Admissions Statement for Foundation in Science, Engineering and Mathematics (CertHE)

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted in the 2026/27 academic year for entry in September 2027. It should be read in association with the University Admissions Principles and Procedures for Undergraduate programmes, the relevant prospectus entry and general application guidance.

Admissions Criteria

The academic and English language requirements for this programme are displayed on the prospectus page.

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.

You need to apply for this programme directly to the University, not through UCAS. The course is for both students returning to education after a significant period away and for students who are not currently studying and have not studied, within the last five years, any of the science subjects noted in the entry requirements, with the exception of those who have studied Access to Higher Education Diploma, T-levels and BTEC qualifications as long as these qualifications do not facilitate direct entry to your desired undergraduate degree. The programme includes tailored support to help you to transition to degree level study.

Application Process

Online application form

Applicants should complete the online application form, uploading all required documents directly. Further information is available on our How to apply for foundation years webpage.

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.

Applications will not be considered until **all** required documents have been uploaded. All correspondence relating to an applicant's status will be sent by email.

Required documents

Qualifications

All post age 16 academic qualifications, both completed and in-progress, should be listed within the application form. There are no requirements for formal qualifications, but declaring any you do have provides useful context for your education experience so far.

Personal Statement

Applicants are asked to include a personal statement (2000 character limit) as part of their application that addresses the following questions:

- What are your experiences of study in the past (positive or negative) and why do you want to return to study?

- Why do you want to study this particular course and what would you like to achieve by the end of it?
- What subject area are you most interested in and how has this developed?
- Would you like to go on to study for a degree?
- What aspects of maths do you enjoy and how do you use it in your daily life?
- What hobbies, interests and experiences do you have that will help you complete your studies?

Providing an inadequate personal statement may lead to your application being made unsuccessful. "Inadequate" means you have not provided relevant or sufficient information as requested or it is not related to the programme of study you are applying for.

Selection Process

Assessment of applications

All applicants are considered in line with the University Admissions Principles and Procedures.

We will invite eligible applicants to complete a post-application maths task, which provides context to your current level of maths ability. This task may be used to identify candidates whose current maths ability is not sufficient to confidently undertake the programme of study, in which case candidates may be made unsuccessful at this stage.

Candidates who satisfactorily complete the task will be invited to attend an interview, which includes a maths-related activity, and a separate maths test. The maths test will give a more detailed assessment of your current maths ability, which if you are made an offer for the programme will inform which maths route is recommended for you and whether that matches the maths route for your preferred degree. You will be sent further details regarding this if we make you an offer.

In summary, applicants will be assessed based on:

- Application form
    - Previous academic performance - this is to provide context for your application but does not prejudice our decision.
    - Personal Statement
- Post-application maths task
- Interview, including:
    - A maths-related activity
    - A baseline maths test
    - English language ability (where applicable).

Interviews

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted via email by Admissions and invited to interview. The purpose of the interview is 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. 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. 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. This test seeks to identify applicants' current level of maths in a deeper way than the maths tasks completed previously, to determine suitability for their preferred pathway's math route.

To prepare for the maths test, we recommend that you concentrate on improving your skills in the GCSE topics algebra, number, and geometry. If you plan to undertake independent maths revision we recommend that you look at GCSE Higher Tier revision resources and old GCSE exam questions.

Decisions

Applicants will be notified by email when a decision has been made. This will either be:

- An offer for a place on our CertHE programme
- Your application is put on hold – more information about what this means can be found here
- Your application is made unsuccessful after interview.

Decisions and decision letters will be available to view and print by logging into the application. If there is a deadline by which applicants must accept an offer of admission, this will be stated in the offer letter. A separate email will be sent notifying you of your maths test result and maths route.

Offers

Any offers made will be unconditional unless an applicant does not meet the required English language profile, in which case an offer will be conditional on an applicant providing a suitable English language qualification – further information on these can be found on our profile pages and the prospectus page.

Applicants who have received an offer will be able to download a copy of their offer letter and confirm acceptance of their place to study with us in their applicant portal.

Deferrals

Requests for deferral can only be made after an offer has been received. Requests to defer the year of entry should be submitted by email at the earliest opportunity after receiving an offer, so that they can be reviewed by the admissions team. We cannot guarantee that requests will be granted and only one deferral per applicant is routinely granted. Beyond this, a new application will be required.

Offer Conditions

Applicants who receive an offer conditional on providing evidence to meet the English language profile will be required to submit documents to meet their offer conditions by the date noted in their offer letter.

Fees

Annual tuition fees are available on the relevant prospectus entry for this programme.

We are unable to consider applications from applicants eligible for international 'overseas' fees. However, we can consider applications from asylum seekers who are 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.

Additional Information

If the programme is over-subscribed, priority is given to applicants in the following circumstances:

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 specifically.
3. Applicants from groups that are currently underrepresented in higher education. This may include, for example:
    - Mature applicants (over the age of 21);
    - Refugees and applicants seeking asylum in the UK who have been awarded the Sanctuary Scholarship;

- Applicants who live in an Indices of Multiple Deprivations (IMD) quintile 1 or 2 area;
- 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, and to help our interviewers signpost any useful Student Support information to candidates attending an interview

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.