Self-guided walking tour

This self-guided walking tour is designed to give you a flavour of the University campus. It guides you around the outside of the main University buildings, which are generally closed to visitors. The tour is split into sections with optional detours. The whole excursion takes about 90 minutes. Map references are shown in brackets.

The University of Bristol is in the heart of one of the biggest cities in the South West and there are many busy roads to negotiate when walking around the campus. Walkers should take care when crossing roads and use pedestrian crossings wherever possible.

A Senate House (including Student Funding Office) (43), Indoor Sports Centre (42), Careers Service (41), Computer Centre (41)

The tour starts from Senate House (43) on Tyndall Avenue. The University’s Indoor Sports Centre (42), with its red metallic roof, is next door (on your right when facing Senate House). The Careers Service (41) is further up on Tyndall Avenue on the same side, in a brick building that also houses the Computer Centre. You will also find an information point for the Students’ Union here.

Senate House (43), the main administrative building of the University, is home to the Student Funding Office, where students can get financial advice and information about bursaries and scholarships.

The Indoor Sports Centre (42) facilities comprise the Pulse Gym, with state-of-the-art cardiovascular training and free weights areas, sports halls, dedicated studios for exercise classes and an indoor running track. Students have the opportunity to compete at national level through University sports teams or take part in more informal intramural sporting activities.

There is also a 38-acre outdoor sports complex in Stoke Bishop, a 30-minute walk or a short bus ride from the University campus, and a 33-metre swimming pool in the Students’ Union.

The Careers Service (41) offers advice about planning for life after graduation. Bristol students have a great track record of getting the jobs they really want, even in difficult economic climates. The Careers Service holds regular workshops designed to increase students’ chances of getting the most sought-after jobs. The JobShop, located within the Careers Service, advertises term-time and vacation job opportunities.

The Computer Centre (41) houses a 24-hour computer room, an IT service desk and training rooms. The MyBristol portal gives students access to their University email accounts, timetables and the virtual learning environment, Blackboard, from any location. There are also numerous wifi locations around the campus and the Resnet network gives students access to the internet from University accommodation.

B Arts and Social Sciences Library (40), Life Sciences Building (School of Biological Sciences) (110), Bristol Veterinary School detour (39), School of Oral and Dental Sciences detour (96), central Bristol shopping area detour

Continue past the Computer Centre to the Arts and Social Sciences Library (40) at the end of Tyndall Avenue.

The University has 10 libraries holding the largest academic collection of books and journals in the South West of England, as well as specialist and archive collections. The Arts and Social Sciences Library (40) is the largest of the University libraries.

The new £56 million Life Sciences Building (110), at the end of Tyndall Avenue, houses five storeys of state-of-the-art laboratory facilities. The building is home to the School of Biological Sciences, which encompasses Biology, Zoology, and Palaeontology and Evolution.

Bristol Veterinary School (Southwell Street site) detour (39):
At the end of Tyndall Avenue, turn right on to St Michael’s Hill and cross the road at the pedestrian crossing. Turn immediately left into Southwell Street, with St Michael’s Hospital on your right. The Veterinary School is on the left. The School occupies two sites: the Southwell Street site is the focus for preclinical and basic science teaching. The second site is the School of Clinical Veterinary Science (Langford House), which is situated 14 miles south of the city and is the base for clinical teaching and welfare research. Retrace to rejoin the tour at section C.

School of Oral and Dental Sciences detour (96):
To visit the School of Oral and Dental Sciences, which shares its premises with Bristol Dental Hospital, continue to the bottom of St Michael’s Hill, ignoring the first turning on the left. At the T-junction at the bottom of the hill, turn left, passing the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Bristol Dental Hospital is next on the right. Retrace to rejoin the tour at section C.

Central Bristol shopping area detour:
To visit the main shopping areas of Cabot Circus, Broadmead and Quaker’s Friars, continue past the Dental Hospital. Retrace to rejoin the tour at section C.

September 2014
Bristol Centre for Nanoscience and Quantum Information (37), HH Wills Physics Building (School of Physics) (33)

From the Arts and Social Sciences Library (40), cross to the other side of Tyndall Avenue and turn right to walk back in the direction of Senate House (43). The modern building on the left is the Bristol Centre for Nanoscience and Quantum Information (37). Next door is the HH Wills Physics Building (33).

The Bristol Centre for Nanoscience and Quantum Information (37) hosts a multi- and interdisciplinary research community drawn from science, engineering and medicine. The vibration and acoustic noise levels in its specialised laboratories are among the lowest achieved anywhere in the world.

The School of Physics (33) is housed in the HH Wills Physics Building. The building contains some of the University’s largest lecture theatres, and students from other schools and departments have some of their lectures here. Construction began in the 1920s and the building was finally completed in the 1970s.

Royal Fort House and Gardens (30)

From Physics (33), continue down Tyndall Avenue, passing Senate House (43) on the opposite side, and turn left up a gated driveway into Royal Fort Gardens. Follow the driveway to Royal Fort House (30). Turn left, with the entrance to Royal Fort House on the right.

Royal Fort House and Gardens (30): The Grade I listed Royal Fort Gardens are part of a large 18th-century estate that belonged to the Tyndall family. The gardens form the grounds of Royal Fort House, which was built between 1758 and 1761 on the site of a civil war fortification. The building is now the home of the University’s Institute for Advanced Studies.

In 1799 the grounds were landscaped by Sir Humphry Repton, then England’s pre-eminent landscape gardener. Combining garden design with elements of Romantic landscape painting, he introduced irregular sight lines, winding paths and reflective surfaces of water to give the illusion of depth and space, and to add detail and interest. Jeppe Hein’s mirrored sculpture at the bottom of the hill below Royal Fort House was created for the University’s centenary in 2009.

School of Mathematics (29), School of Medical Sciences (16), Queen’s School of Engineering (20)

With the entrance to Royal Fort House on your right, continue along the path through the archway out of Royal Fort Gardens. Turn right into Tankards Close, with the School of Mathematics (29) on the right and the School of Medical Sciences (16) on the left.

The School of Mathematics (29) has a variety of flexible study and communal areas for mathematicians to meet and share ideas. The School of Medical Sciences (16), completed in the 1950s, houses the Departments of Biochemistry, Cellular and Molecular Medicine, and Physiology and Pharmacology. The building also contains state-of-the-art teaching laboratories, the AIMS (Applied and Integrated Medical Sciences) Centre and the Medical Library.

The academics teaching here are leaders in their field: the world’s first windpipe transplant was recently carried out using research conducted by members of staff based in this building.

Follow the road round into University Walk, with the Queen’s School of Engineering (20) on the left.

The Queen’s School of Engineering (20) is part of the Faculty of Engineering and houses the Departments of Aerospace, Civil and Mechanical Engineering and the Department of Engineering Design. More than £25 million has been spent on infrastructure and laboratory equipment in the Faculty of Engineering during the past five years, including an earthquake-simulating shaking table, used to test the stability of building designs in earthquake zones.

Department of Archaeology and Anthropology (23), School of Geographical Sciences (27)

From the Queen’s School of Engineering, continue to the end of the road where University Walk meets Woodland Road. The Department of Archaeology and Anthropology (23) is at the junction, at 43 Woodland Road.

The Department of Archaeology and Anthropology (23) is housed in the former Baptist Theological College with its magnificent, 15th-century stained-glass windows. It is the largest department of its kind in the UK. The building was converted and refurbished in 1999 to provide a vibrant and contemporary centre for teaching and research.

With your back to the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, cross over Woodland Road into University Road opposite. Continue down University Road to the School of Geographical Sciences (27) on the left.

The School of Geographical Sciences (27) combines the contemporary study of human and physical geography with a wide range of research-led teaching focusing on scientific and analytical content. The Bristol Glaciology Centre carries out world-leading research into ice-sheet processes and subglacial environments.

Retrace to the top of University Road and turn right into Woodland Road.

School of Chemistry (11, 12), Department of Theatre (7), Department of Film and Television (7), Merchant Venturers School of Engineering (25)

Continue down Woodland Road and turn left into Cantock’s Close. Take the left-hand fork and continue to the entrance to the School of Chemistry (11, 12) further along on the right.

The School of Chemistry (11, 12) is home to Bristol ChemLabs, the country’s only Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning for Chemistry. The teaching laboratories were refurbished in 2007 and facilities include interactive e-learning software that enables students to investigate experiments online before they enter the lab.
Retrace and turn left at the fork to the Department of Theatre (7) and the Department of Film and Television (7).

The Department of Theatre (7) and the Department of Film and Television (7) began life as the Department of Drama: Theatre, Film, Television. Established in 1947, this was the first university department in the UK dedicated to the study of drama in performance. Bristol was also the first to introduce the practical and theoretical study of film and television. Also on this site are the Wickham Theatre, which hosts student and touring productions, and the Theatre Collection, one of the world’s largest British theatre history archives.

Retrace to Woodland Road. The Merchant Venturers School of Engineering is opposite.

The Merchant Venturers School of Engineering (25) is part of the Faculty of Engineering and houses the Departments of Computer Science, Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Engineering Mathematics. It opened in 1996 and its purpose-built facilities include a motion pod in which students test computer games. Many of our engineering students have been involved in designing new products that have been commercially developed through University spin-off companies.

H HH Wills Memorial Building (Schools of Law and Earth Sciences) (26), Park Street detour

Descend the steps on the right-hand side of the Merchant Venturers School of Engineering to the HH Wills Memorial Building (26) on the right. Visitors with impaired mobility should continue to the bottom of Woodland Road, keeping Merchant Venturers on the right, turn right on to Park Row and continue to the Wills Memorial Building on the right past the traffic lights.

The HH Wills Memorial Building (26), 68 metres tall, is seen by many to symbolise the University of Bristol. Construction began in 1915, and after being interrupted during the First World War, was completed in 1925. The building is home to the School of Law, one of the largest in the UK, and the School of Earth Sciences, which has been refurbished with new research and teaching laboratories, lecture rooms and a workshop. Graduation ceremonies take place in the building’s Great Hall.

Park Street detour: The Wills Memorial Building stands at the junction of Park Row and Park Street, a vibrant shopping street full of boutique stores, cafes, bars and restaurants. A mural by local graffiti artist Banksy can be seen at the bottom of the street on the left. Park Street leads into the buzzing Harbourside with its museums and arts venues, and to Bristol’s central shopping area. Retrace to Wills Memorial Building.

I Victoria Rooms (Department of Music) (81)

Keeping the Wills Memorial Building (26) on your right, walk up Queen’s Road past the City Museum and Art Gallery. Cross University Road and continue past a cluster of amenities such as restaurants, cafes, shops and banks, known as ‘the triangle’.

Cross Elton Road on the zebra crossing. At the Royal West of England Academy, go left over a second zebra crossing to the Victoria Rooms (Department of Music) (81).

The Victoria Rooms (81) houses a 700-seat concert hall, a recital room, five recording studios and nine practice rooms, and hosts a variety of lunchtime and evening concerts by students and staff for the general public. The building dates from 1842 and was first used by the University for its Students’ Union. It became the home of the Department of Music in 1996.

J Students’ Union (80)

With your back to the Victoria Rooms, turn right up Queen’s Road. Cross to the opposite side of the road at the first zebra crossing and continue along Queen’s Road, past a mini-roundabout, to the Richmond building, the site of the Students’ Union, on the left.

Bristol’s Students’ Union (80) is one of the largest in the country. It is staffed by elected officers who represent the interests of all students, and is the hub for the University’s numerous clubs and societies. The Richmond building houses bars, a theatre, dance and art studios, a cafe, a shop and the Anson Rooms, a venue that has hosted the likes of Ed Sheeran, Kasabian, Amy Winehouse and Snow Patrol. The University’s 33-metre swimming pool is also located in the Union building.

The student newspaper, Epigram, the student television programme, ubtv, and the Bristol University Radio Station, Burst, are all run by students and operate from the building. Student Volunteering, which co-ordinates students’ participation in a range of community projects, is also based here.

K Manor Hall, Clifton Hill House and Goldney Hall (student accommodation), Clifton Village detour

From the Students’ Union, continue up Queen’s Road, turn left into Gordon Road and right into York Place. On the left behind wrought-iron railings at the bottom of a steep bank is Manor Hall.

Manor Hall opened as a women’s hall of residence in 1932. Its five buildings are now used for mixed, self-catered accommodation. Continue past Manor Hall and bear left into Clifton Road. Round to the right on Lower Clifton Hill, is Clifton Hill House. Beyond it, at the junction with Lower Clifton Hill, is Goldney Hall.

Clifton Hill House, dating from 1746, is the only catered residence in Clifton. It was built by the University in 1909. Bristol was the first university to admit women and men on an equal footing and Clifton Hill House became the first hall of residence for women in the South West.

Goldney Hall is a self-catered residence. At its heart is the 18th-century Goldney House, which was purchased by the University in 1956. The modern student accommodation was built in 1969 within the hall’s historic grounds.
There are six other halls of residence belonging to the University at Stoke Bishop, four are catered and the other two are self-catered, which are a 30-minute walk or a short bus ride away from the University campus. All first years are issued with a free bus pass to allow easy access to the University.

Clifton Village detour: Keeping Goldney Hall on your left, turn right along Clifton Hill and continue to Clifton Village, with its boutique shops, cafes and restaurants. Beyond Clifton Village, the Clifton Suspension Bridge – one of the city’s most famous landmarks – takes you into the parkland and forests of Ashton Court Estate and Leigh Woods. Retrace to Clifton Hill House.

School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies (50), School for Policy Studies (47), School of Experimental Psychology (68), Social Sciences Complex (including School of Economics, Finance and Management) (68)

From Clifton Hill House, retrace past York Road with the pub on your left and turn right into Richmond Terrace. You will pass one of the student houses at the end of this road, at number 30-35. Follow the road as it bears round to the left to return to the Richmond building and the Students’ Union on Queen’s Road.

Keeping the Richmond building on your right, walk down Queen’s Road and cross the road using the zebra crossing just before two mini-roundabouts. Turn right and cross Pembroke Road, keeping the two mini-roundabouts and a large red brick block of flats on your right, into St Paul’s Road. Continue along St Paul’s Road until you reach the crossroads with Whiteladies Road.

Cross Whiteladies Road into Tyndall’s Park Road. Turn right into Elm Dale Road and left into Priory Road. Further up on the right are the School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies (50) and the School for Policy Studies (47). On the left are the School of Experimental Psychology (68) and the Social Sciences Complex (68).

Priory Road is the hub for the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law. The School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies (50) offers a range of sociology and politics programmes and hosts a number of research centres and networks in an interdisciplinary scholarly environment.

The School for Policy Studies (47) delivers undergraduate, masters and doctoral programmes; research; professional training; and seminars in social policy, public policy and social work. The School’s multidisciplinary team of policy experts come from a wide variety of backgrounds in social policy research, social work, sociology, history, human geography, economics, psychology and nutrition and health sciences, based within specialist research centres.

The Social Sciences Complex (68) houses the School of Economics, Finance and Management, which offers a range of accounting and social sciences-based management programmes. The complex adjoins the School of Experimental Psychology, where teaching and research span developmental, social, cognitive and biological psychology, neuropsychology and vision science.

School of Arts (comprising the School of Humanities and the School of Modern Languages)

At its far end, Priory Road forms a T-junction with Woodland Road, which is lined with large interlinking villas housing departments in the School of Humanities and the School of Modern Languages.

The School of Humanities is a hub for teaching and research across a broad range of cultural disciplines, via the Departments of Classics and Ancient History, English, History, History of Art, and Theology and Religious Studies.

The School of Modern Languages comprises the Departments of French, German, Italian, Russian, and Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies. Degree courses cover all aspects of language studies and provide opportunities for studying a wide range of topics on literature, society, civilisation and culture.

Department of Philosophy (78), Student Support Services (77, 77a), Multifaith Chaplaincy (76), Cotham Hill shops and cafes detour

At the T-junction where Priory Road meets Woodland Road turn left and then right on to Tyndall’s Park Road. Cross over immediately and follow the driveway up to Cotham House, which houses the Philosophy Department (78), and Hampton House, where you will find Student Support Services (77, 77a).

The Department of Philosophy (78) covers a wide range of topics within the Analytic or Anglo-American philosophical tradition.

Student Support Services (77, 77a) comprise the Students’ Health Service, Student Counselling and Disability Services.

Continue up the driveway to emerge on Cotham Hill. Turn left down Cotham Hill, and left again into Woodland Road, passing the Multifaith Chaplaincy (76) on the left. To return to Senate House, where the tour began, continue along Woodland Road, crossing Tyndall’s Park Road, to the junction with Tyndall Avenue. You have now come to the end of the tour.

Cotham Hill shops and cafes detour: Continue down Cotham Hill, ignoring the left turn into Woodland Road, to find shops and cafes. Finish your tour here, or retrace to Woodland Road and turn right, passing the Multifaith Chaplaincy (76) on the left. To return to Senate House, where this tour began, continue along Woodland Road, crossing Tyndall’s Park Road, to the junction with Tyndall Avenue. You have now come to the end of the tour.

We hope you have enjoyed this tour. To find out more about our courses or facilities, visit bristol.ac.uk. If you would like to visit us on an open day, find out more at bristol.ac.uk/opendays. If you have any feedback or questions, email campus-tours@bristol.ac.uk. You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram and our @choosebristolug Twitter account.
See the full listing at bristol.ac.uk/maps/googletoday. September 2014