Computer Science [here](#).

Term: Autumn
Year Group: Year 12 and Access to HE students

DENTISTRY

Overview

This subject stream is designed to give you a taste of what it's like to study BDS Dentistry at Bristol. Since 2023, Bristol Dental School has been located in a £36 million purpose-built Dental School. Undergraduates will have exclusive access to cutting-edge technology, state-of-the-art facilities and experienced dental professionals. We are ranked 5th in the UK for Dentistry (Complete University Guide Subject Rankings 2026). Following our move to the new Dental School we continue to have a strong partnership with the existing Dental Hospital which will allow undergraduates to attend specialist secondary care clinics.

Our courses are accredited by the General Dental Council (GDC) and cover all aspects of the GDC Intended Learning Outcomes (as detailed within their Preparing to Practise document). You will gain a thorough understanding of relevant biomedical sciences and have the opportunity to begin treating your own patients from the second year onwards.

Why study Dentistry at Bristol?
Watch the video [here](#).

Widening Participation

Our Dental School is a diverse, welcoming environment and has been awarded a silver Athena SWAN award in recognition of its ongoing commitment to gender equality.

In 2026, Bristol Dental School was also awarded a Silver Award for Green Impact in recognition of its sustainability efforts.

Our one-year Gateway to Dentistry programme is a Widening Participation initiative for UK students who have the potential to become dentists but do not meet the standard academic entry criteria to apply directly to our BDS Dentistry.

'The facilities at the Dental School are brilliant. We are exposed to clinical practice early on and it is a great learning environment. I have gained a lot of skills, and all my experiences have prepared me for my career.'

Serena BDS, Dentistry Student

Career Prospects

After completing their BDS degree, the majority of our graduates enter Foundation Training, following which you may choose to practise within an NHS or within a community-based dental clinic. Alternatively, you may wish to work privately or in a dental hospital where you can specialise in areas such as Oral Surgery, Orthodontics, Restorative Dentistry, Oral Medicine or Paediatric Dentistry.

BDS graduates will also have the opportunity to serve in all branches of the UK armed forces.

You may progress to further study for postgraduate qualifications, enabling you to undertake research at universities or teach in a dental school.

Within 15 months of graduating, 98% of our graduates were in a graduate-level job or further study (The Guardian subject table 2026).

Find out more about the Bristol Dental School, the entry requirements and the 2027 contextual offer [here](#).

Term: Spring
Year Group: Year 12

EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



The Earth and Environmental Sciences stream covers understanding the story of the earth; the geological processes and current problems faced by the environment. This will take you from volcanism and palaeontology to explaining the geochemistry of climate change and modelling the future of the planet. Humanity is faced by pressing problems of resources running out, climates warming, the environment filling with plastics, and we have to act. The solutions depend on science, and the world needs many more young people to study these subjects.

The University of Bristol is at the forefront of efforts to contribute solutions to the current environmental crisis. Researchers will introduce key scientific ideas, looking to the world around us and into the past, before suggesting how application of these theories and methods can provide answers to current environmental questions, giving insights

into careers and the future of this rapidly growing field.

Sessions will be research-focused and are taught by our lecturers, professors and junior researchers with expertise and specialist knowledge of their fields.

'I really enjoyed working with the academics in Earth Sciences – they were all really enthusiastic and keen to talk about any aspect of life or study at Bristol. Talking to them made me feel more confident about being happy at Bristol.'

Gwynfor, Access to Bristol student

Visit the webpage for the School of Earth Sciences [here](#).

Term: Autumn
Year Group: Year 13 and Access to HE students

ECONOMICS

Economics is a social science that can best be described as “the science of choice”. It looks at the trade-offs and incentives faced by individuals, firms and governments – what to buy, where to live and work, what to produce, what to eat, whether to commit crime, who to vaccinate, who to trade with, how much to invest, whether to tax or regulate – and the consequences of the choices that are made.

It offers a toolbox that can help to tackle any social and economic problem, including the

major challenges of our time such as climate change, inequality, pandemics, obesity, ageing and immigration. This stream will give you an insight into how to think like an economist and apply some of the economist’s tools, such as data analysis and economic reasoning, to better understand these global problems and how we might go about facing them.

Visit the [School of Economics webpage here](#).



Term: Autumn and Spring
Year Group: Year 12, Year 13 and Access to HE students

ENGINEERING



Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-study to look at the entry requirements for each engineering degree.

Do you enjoy applying your knowledge to solve complex real-world problems in an innovative and creative way? Do you want to find out how engineering is tackling climate change and the development of sustainable technology? Are you interested in learning more about engineering or computing as a future career path?

Engineering involves creating innovative solutions for our ever-changing world, from designing smart cities that engage with their residents to earthquake resistant buildings and robotic healthcare solutions.

This stream will include a tour of our Engineering teaching labs as well as academic sessions relating to Aerespace Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering subjects. You will be introduced to the broad range of engineering disciplines, by taking part in a number of interactive sessions that highlight the teamwork and project-based nature of the courses. The sessions will include a mixture of lectures and practical activities that will provide you with an insight into what it is like to study at Bristol.

Find out more about the [Faculty of Science and Engineering here](#).

Term: Autumn and Spring
Year Group: Year 12, Year 13 and Access to HE students

ENGLISH LITERATURE

The Department of English is recognised for its research and teaching across the full breadth and range of literatures in English, with an extensive geographical and chronological span. Our staff research and teach literature from the medieval period to the present day, working across global, national, regional and local perspectives, with an innovative range of approaches and theoretical models.

The sessions in this stream will introduce you to some of the ways in which literatures in English are studied at university by focusing on a different aspect of literary studies each week. You will explore a range of texts, concepts and approaches, and take part in activities modelled on our undergraduate teaching which may include close reading and analysis, understanding of various intellectual traditions, creative writing, theatre and exploration of social and cultural contexts.

You can find out more about the Department of English [here](#).

An English degree will help you to develop a broad range of communication skills and evaluative techniques. Our students develop skills in close reading, analysis and writing, which equip them for a wide range of careers: English graduates are versatile researchers, active learners and good communicators. This stream will suit you if you love to read widely and are interested in finding out more about studying English at degree level. The sessions are also designed to help develop a range of tools and techniques that can be applied to your studies.

'Access to Bristol provided me with valuable insights into studying English at university. The classes were enthusiastically led and well received. Some of the course material was directly relevant to my current studies, which was very helpful.'

Gemma, Access to Bristol student



Term: Spring
Year Group: Year 12

FILM AND TELEVISION



On the Film and Television stream you will explore film and television through the combination of four areas of study: history, criticism, theory and filmmaking. We will introduce practical and critical-thinking skills that will help you examine, understand, and discuss the film, television and media works you encounter in your everyday lives, as well as those that might be new to you.

The sessions might include discussion of fiction films, documentaries, TV shows, the

news, or other media. You will work with members of the department to explore different ways of engaging critically with these topics, such as talking and writing about them, or even making films or other audio-visual artworks. The Film and Television stream is a versatile option that you will enjoy if you like to combine critical thinking and analysis with creative practice.

Visit the Department of Film and Television webpage to find out [more](#).

Term: Spring
Year Group: Year 12

GEOGRAPHY

The Geography stream offers you an exciting opportunity to study both human and physical geography. Geography is a fast-moving, exciting subject focusing on social and environmental problems.

The School of Geographical Sciences is consistently ranked highly for its teaching and research, and you will have access to the school's outstanding facilities.

During the programme, you may study areas such as the dynamic global environment, geographies of political economy, glaciology, historical and cultural geographies, hydrology and spatial modelling. The school has researchers in a wide range of areas and you will learn about the latest developments in geography.

This stream will provide you with a wide range of transferable skills including numeracy, IT, literacy and critical analysis. You do not need to be studying geography, though you may find the content beneficial to your geography studies.

'Access to Bristol was fantastic. It was incredibly informative and enjoyable and has opened many new pathways for me.'

Cerys, Access to Bristol student

Visit the School of Geographical Sciences [webpage](#) to find out more about studying at the University of Bristol.



Term: Spring
Year Group: Year 12

HISTORY



The Department of History has wide chronological and geographical strengths, from the early medieval to the near-present, and from the history of Bristol to the history of Antarctica. These diverse interests include topics like climate change, witchcraft, sporting culture, 20th-century America, decolonisation, the Tudors and Stuarts, and the history of slavery.

The sessions will introduce you to the ways in which history is studied at university by focusing on some detailed ideas and concepts in each area. They will provide an opportunity for you to encounter different ways of studying historical events, and of exploring primary sources produced in the recent and the more distant past.

This stream will suit you if you have an interest in the past and want to find out more about taking history at degree level. You do not need to have studied any of these topics already. The sessions are also designed to give you a fresh insight into your studies.

While this subject stream of Access to Bristol is just for History, as an undergraduate you can also elect to study History as a joint degree with English, Modern Languages, or Innovation.

Visit the Department of History [webpage](#) to find out more about courses and entry requirements.

Term: Autumn and Spring

Year Group: Year 12, Year 13 and Access to HE students

LAW

Law is a major part of our everyday lives: buying lunch, applying for a job, driving a car, living in a property – all these things are governed by law. Law also plays a role in things that are out of our control, for example war, banking, immigration and the environment. This variety of application is what makes law such a fascinating subject to study, with lots of different areas to investigate once the basic skills and knowledge have been learnt.

Studying law can be a good basis for a range of careers, including journalism, the civil service and the police, as well as the legal profession.

Students on this stream will learn about different areas of law. Topics may include end-of-life issues, medical law, international law, human rights law, family law, evidence

law, criminal justice and IT law. The Law stream will give you a fascinating experience of the breadth and depth of the subject, as well as providing invaluable insights for UCAS applications and future career decisions.

'The scheme is fantastic for those who wish to understand higher education.'

Charles, Access to Bristol student

N.B. At Bristol, we require all LLB Law applicants (including those who take part in Access to Bristol) to sit the LNAT admissions test. Please visit lnat.ac.uk for more information.

Visit the Law School [webpage](#) to find out more about courses and entry requirements.



Term: Autumn

Year Group: Year 13 and Access to HE students

MATHEMATICS



See page 7 for subject requirements.

Mathematics is the key to the sciences. It provides many of the tools used in research and management as well as being a powerful means of communicating ideas and solving problems.

This stream will offer you an opportunity to develop the skills we look for in Mathematics applicants, and also to see how the subject develops as you progress from A level to university.

Each session will contain a mixture of lectures and activities. Lectures will cover areas of general mathematical interest. There will also be considerable student activity. We will cover a range of topics that represent the research interests and specialisms of the department, for example, proofs, group theory and cryptography.

You will come away with an overview of what mathematics is like at university level, an understanding of how it differs from other STEM subjects, and knowledge of how to enhance your UCAS application.

'The scheme gave me a fantastic insight into Mathematics at the University of Bristol and has assured me that I am following the right path. The lecturer was incredibly helpful and was able to answer all my questions.'

James, Access to Bristol student

Visit the School of Mathematics [webpage](#) to find out more about courses and entry requirements.

Term: Autumn
Year Group: Year 12 and Access to HE

MEDICINE

You can check the entry requirements for Medicine [here](#) under the Entry Requirements tab.

This subject stream is designed to give you a taste of what it's like to study MB ChB Medicine at Bristol. Bristol has a well-established Health Science Faculty with an excellent reputation and state-of-the-art facilities, providing quality teaching to prepare you for a career in medicine and dentistry.

Our reputation for teaching excellence attracts exceptional students to an extensive range of courses delivered by internationally-recognised clinicians and academics. Find out more about the course, facilities and who teaches you here.

Why study medicine at the University of Bristol?

Bristol's Medical School's mission is to deliver excellent teaching and research, focused on improving the health of individuals and the population, and to develop the next generation of skilled, adaptable and resilient clinicians and scientists. We provide high quality innovative teaching supported by NHS partnerships and clinical expertise.

Bristol Medical School is a leading centre for collaborative and multi-disciplinary research across population and translational health sciences, including cardiovascular, neuroscience, injury repair and cancer.

Find out more about our research [here](#).

Medicine at Bristol

MB ChB Medicine is the primary medical qualification awarded by the University of Bristol and is recognised by the General Medical Council.

As a student on this course you will learn about the art, science and craft of medicine through (amongst other things):

- early clinical exposure in hospital, community and primary care settings
- a blend of lectures, case-based learning and practical work
- state-of-the-art anatomy facilities including cadaveric prosections
- integration of basic science and clinical learning throughout the course

"We all come from different starting points, but I want you to believe that passion does shine through and medicine needs people like you. Even if opportunities don't come to you - go find them. They are out there somewhere waiting for a future doctor like you."

Pam, 3rd year Medical Student

Entry Requirements

The 2027 A Level Contextual Offer for Medicine is ABB including A in Chemistry and B in one of Biology, Physics or Further Mathematics.

You will need to meet our Advanced Numeracy requirement (Grade A/7 in GCSE Maths) and Standard Literacy requirement (Grade C/4 in GCSE English). You need to take the UCAT test and score above a threshold if you are applying for a medical or dental degree at the University of Bristol.

Visit the [Bristol Medical School webpage](#) to find out more about courses and entry requirements.

Term: Spring
Year Group: Year 12

MODERN LANGUAGES

On the Languages stream, you will learn that there is more to studying languages than memorising grammar and vocabulary, and that you can tailor your course to suit your personal tastes and academic interests.

Taster sessions represent some of the cultural and linguistic topics available at Bristol, such as the history, literature, visual cultures, drama, philosophy and politics of some of the countries and regions represented by our five language departments: French; German; Italian; Russian; and Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies. You will also discover the broad range of subjects you can study with a language as part of a Joint Honours degree, such as International Business Management, English, History, Politics and Law.

Graduates from the School of Modern Languages leave Bristol as fluent, accomplished linguists with a deep understanding of how the arts and humanities shape linguistic and cultural identities.

All language students spend a year abroad and the skills you develop while working,

studying and living in a different country are highly valued by employers, especially personal resilience, independence and communication skills.

On this stream, you will get the chance to speak to our student ambassadors about their experience of studying languages at Bristol, and, where applicable, find out what adventures they got up to on their year abroad.

'I thoroughly enjoyed all of the Access to Bristol sessions. Each session gave me an insight into the courses and for me this was really valuable. Above all I enjoyed being surrounded by people who shared my love for languages.'

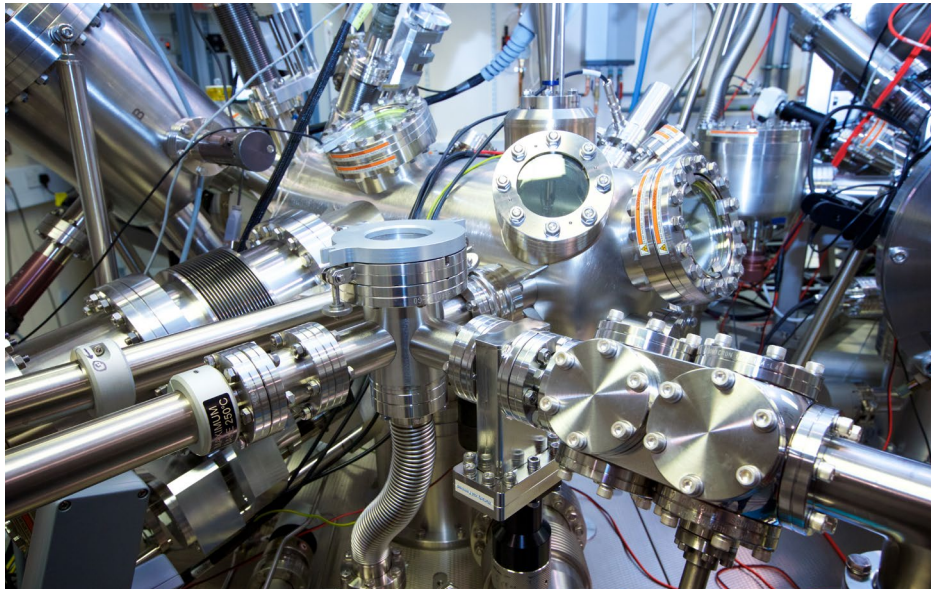
Access to Bristol student

Visit the [School of Modern Languages webpage](#) to find out more about the courses on offer.



Term: Spring
Year Group: Year 12

PHYSICS



Physics looks at matter on both the very small and very large scales. On this stream, researchers from the School of Physics will introduce you to their work, with subjects ranging from superconductivity to the formation of astronomical objects.

The School of Physics has active experimental research groups in particle physics, astrophysics, condensed matter physics, nanoscience and quantum information. The Theoretical Physics group has a wide range of research interests, many of which underpin the wider research of the School. The University of Bristol is ranked 5th in the UK in 2026 for Physics research.

The Physics stream of Access to Bristol will include both lecture-based and hands-on experimental activities in our £7 million refurbished teaching labs, designed to give you an insight into as many areas of our research as possible, and allow you the

opportunity to question some of our current students about studying physics at university.

'The Access to Bristol scheme is such an amazing opportunity to get to know the University better, as well as meet academics who could be teaching you in the following years. The sessions are taught by enthusiastic subject leaders who are engaging and easy to talk to. I would recommend the scheme to everyone; I didn't want it to end.'

Hannah, Access to Bristol student

Visit the School of Physics webpage to find out more about courses and entry requirements.

Term: Autumn and Spring
Year Group: Year 12, Year 13 and Access to HE

PSYCHOLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE



Bristol's School of Psychological Science is one of the most innovative and exciting in the country. Psychology encompasses a range of disciplines that share an interest in understanding how humans and other animals interpret and respond to their mental and physical world, and draws on medical, biological and social sciences, engineering, computer science and philosophy.

Applications of psychology range from understanding mental and physical health problems to developing artificial intelligence, and from unlocking the power of memory to planning marketing campaigns.

This stream gives you the opportunity to experience first-hand what this fascinating subject entails at university level and to find out where a degree in psychology could take you. You will work with researchers at the

forefront of their fields and develop valuable psychological research skills.

Studying psychology at university is possible even if you haven't studied it before. It is a uniquely broad subject that benefits from individuals bringing a fresh, alternative perspective to a problem. Psychology students come from a range of different backgrounds and study diverse subjects, such as the arts, English Literature, Mathematics and Physics.

Find out more about courses and entry requirements at the School of Psychological Science [webpage](#).

Term: Spring
Year Group: Year 12

SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Social Sciences stream provides taster sessions from four related subject areas: sociology, politics, social policy and criminology. You will gain a broad insight into the different social science subjects available at Bristol.

Sociology seeks to understand how the lives of individuals overlap and are dependent upon each other, as well as how we live as a society; it is as diverse as human life itself. Traditional areas of sociological study include family life, experiences of school and work, and relations between men and women and between different ethnic groups.

Social policy is the study of how societies identify, conceptualise and respond to human need and promote the wellbeing of their members. It draws on disciplines such as sociology, politics, economics, criminology and history to analyse issues such as inequality, social justice, gender violence and health. As such, it speaks directly to current events, enabling students to assess and critique prevailing policy responses.

Criminology at Bristol takes a critical approach to understanding what crime is, who commits and experiences crime, and how societies – local and global – respond. We also

look beyond crime to consider harm more broadly. This requires us to think about social, as well as criminal, justice.

Politics is most often understood as the study of power, on a personal, local, national and international scale - how this shapes access to resources, justice, security and identities. To study politics therefore extends from the study of governments, war and conflict, and the work of international organisations, to understanding how popular culture and art are political.

'After participating in Access to Bristol both as a school student and subsequently as a student ambassador, I feel that it gives a realistic insight into the style of university teaching and the individual subject matter.'

Access to Bristol student and student ambassador

Visit the Faculty of Arts, Law and Social Sciences [webpage](#) for further information about social sciences.



Term: Autumn
Year Group: Access to HE and Access to HE students

VETERINARY SCIENCES

You can check the entry requirements for Veterinary Science [here](#) under the Entry Requirements tab.

This stream is designed to give you a taste of what it might be like to study Veterinary Sciences at Bristol. Our Veterinary Science degrees are widely accredited and offer access to state-of-the-art facilities and teaching informed by our cutting-edge research.

Course Overview

Bristol is a world-class university in a creative, dynamic city that offers an outstanding student experience. You will combine this city experience with time in the rural setting of the friendly and supportive Langford campus, a dedicated site on the edge of the rural Mendips, 14 miles south of Bristol. Our 255-hectare estate is home to our modern clinical facilities which are fundamental to delivering first-rate teaching. These include a state-of-the-art small animal referral hospital, a modern dairy farm, brand new, purpose-built wet labs and an award-winning clinical skills laboratory. Bristol's training strengths include farm animal science, animal welfare and veterinary public health, reflecting the importance of vets to the Global and One Health agendas.

Who teaches you?

All our Veterinary Science courses are delivered by academics who publish research regularly and share their cutting-edge research activity through their teaching. In the Bristol Veterinary School, our academics are leaders in their field, whose research helps inform national policies that can lead to developments within veterinary practice.

Courses are taught using a wide range of evidenced approaches. Practical classes are embedded from day one to develop clinical, animal handling and laboratory skills. Facilitated small- and large-group activities and directed self-education will develop your independent learning, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Find out more about our research [here](#).

'My time at Bristol Vet School has been fantastic. The course here is really interactive from year 1 with a huge amount of teaching resources on hand from the Clinical Skills Lab to Wyndhurst Farm. Bristol Vet School make sure they provide what you need to get the best training possible.'

David, BVSc Veterinary Science undergraduate

Career Prospects

Bristol's Veterinary Science graduates are well prepared for a variety of careers in the veterinary field worldwide. Most graduates are employed in UK general practice but many undergo further specialist veterinary training, have careers in academia or work overseas. Veterinary scientists are also employed in the biomedical research industry, in government agencies, the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and animal charities.

Visit [Bristol Veterinary School](#) to find out more about courses and entry requirements.

For general University of Bristol enquiries:

Tel +44 (0) 117 394 1649

Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

 @BristolUni
#accesstobristol

 UniversityofBristol

 bristoluniversity

 UniversityofBristol

If you need all or part of this publication in an alternative format, please contact us at the details above.

Photography: © University of Bristol

We have made every effort to ensure that details are correct at the time of going to press (August 2024). However, as information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website bristol.ac.uk/access-to-bristol.

bristol.ac.uk