

## 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:

MEng Engineering Design (H150)

### 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 30% | Personal statement 70%

#### 1.2 Academic criteria

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

Applications that are received on time are guaranteed equal consideration.

#### 1.3 Personal statement criteria

The course aims to recruit very able students with a physical science background and to give them experiences that will make them able to take a significant role in major design exercises, later taking a leading role.

Our industrial advisors insist that the leading graduates they recruit must have an extremely good understanding of engineering concepts and principles across a wide spectrum of engineering, but must also be expert in a chosen discipline. The aim is to fit these students to be the engineering leaders of the future. So, we are looking for students who are unusual. Only a fraction of those who apply will be given an interview and you cannot get an offer without interview.

To succeed in your application for this degree you must use your Personal Statement to show that you are exceptional in your ability to do things that few other students do. In particular we are looking for initiative, for your ability to make things that work and for wide-ranging interests. The fact that you are unusual may be shown by your high-level abilities in anything from leadership to music and craft. The fact that you show initiative will be shown by the activities you do and which you persuade friends to do with you.

When assessing applicants' personal statements, we will look for:

- an interest in technical or engineering subjects, and any particularly strong performances in modules in mathematics or any closely related subject
- a real grasp of an activity that requires technical understanding (e.g. an understanding of the technical aspects of sport, music technology, technical theatre or engineering modelling, etc.)
- evidence of clear thinking, understanding and problem-solving skills
- experience of leadership roles within or outside school
- initiative and utilising available opportunities
- wide-ranging extra-curricular activities
- evidence of team-working (e.g. as part of a group in a project at school, or within an extra-curricular activity)
- good written and oral communication skills, and the ability to express complex ideas clearly

Our mission is to identify and attract those applicants who satisfy all the criteria outlined above and whose academic and intellectual interests and potential are germane to our methods of teaching and areas of expertise.

#### 1.4 Interviews

The interview lasts for about 45 minutes and is used to decide whether an offer should be made. Interviewers are looking for a wide range of interpersonal skills, as well as leadership ability and engineering interest.

Interviews are conducted by a member of the academic staff who have been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques and are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities, plus a representative of one of the companies that support this degree. Company representatives who also take part in the interviews are naturally evaluating whether their organisation would consider employing the applicant, as our sponsoring companies are expected to take students on placement during the degree.

During the interview, the panel is looking for evidence of skills in the following areas: teamwork, planning, the ability to control and direct, initiative, organisation, communication, analysis, problem-solving, self-motivation, intellectual curiosity, professionalism, technical competence, self-confidence, innovation, and the ability to listen and evaluate.

Applicants are also given a tour of the Faculty of Engineering and will have the opportunity to talk about the degree course with staff and current students.

#### 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 2 years.

### 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

If applicants are not qualified or have an unsuitable academic background for the course to which they originally applied, we may offer the opportunity to be considered for an alternative course in a related subject area. In such cases applicants will receive an email notification providing a list of the alternative options.

### 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

Applicants who resit their qualifications will be considered. However, such applicants may be at a disadvantage in the later stages of assessment when considered alongside other equally strong candidates who have not undertaken resits.

### 1.10 Transfers

Due to the highly specialised nature of this course we are unable to consider applications to enter into year two, either by internal transfer or by transfer from another university. Any application received for year two entry therefore would automatically be considered for entry to year one of the course only.

## 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

Engineering Design only accepts students on the basis of an interview; so we do not have Visit Days but you will get the equivalent understanding of the university and the degree on your interview day.

### 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:

- evidence of leadership in the school or outside interests and of the drive and ambition of the applicant to initiate new activities;
- 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.