

## Undergraduate Admissions Statement

This statement should be read in conjunction with the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2018/>



Year of Admissions cycle:

2018

Courses covered:

Single Honours:

BSc Computer Science (G400)

MEng Computer Science with Study in Continental Europe (G401)

MEng Computer Science (G403)

MEng Computer Science with Study Abroad (entry by transfer from G401 or G403)

Joint Honours:

BSc Mathematics and Computer Science (GG14);

MEng Mathematics and Computer Science (GG1K)

### 1. Course specific:

#### 1.1 Admissions process

Applications are scored and ranked based on their academic record, according to their achieved or predicted results with the following weightings:

A-level 100%

#### 1.2 Academic criteria

We initially rank applicants according to the predicted/actual grades. We will be looking to see that they have or will have an A-level in Mathematics or equivalent and all other A-level subjects are fully considered with the exception of General Studies and Critical Thinking.

A-level students interested in applying for the joint honours Mathematics and Computer Science degree courses should note that Further Mathematics, STEP or AEA Mathematics are highly desirable, but not required, alongside Mathematics A-level.

We know that Further Mathematics is not available to students in all schools and colleges, or that it is often taught in a restricted amount of time. We would urge prospective applicants for our joint honours Mathematics and Computer Science courses to study Further Mathematics to the highest level available to them.

If A-level Further Mathematics, or STEP and AEA Mathematics are not available in the school or college, or if they are taught in a restricted manner (for example in less time than is normally allocated to an A-level subject), applicant should ask their referee to make this clear in the application.

A-level Computer Science, Computing or ICT are not required for any of our courses. For those looking for a good grounding in the principles of Computing pre-A-level, we do recommend the GCSE in Computing. Again, however, this is not a requirement for admission to any of our degrees.

We would encourage applicants to tell us about any particularly strong performances in modules in mathematics or any closely related subject.

All applicants for our engineering courses at Bristol are expected to hold, or be predicted to achieve, A-level Maths (for details of required grades please see our [online course finder](#)). However, it is recognised that applicants studying Access to HE or BTEC qualifications may not have the opportunity to take up this additional qualification at their Further Education (FE) school/college.

Applicants who are unable to supplement their current study with A-level Maths may therefore be invited to take a maths test at the University in the spring, which will examine similar content to A-level Maths core modules. Please note this does not apply to the joint honours courses in Mathematics and Computer Science (GG14 and GG1K) for which you must hold an A Level in Mathematics or equivalent.

Candidates will be expected to achieve A-level grade A standard in the test in order to have their applications progressed for further consideration by the selection team. Further information about the process can be found in the information published for your course's visit day (<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/interviews/>).

Please note that whilst we will do our best to accommodate all suitable maths test candidates, there are a limited number of dates available for the maths test and we cannot guarantee dates will be available if your application is received after the UCAS January 15th deadline.

### 1.3 Personal statement criteria

In some cases we may refer to the personal statement and reference to differentiate between applicants with very similar academic profiles. If this is the case, then the criteria will include the following:

- Evidence of further mathematics / additional academic preparation and achievements
- Competitions, other mathematical or computer science-related activity
- Personal factors such as relevant work experience, being given a level of responsibility (eg mentoring, head girl/boy, etc)
- A good standard of written English, expression and construction of the personal statement

Overall, you should demonstrate a genuine interest in the chosen course and basic knowledge of the subject, highlighting your skills in mathematics and problem solving. You

should also give evidence of strong study skills, responsibility, leadership and team working, commitment and achievement, both in academic and extra-curricular activities.

Any relevant work experience or placements should be highlighted along with any relevant reading/research beyond the A-Level course syllabus. We are also interested in evidence of organisation, self-motivation, and the ability to balance different activities.

#### 1.4 Interviews

For these courses, applicants are not routinely interviewed. In the majority of cases, admissions decisions will be made on the basis of the application information alone.

In exceptional circumstances where an interview is deemed necessary, it will be conducted by at least two people, with at least one of whom has been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques, and undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

The criteria for assessing interview performance may include, for example: demonstrated interest in, suitability for, and commitment to the subject; evidence of clear thinking and understanding, problem solving and analytical skills; standard of spoken English; appropriateness of the Bristol course in relation to the applicant's declared interests and aspirations; non-academic achievement and/or experience, or extra-curricular interests, that indicate the likely contribution an applicant will make to the life of the University; positions of responsibility held; other relevant skills.

#### 1.5 Mature applicants

Mature students are considered against the same criteria as all other candidates. For mature applicants, evidence of recent study and examinations is expected within the last 5 years. If your qualifications were achieved more than 5 years ago you may be required to sit a maths test as part of the selection process. Further information can be found in the Academic Criteria section in this document.

#### 1.6 Aspirational offers

We recognise that some applicants may achieve higher than their predicted grades, and so we may also consider applicants who are predicted to achieve slightly below the entry requirements (usually in a non-specified subject). Any offer made would be at the standard level.

#### 1.7 Alternative offers

Generally, if applicants are not qualified or have an unsuitable academic background for the course to which they originally applied, we do not offer the opportunity to be considered for an alternative course.

## 1.8 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (ie. applying in 2017/18 for 2019 entry) are accepted. In fairness to the following cycle of applicants we can only make a limited number of deferred offers.

## 1.9 Resits

The department will consider applicants who resit their qualifications.

## 1.10 Transfers

Applicants may transfer between Computer Science G400 and G403 until the end of the second year as the curriculum for both these degree courses is the same for the first two years.

Exceptionally, applicants from another University or institution may be admitted into year two of the degree. The requirements for entry into year two are clear demonstration of education and/or experience and skills that cover the majority of the content taught in year one of the computer science course.

In these cases transcripts and other relevant information will be required and such decisions are entirely at the discretion of the department.

# 2. General

## 2.1 Admissions team

Applications are assessed by a centralised team in close co-operation with the School Recruitment and Admissions Officer(s).

## 2.2 Admissions process

When assessing an application the admissions team will consider whether the applicant's academic potential is such that it is likely they would be successful on the degree. The admissions team takes into account a wide variety of factors which include, but are not limited to, actual academic performance to date and predicted results for qualifications currently being studied.

Because of the very high number of applications we receive, and to ensure that all those applying on time are treated fairly, some applications may be held until May before a decision is made.

Applicants will be assessed on the basis of information within their application only; we will not take into account any additional information received from an applicant or institution, unless we have requested it.

All applications received are considered on an equal basis. Applications that are received before the January deadline set by UCAS are guaranteed equal consideration.

Applicants are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, or age.

To assess an application we require:

- A full academic history from age 16 onwards, including any retakes or uncompleted qualifications.
- Predicted grades for any qualifications the applicant is currently taking. Predicted grades can only come from a school or referee. These must include an overall grade (if applicable) AND where a particular subject is specified in the entry requirements, the achieved grades or predicted grades for that subject, and any related or major subjects the applicant is studying.
- If predicted grades are not available, then we will accept a transcript showing the results of a previous year's courses or examinations.

### 2.3 Visit day

All UK candidates who receive an offer are invited to attend one of our visit days. Applicants are given an opportunity learn more about the degree, and to view the Faculty, the wider University and the city of Bristol. Applicants are normally given a choice of dates to attend a visit day.

Information about the visit days can be found on our web page:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/>

### 2.4 Correspondence with applicants

All correspondence relating to an applicant's status will be sent by email.

All applications are acknowledged by email on receipt to establish contact and inform the applicant of the process to be followed.

Applicants will then be notified if their application has been successful or unsuccessful, or to inform them that their application has been assessed and put on 'Hold' pending a decision later in the cycle.

For applications that are submitted by 15 January, the final deadline by which applicants will receive a decision is 3 May. Most decisions are made well before this date. We monitor the number of offers we make carefully and may hold some applications until later in the cycle.

### 2.5 Academic entry requirements

Academic entry requirements for standard qualifications (A-level, SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Bac, GCSEs) can be found in the undergraduate course finder:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/>

Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on an individual basis.

All applications must be submitted through UCAS or Common Application; we cannot consider any direct applications.

A-level General Studies and Critical Thinking are not considered towards offers or academic assessment.

We assess applications on predicted and/or achieved A-Level grades (or equivalent). We do not assess AS-level grades.

## 2.6 Reference criteria

References will be assessed for information on the applicant's motivation, ability to work independently, powers of analysis and expression. If the referee believes the applicant's performance does not reflect their ability, due to educational context and/or special circumstances, they should advise the applicant to complete an extenuating circumstances form (see 2.11 Extenuating Circumstances)

References should ideally be from a school or college, from a personal tutor confirming the academic potential of the applicant to study at degree level. Where this is not possible, a non-academic reference should confirm the relevant experience of the applicant as well as mathematical and problem-solving capabilities. It should indicate the potential of the applicant for study at degree level.

The reference will be included in the assessment of the personal statement, with the following taken into account:

- predictions of examination results (and, where the qualifications are unusual, an explanation of their meaning);
- an overall assessment of the applicant, in particular their suitability for further study;
- a discussion of earlier exam results, especially if they were influenced by personal or medical circumstances (and are therefore a poor guide to ability);
- discussion of the applicant's intellectual curiosity, interests and suitability for the subject;
- discussion of the applicant's other interests.

## 2.7 International applicants

International applicants will be subject to the criteria as detailed on our International web page: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries/>

We also consider applications through the Common Application system, and the same criteria and assessment used for UCAS applicants are applied.

## 2.8 English language requirements

All applicants are required to demonstrate that they have sufficient ability to understand and express themselves in both spoken and written English in order to benefit fully from their degree course.

English Language requirements for each course can be found in the undergraduate course finder and are explained on our English Language web page: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/language-requirements/>

## 2.9 Contextual information

We take a holistic approach to assessing all applications, ensuring that an applicant's educational and social contexts are taken into consideration, where supported by clear evidence that this may have adversely affected academic performance.

As part of our commitment to the UK national agenda on widening participation, we consider the educational context in which grades have been achieved.

To be eligible for a contextual offer, applicants must meet the criteria set out on our web page: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entry-requirements-qualifications/contextual-offers/>

Further information about contextual offers can be found in the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures for Undergraduate Courses.

### 2.10 Typical offers

Typical offers for A-levels and other UK qualifications can be found in the entry data in the undergraduate course finder: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/search/>

Offers to applicants with non-standard qualifications will be made equivalent to the published A-level offer.

### 2.11 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 submit an extenuating circumstances form to Undergraduate Admissions:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/your-application/extenuating-circumstances/>

The information provided on the form will be treated confidentially, and will help us to assess fairly academic performance in light of the situation.

### 2.12 Policies

All applications are considered in line with our Admissions policies and procedures:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2018/>

We are committed to the implementation of high quality, fair and transparent admissions procedures for all our applicants. We recognise, however, that there may be occasions when applicants believe that they have cause for complaint. At this point applicants should follow our Applicant feedback and complaints procedures.

Should an applicant believe that University admissions principles and procedures have been inconsistently or incorrectly applied, these complaints procedures provide a mechanism for objective review.

### 2.13 Additional information

The University can only guarantee places if the exact terms of the offer are met; however offer holders will not automatically be unsuccessful if the terms of the offer are narrowly missed.

If offer holders do not meet the terms of their offers when exam results are released they may be considered as 'near miss candidates'. All near miss candidates are reviewed in August after publication of A-level results. International offer holders may be reconsidered earlier depending when their exam results are released.

### 2.14 Contacts for enquiries

Any enquiries should be addressed to our Enquiries team: [choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk) or +44 (0)117 394 1649.

