

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 Year in Science, Engineering and Mathematics (CertHE)

Admissions cycle

2024 entry

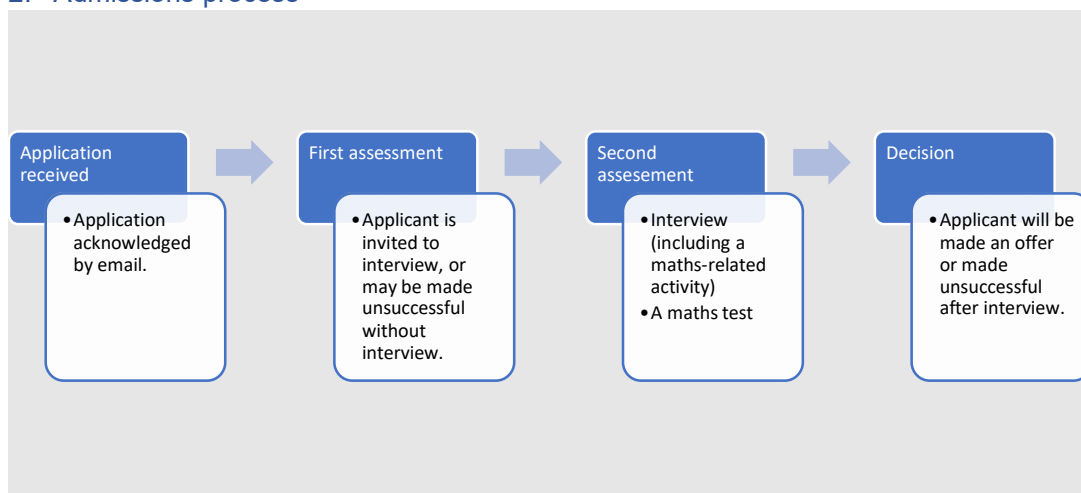
1. Application process

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 admissions tutor and academic reviewers. 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. Eligibility criteria

The Foundation Year in Science, Engineering and Mathematics programme aims to increase access to university education for those who have either not studied appropriate A-level-equivalent qualifications or who have been away from education for a period of time.

Applicants whose qualifications would make them eligible to apply through UCAS for entry onto our undergraduate courses, ie one or more science A-levels or equivalent qualifications taken in the last five years, cannot be considered for the Foundation Year in Science, Engineering and Mathematics even if their attained grades are lower than the undergraduate entry requirements.

We are unable to consider applications from applicants eligible for international 'overseas' fees. International students may wish to consider our [International Foundation Programmes](#). Our website provides information on [how we determine home or overseas fees status](#).

We can consider applications from refugees and from asylum seekers who also applying for our [Sanctuary Scholarship](#) award. Applicants should declare this in their application so that we can match your application for the foundation course with your Sanctuary Scholarship application.

2.3. 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. Qualifications should be listed in the pro forma template available to download from our website, and submitted with the application: bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/foundation-years/how-to-apply/.

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 (e.g. 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 seeking asylum in the UK who have been 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.

We collect equality data for monitoring purposes as part of the application. This is only used as part of the admissions decision making process as described above, if necessary to select between otherwise equal candidates. This data is otherwise only used to inform widening access reporting,

2.4. Personal statement criteria

Applicants are asked to include 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 may be used to prompt questions and conversation at interview, and are reviewed 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.

Where requested, the reference will be used to support the personal statement to decide which candidates to invite to interview.

2.6. Inviting candidates to interview

We will invite applicants to interview via email after the application window has closed and all applications have been reviewed. 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.

2.7. Interview

The interview aims to identify candidates most likely to thrive on and benefit from the foundation year course.

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 will be asked to complete a maths-related activity as part of the interview, which will aid our interviewers in deciding whether to offer a place on the programme. 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.

There will also be a separate maths test which the interviewers will review after the interview to aid their decision making. This test seeks to identify applicants' current level of maths (eg whether GCSE-equivalent, lower or higher).

2.8. After the interview

Applicants will be contacted by email to let them know the outcome of their application. This will be either an offer for a place on our Foundation programme (confirming the pathway in the offer letter), 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.

3. General information

3.1. Correspondence with applicants

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

Applicants will create an applicant portal account to submit and 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 by email to let them know if they have been invited to interview or made unsuccessful in our first assessment. We aim to provide feedback with our decision if a candidate is made unsuccessful.

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 the 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 0117 394 1649.