

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/2020>

Year of Admissions cycle:
2020

Courses covered:

M100 Law (LLB)
MR11 Law and French (LLB)
MR12 Law and German (LLB)
MR13 Law and Spanish (LLB)

Law with Study Abroad (LLB) (entry by transfer)
Law with Study in Continental Europe (LLB) (entry by transfer)

1. Course specific information:

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:

GCSE 20% | A-Level 40% | LNAT 40%

The overall LNAT grade used by the University uses the following weightings: 60% multiple choice questions and 40% essay.

LNAT: All applicants must take the Law National Admissions Test (known as LNAT); please see the LNAT web site (<http://www.lnat.ac.uk/>) for test deadlines and the location of UK and worldwide test centres. The test dates immediately prior to a UCAS deadline are usually heavily booked; early registration and booking is recommended.

LNAT provides bursaries to cover the cost of the test fee for UK and EU applicants in receipt of certain UK state benefits. If eligible, applicants must to apply for a bursary before booking their LNAT test. More details on the LNAT web site bursaries page: <http://www.lnat.ac.uk/registration/paying-for-your-test/lnat-bursaries/>

UK and EU applicants must apply through UCAS before the mid-January deadline, and must take LNAT before the January deadline as stated on the LNAT website.

Overseas applicants who apply through UCAS before the UCAS mid-January deadline must take LNAT before 30 April to avoid their application to Bristol being made unsuccessful by default by UCAS. Overseas applicants applying through UCAS after the UCAS mid-January deadline must take LNAT before the final deadline of 31 July. This is a deadline set by LNAT and no exceptions can be made.

To ensure there is no delay in this University receiving their LNAT result, all applicants must ensure that their UCAS personal ID number is included on their LNAT registration and that

they list Bristol as one of their chosen Universities. Applicants can sit the test either before or after submitting their UCAS application but must adhere to the appropriate UCAS and LNAT deadlines as outlined above.

The test is designed to provide an assessment of a candidate's potential for study on a law degree course. The LNAT is not a test of legal knowledge but of fundamental intellectual skills. No prior legal study is required, however, we recommend that applicants become familiar with the format and style of the test, and practise writing short essays on a computer prior to sitting the test. There are sample practice papers on the LNAT website.

The LNAT test includes both an exam and short essay component. The essay will be read and assessed by University of Bristol staff. Within the essay section, we look for candidates who can demonstrate the ability to make and sustain a persuasive argument and have a strong command of language.

1.2 Academic criteria

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 will be considered on an individual basis. International applicants are subject to the criteria detailed on our international web page:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/countries/>

1.3 Personal statement criteria

We may refer to the personal statement and reference to differentiate between applicants with similar academic profiles. In these cases, we use the following criteria:

- Interest in and commitment to Law
- Evidence of analytical thinking, communication skills and independent thinking
- Evidence of ability to face challenges, academic stamina and commitment to tasks

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, 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

We welcome mature applicants, and assess such applications holistically, taking into account factors such as relevant work experience and personal circumstances that may have interrupted or prevented previous degree level study.

Applicants are required to provide evidence of study and examinations within the last two years. In some cases mature applicants may be invited to interview. Please see 1.4 Interviews (above). Where applicants do not have recent educational qualifications to support their application, relevant experience may be taken into consideration.

Mature applicants who do not meet our standard entry requirements and who cannot demonstrate recent study, relevant employment history or life experience will usually be advised to gain some academic experience before reapplying. Current and prospective applicants in this position should consider applying to our Foundation Year in the Arts and Social Sciences (<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/study/foundation/>) or taking an Access course, A-level, Open University foundation module or equivalent. Please contact the Admissions team regarding the suitability of your intended programme.

Further information can be found on our web pages: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/mature/>

1.6 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.

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.

1.7 Deferred applications

Deferred applications (ie. applying in 2019/20 for 2021 entry) are accepted, and are treated in the same way as non-deferred applications.

1.8 Resits

The Law School will consider applicants who resit their qualifications. All resits must be taken in the same exam sitting, and each subject can only be retaken once. We only make an exception to this restriction where there are extenuating personal circumstances (see section 2.6), and any such exceptions are made at the discretion of the University. Applicants retaking qualifications will not be disadvantaged in the application process.

1.9 Transfers

Transfers into Years two and three are not considered in any circumstances. Transfers to Law by current University of Bristol students may be considered if places permit, however all such applicants are expected to start the LLB programme in Year one.

2. General information

2.1 Admissions team

Applications are assessed by a centralised team in close co-operation with the School Recruitment and Admissions Officer(s). The team have received training in fair admissions and unconscious bias.

2.2 Admissions process

Because we receive such a high number of applications, and to ensure that all those applying on time are treated fairly, we may hold some applications until May before making a decision.

Applications received before the 15 January deadline set by UCAS are guaranteed equal consideration.

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.

To assess an application, we require the following information:

- a full academic history from age 16 onwards, including details of any retakes or uncompleted qualifications;
- predicted grades for any qualifications the applicant is currently taking. These must be provided by the applicant's school or referee, and must include an overall grade (if applicable), *and*, where a particular subject is specified in the entry requirements, the achieved or predicted grades for that subject, and any related or major subjects being studied;
- in cases where predicted grades are not available, a transcript showing the results of a previous year's courses or examinations.

We assess applicants on the basis of their application only; we do not take into account any additional information received from an applicant or institution, unless we have requested it.

Academic references should be provided by a personal tutor from the applicant's school or college. Where this is not possible, a non-academic reference should confirm the applicant's relevant experience and indicate their potential for degree-level study.

The reference is considered alongside the personal statement, where applicable, taking into account the following:

- predictions of examination results (including, if necessary, an explanation of any non-standard qualifications);
- an overall assessment of the applicant, in particular the suitability and academic potential of the applicant to study at degree level;
- discussion of earlier exam results, especially those influenced by personal or medical circumstances (and therefore a poor guide to ability);
- discussion of the applicant's intellectual curiosity, interests and suitability for the subject.

Referees who believe the applicant's performance does not reflect their ability, because of educational context and/or special circumstances, should advise the applicant to complete an extenuating circumstances form (see section 2.6 Extenuating Circumstances).

2.3 Correspondence with applicants

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

We monitor the number of offers we make carefully and may hold some applications until later in the cycle.

Applicants will 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 6 May. Most decisions are made before this date.

2.4 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/>

2.5 Contextual information

As part of our commitment to the UK national agenda on widening participation, we consider the context in which grades have been achieved and make contextual offers. Contextual offers are usually two grades lower than the typical offer. Applicants may receive a contextual offer for the following reasons: attendance at an aspiring state school or college; residence in an area with low progression to higher education; completion of a University of Bristol outreach programme; time spent in care.

Full details of the contextual offer scheme can be found here:

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entry-requirements-qualifications/contextual-offers/> and within the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures for Undergraduate Courses.

2.6 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.

2.7 Policies

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

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/2020>

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.

2.8 Results

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.

Please see our results web page for further information: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/results/>

2.9 Contacts for enquiries

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