

Admissions statement

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

bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/policies/



Courses covered

Foundation in Arts and Social Sciences (CertHE)

Foundation Year in Science, Engineering and Mathematics (CertHE)

Admissions cycle

2023 entry

1. Application process

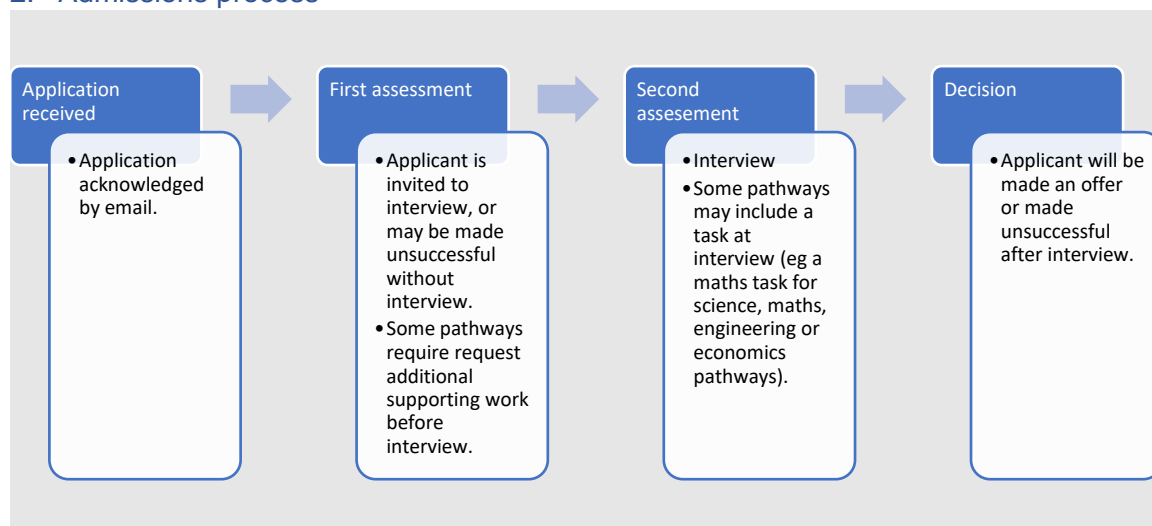
1.1. Applying for the programme

You need to apply for this programme directly to the University, not through UCAS.

The online application form and guidance for completing it is available at

bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/foundation-years/how-to-apply/.

2. Admissions process



2.1. Receiving your application

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.

All applicants will be contacted by email within two weeks of receiving their application to confirm receipt.

2.2. Assessing your application

There are no formal entry requirements for these courses. Applications will be considered on their /own merit, and we are actively looking to recruit students from a wide range of ages and educational, ethnic and social backgrounds. We are looking for applicants who are highly motivated to study on a foundation programme and who demonstrate the potential to succeed in university study.

Applicants wishing to study the foundation year as a standalone qualification without progression to undergraduate study are also welcome to apply.

Applicants are asked to disclose all their prior qualifications and any in progress. This is to provide context for your application but does not prejudice our decision.

Where a high number of applications are received, priority may be given to:

1. Applicants without prior experience of higher education and/or who do not already hold a qualification at QCA Level 3 (eg A-levels or an Access to HE Diploma).
2. Applicants who have strong reasons for wishing to progress to a degree programme at Bristol.
3. Applicants from groups that are currently underrepresented in higher education. This may include for example:
 - Applicants from low-performing schools;
 - Mature applicants (over the age of 21);
 - Refugees and applicants awarded the [Sanctuary Scholarship](#);
 - Applicants from areas where there is a low level of participation in higher education;
 - Applicants from minority ethnic groups;
 - Applicants who are care leavers, carers or parents;
 - Disabled applicants.

2.3. Ineligibility criteria

We are unable to consider applications from applicants eligible for international 'overseas' fees. International students may wish to consider our [International Foundation Programmes](#).

Applicants whose qualifications would make them eligible to apply through UCAS for entry onto our undergraduate courses cannot be considered for the Foundation Year in Science, Engineering and Mathematics even if their attained grades are lower than the undergraduate entry requirements. Applicants will not be eligible for our Foundation Year in Science, Engineering and Mathematics if they already hold a science-related degree or have completed science A-levels within the last five years.

Applicants for the Foundation in Arts and Social Sciences programme **will** be considered with A-levels or similar qualifications which would usually be considered for undergraduate entry through UCAS. However, we may advise candidates that their application would be more suitable for entry to a university via UCAS Clearing without requiring the foundation programme for progression. We may be able to support you with making a UCAS application in these cases.

Applicants for the Economics and Finance pathway within the Foundation in Arts and Social Sciences programme, and those applying to the Foundation Year in Science, Engineering and Mathematics, must demonstrate ability in maths equal to a good GCSE level during the admissions process. This will be assessed at interview, though applicants are expected to reflect on their interest and abilities in maths within their personal statement when applying for these routes.

2.4. Personal statement criteria

Applicants will be asked to provide a personal statement as part of their application form. This provides the opportunity for applicants to tell us about their experiences of study in the past (whether positive or negative), their reasons for wanting to study this course at this time; what they would like to achieve following the course; etc.

Personal statements are assessed qualitatively on the following criteria:

- Interest in and commitment to the programme;
- Evidence of academic potential;
- Appropriateness of this programme to the interests and aspirations declared in the statement;
- Non-academic achievement/experience, extra-curricular activities, positions of responsibility;
- Written English, expression, construction, argument;
- Responses to opportunities and challenges the applicant has faced.

2.5. Reference

Applicants will be asked to name a referee and provide contact details. We may contact the referee before or after interview for more information to support the application.

If we contact the referee, we will ask them how the applicant demonstrates their motivation to study, their ability to work independently and their ability to analyse and express their response to an academic situation. This does not discount referees who are known to the candidate from employment.

2.6. Additional supporting work pre-interview

Applicants for the Foundation in Arts and Social Sciences will be asked to produce a short piece of written work on a specified topic in advance of the interview. Eligible applicants should receive information about this written work via email at least three weeks before it is due. This written work will be used to support your application and may be discussed at the interview. Where this work has been requested, the interview will not go ahead if the work has not been submitted by the given deadline.

2.7. Inviting candidates to interview

Applicants who we would like to interview will be contacted by email to invite them to attend an interview. We aim to send all interview invitations no later than two weeks after the application deadline.

Applicants who are made unsuccessful without an interview will be notified by email, and we will explain the reason for our decision.

2.8. Interview

The interview will be carried out by at least two members of University of Bristol staff, at least one of whom will be trained in fair and effective recruitment. Interviews will be conducted in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

Applicants for the Foundation Year in Science, Engineering and Maths who are invited to interview will be asked to complete a maths-related activity, which will aid our interviewers in deciding whether to offer a place on the programme. Similarly, applicants for the Economics and Finance pathway of the Foundation in Arts and Social Sciences may be asked to complete a diagnostic maths test at the interview. It is not possible to provide details about what these activities may involve prior to the interview, to ensure all candidates receive the same interview experience and opportunity.

2.9. After the interview

Applicants will be contacted by email to let them know the outcome of their application, either an unconditional offer for a place on our Foundation programme, or that their application has been unsuccessful after interview.

Those who are offered a place will be asked to confirm whether or not they wish to accept the offer of a place to study with us, and their preferred pathway.

3. General information

3.1. Correspondence with applicants

All correspondence relating to an applicant's status will be sent by email. Applicants will also be invited to create an applicant portal account where they can check the status of their application. If we have requested any additional documents to support an application, these can be uploaded to the application form through the applicant portal.

Applicants will be notified promptly by email to let them know if they have been invited to interview or made unsuccessful in our first assessment.

Applicants who have received an offer will be able to download a copy of their offer letter from their applicant portal.

3.2. Policies

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's [Admissions principles and procedures](#) have been inconsistently or incorrectly applied, these complaints procedures provide a mechanism for objective review.

3.3. Contacts for enquiries

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