Postgraduate open day 2018

Wednesday 21 November 2018

bristol.ac.uk/pg-visits
Top ten UK university (QS World University Rankings 2019)

Bristol voted best place to live in the UK (Best Places to Live 2017 The Sunday Times)

Bristol is ranked joint fifth in the UK for research intensity (Times Higher Education analysis of REF 2014)
Contents

Introduction
Welcome 4
City 6
Studying 12
Facilities 14
Taught programmes 16
Research programmes 18
Funded doctoral training 20
Bristol Doctoral College 22
Our research 24
Global 26
Careers 28
Bristol SU 30
Take part 32
Living 34
Wellbeing 36
Funding 38
Applying 40
Fees 43
Visit us 44

Faculties
Arts 46
Engineering 48
Health Sciences 50
Life Sciences 52
Science 54
Social Sciences and Law 56

Postgraduate programmes
Programme entries 58-126
Programme index 127-129

Further information
Campus map 130
Travel 132
Welcome

I am delighted that you are considering joining the University of Bristol during a uniquely exciting moment in our history.

We can offer you the chance to study in a research-rich culture, where we combine a rigorous approach to learning with an innovative edge. You will work in a supportive environment that will challenge and stretch you, right in the heart of one of the most beautiful and vibrant cities in Europe.

A postgraduate degree from Bristol will prepare you for the next steps in your career or further study. In addition to equipping you with subject-specific skills, our curriculum will provide opportunities to acquire the knowledge, understanding and transferable skills that help you fulfil your potential and meet the challenges of a diverse and ever-changing world.

In 2017, Bristol was named Britain’s best place to live*, and we make the most of being located in such a wonderful city. There is a diverse arts, music and cultural scene; hardly a weekend goes by without a festival or celebration. There is also an abundance of beautiful green spaces, and the city is known for being a global leader in sustainability and urban innovation.

Bristol has a growing reputation as one of the world’s leading digital cities. We continue to invest heavily in our campuses, upgrading and transforming facilities to build the best possible learning environment for our students. The heart of our main Clifton campus is being remodelled to provide a central hub for student support, including a revamped indoor sports centre which opens in autumn 2018.

The University of Bristol is consistently ranked within the top ten universities in the UK**, and attracts some of the best and brightest students from the UK and overseas. Please look through our prospectus and see what interests you.

I very much hope that I shall have the pleasure of welcoming you to the University of Bristol in the near future.

Professor Hugh Brady
Vice-Chancellor and President

*The Sunday Times Best Places to Live 2017
**QS World University Rankings 2019
There’s much more to Bristol than Banksy, Brunel and hot air balloons. It’s a vibrant, friendly city that’s really geared towards student life.

**Welcome to Bristol**

With its lively music and arts scenes, enticing places to eat and drink, fantastic range of shops and plenty of relaxing green spaces, Bristol is somewhere you will love to call home. As the largest city in south-west England, Bristol offers a distinctive blend of historic charm and dynamic, creative energy.

Thanks to its thriving cultural life and strong independent spirit, the city also holds a number of prestigious accolades. Bristol has been named the best place to live in the UK (*The Sunday Times*, 2017), is a leading UK Smart City and was listed as one of Europe’s best mid-sized cities of the future by influential business publication *fDi* magazine.

**Be inspired**

In Bristol, offbeat street art, eclectic craft collectives and innovative games developers sit happily alongside celebrated art galleries and museums. As a UNESCO City of Film, Bristol is a hub for film studios, producers and animators, creating groundbreaking work such as the BBC’s *Planet Earth II*. It’s also a popular filming location – many memorable scenes from the BBC’s *Sherlock* were shot in Bristol. You’ll find plenty of inspiration from our growing creative economy.

**Café culture**

Wherever you go in Bristol, you won’t be far from a cozy independent café (or three). Bring your books for a working lunch, enjoy the view from a scenic roof terrace, or spend a lazy Sunday playing board games. There’s an abundance of good eateries, too. In the city centre, award-winning restaurants rub shoulders with the stalls of St Nicholas Market, where you’ll find an abundant choice of global food in all its variety.

**Brand names and boutiques**

Bristol’s central shopping area, Cabot Circus, is packed with big-name department stores and famous high-street brands. If you’re looking for something a bit different, there are hundreds of distinctive independent shops close to the University in Clifton Village, Park Street and Gloucester Road, which is home to the largest number of independent traders in the UK.

bristol.ac.uk/city
Bristol’s annual balloon fiesta attracts over half a million visitors each year.
The sound of Bristol
Bristol is famous for its diverse music scene and the city boasts both intimate, friendly rock clubs and world-class orchestral concert halls. Bristol’s wealth of small venues means there’s plenty of opportunity to catch bands on the rise. Check out Thekla, a former cargo ship turned indie venue, or the 140-capacity, family-run Louisiana, whose small stage hosted the Strokes, Coldplay and Muse before they were big. Bristol’s clubbing scene has it all too, from huge venues to sleek hip-hop basement bars.

Festival fun
Indoors and out, Bristol’s festivals celebrate everything from comedy to cinema and boats to balloons. In the summer, Bristol Harbour Festival and the International Balloon Fiesta are highlights, while the Simple Things festival brings adventurous new sounds every autumn.

Artistic influence
Bristol attracts intriguing public art, such as several famous installations by Bristol artist Luke Jerram, which have had us gazing up at a model moon, jamming on street pianos and hurtling down Park Street on a giant water slide. Well known as the home of Banksy, Bristol’s streets double up as open-air art galleries. Fresh graffiti could be hiding around every corner – especially in summer when Upfest, Europe’s largest street art festival, colours our streets.
Around a quarter of the world’s nature documentaries are produced by the BBC’s Natural History Unit, based in Bristol.

A city for life
When you experience the quality of life Bristol has to offer – the perfect mix of urban bustle and rural tranquility – you will be pleased that you chose to come here. Its maritime and industrial heritage combines with a forward-thinking creative and digital economy. Small enough to remain independent and friendly, large enough to be vibrant and diverse, Bristol is a beautiful and exciting city to explore.

Bristol is one of the UK’s ten biggest cities by population.
Clifton Village is a collection of beautiful Georgian houses, squares and arcades. It is a top spot for café culture, bordered by the green expanse of the Downs and the world-famous Clifton Suspension Bridge.

Bristol Veterinary School in the village of Langford is 14 miles south of Bristol.

Bristol’s Harbourside bustles with lively bars, restaurants, museums and attractions, and is a focal point for festivals and markets all year round.
Work is due to begin on our new Temple Quarter campus in 2019. The £300 million campus is part of a major redevelopment of the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone to the east of the city centre.

Bristol’s city centre offers high-end and high-street shopping, music venues, markets and our city-centre residences.

Our main campus lines the leafy streets of Clifton, with Royal Fort Gardens bordering the HH Wills Physics Building at its centre.

The impressive Wills Memorial Building at the top of Park Street marks the entrance to our campus.

Cabot Tower sits at the summit of Brandon Hill. There are great views from the top overlooking this green haven, which is just five minutes from our main campus.

Bristol’s city centre offers high-end and high-street shopping, music venues, markets and our city-centre residences.

Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus

Work is due to begin on our new Temple Quarter campus in 2019. The £300 million campus is part of a major redevelopment of the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone to the east of the city centre.
Studying

The University of Bristol is internationally renowned and is one of the very best higher education institutions in the UK, thanks to its outstanding staff, superb facilities and talented students.

**Distinguished heritage**
The University has had a reputation for innovation since it was founded in 1909. It was the first institute of higher education in the country to admit women on an equal basis with men, and in 1946 established the UK’s first university drama department. More recently, the University has influenced many aspects of society through cutting-edge research in areas as diverse as infection and immunity, human rights, climate change, and cryptography and information security.

**A world-class university**
Staff at Bristol are experts in their fields and work at the forefront of their academic disciplines – which means that their students do, too. Our academic excellence is also reflected in the 13 Nobel laureates who have been associated with the University community, including our current Chancellor, Sir Paul Nurse.

We attract students from all over the world, creating a rich and exciting international community. We aim to equip our students with the knowledge and skills to succeed in their career in a competitive global market.

As a member of the Russell Group, Bristol is one of the UK’s leading research universities. The University is rated in the top 10 in the UK1 and is a top five UK university for research2.

**Bristol Futures**
Here at Bristol, we believe in a rigorous and relevant education that equips our students to take on the challenges of the modern world, both professionally and personally. Our Bristol Futures initiative is designed to help you develop the necessary skills and personal attributes to succeed in your studies and flourish in your chosen field. It is built around three interdisciplinary themes, which complement our core values: Innovation and Enterprise, Global Citizenships, and Sustainable Futures. Opportunities include flexible online open courses and external collaborations.

1QS World University Rankings 2019
2Times Higher Education analysis of the latest Research Excellence Framework (2014)
There are more than 120 nationalities represented in our postgraduate community.
More than 6,000 postgraduate students were enrolled at the University during 2017-18.
We aim to create the best available teaching and learning environment, giving you the support and resources you need to achieve your academic ambitions.

With a new campus being developed at the heart of our buzzing city, adding to our state-of-the art facilities and internationally renowned research environment, it’s an exciting time to become a University of Bristol student.

There are eight libraries on the Clifton campus and one at the Bristol Veterinary School at Langford, along with two managed study centres. When you need a place to study, discuss projects with fellow students and complete assignments, the libraries and study centres offer more than 2,000 study spaces, with designated quiet areas for individual work and social learning areas for group work.

We have over 1.4 million books and journals in our collections of print materials. Special Collections gives researchers access to archival and rare book collections. We also provide online access to hundreds of thousands of academic journals, giving you the flexibility to work where and when you want.

As a world-class research institution, Bristol offers outstanding facilities, such as the Life Sciences Building, which features a five-storey laboratory wing, a state-of-the-art greenhouse and one of the largest teaching labs in the UK. The Grade II-listed Fry Building has been refurbished to provide a superb new home for the School of Mathematics, while retaining the building’s historic character.

A programme of major redevelopment began in 2018 and will create a pedestrianised, student-centred focus for our Clifton campus. A new, multi-purpose Study Resource Hub at the centre of the campus will offer creative learning and social space and a study support centre, while our improved indoor sports centre opens in autumn 2018 after a £4.9 million redevelopment.

In 2019, work begins on the Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus, our new £300 million campus with a focus on teaching and research in digital technologies.

Our Clifton campus is at the heart of historic Bristol, while the Veterinary School lies 14 miles south-west of the city on the edge of the Mendip hills. Given such picturesque surroundings, along with the University’s striking mix of contemporary and heritage architecture, it is no wonder we were named one of the 10 most beautiful universities in the UK (Times Higher Education, 2018).
Taught programmes

A taught postgraduate degree gives you the opportunity to expand on your undergraduate interests or branch out into a completely different field.

It can help you specialise in a particular area, leading to further study at doctorate level, or many choose to study for a taught postgraduate qualification as a way of improving career prospects.

What we offer
Most taught programmes at Bristol lead to a master’s qualification (e.g., MA, MSc, MRes, MEd, LLM), which combines taught units with a research project. These programmes typically last one year full-time or two years part-time. In some subject areas, you will be able to study for a postgraduate diploma or certificate. Several of our programmes provide flexible unit choices within the curriculum, opening up a range of topics and giving you a broad view of your subject.

A stimulating environment
With over 4,000 taught postgraduate students from more than 100 countries, Bristol offers you a vibrant atmosphere in which to learn, build networks and discover your full potential. Our success in the Research Excellence Framework demonstrates the quality of cutting-edge research at Bristol, meaning our teaching staff can share knowledge and experience from the forefront of their subject areas.

Professional development
Many of our taught programmes are designed for experienced professionals to support career development. These include an MSc in Teaching and Learning for Health Professionals, a range of MSc Education options for teachers in all curriculum areas and settings, and the MSc in Strategy, Change and Leadership, which will be of interest to business leaders. These programmes often provide flexible part-time study options, which means you can gain a qualification while continuing in full-time employment.

Global opportunities
Some of our postgraduate taught programmes offer the opportunity for field trips or research study abroad, such as the MSc Earthquake Engineering and Infrastructure Resilience or MSc Global Wildlife Health and Conservation.

Making your choice
You will find descriptions of all our taught postgraduate programmes, grouped by subject area, in the second half of this prospectus. If you would like to explore your options in greater depth, visit our online programme catalogue for a detailed summary of all programmes and units we offer, including topics covered, assessment methods and reading lists. Go to bristol.ac.uk/unit-programme-catalogue.
As part of the Russell Group, Bristol is proud to be one of the UK's leading universities, with an established record of producing groundbreaking research that makes an impact on society at local, national and international levels.

We have an excellent international reputation in research and are a member of the Worldwide Universities Network, a group of 23 research-led institutions of international standing. For details, please visit bristol.ac.uk/research/environment/alliances.

The Research Excellence Framework is the system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. In the latest submission (REF 2014), our research was shown to be of high quality and to have a major impact on society and the economy.

Our research programmes
There are a number of different types of postgraduate research degree on offer at Bristol. Besides the traditional PhD and research master’s degrees, the University offers a growing number of professional and extended doctoral programmes. For more information, please visit bristol.ac.uk/doctoral-college/prospective-research-students/types.

Master’s degrees by research (MMus, MPhil or MScR)
A master’s by research includes a structured research project where you explore research themes through critical analysis and in-depth study. These programmes can be a valuable foundation for starting a PhD.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
This is the most common qualification gained by a research student, normally representing three to four years of full-time study depending on the discipline. A PhD is awarded for the outcomes of advanced study, written up as an 80,000-word thesis, which demonstrates an original and significant contribution to knowledge.

Professional doctorates (EdD, EngD, DEdPsych, MD, DDS)
These qualifications are typically suited to professional practitioners already qualified to an advanced level in their area of specialism, who wish to deepen and challenge their understanding. They include EngD programmes designed to suit industry needs, where research engineers spend about 75 per cent of their time working in a company on collaborative research projects.

Funded doctoral training
As a leading research-intensive university, Bristol receives funding for doctoral education from a wide range of sources, and has one of the largest concentrations of funded Doctoral Training Partnerships and Centres in the UK. These often offer full scholarships for three to four years, and many are run in collaboration with other universities, or global companies, providing access to a wealth of resources. For further information about these programmes, please see pp 20-21.
Extended doctoral programmes
A growing number of students choose extended programmes (typically four years of study), which include specialist taught training and advanced research projects, often before selecting an area of particular interest to pursue to doctoral level. This route is especially popular in the science and engineering-based disciplines.

International dual PhD
Bristol offers a number of dual PhD opportunities for doctoral students. A dual PhD award is one which leads to separate, but linked, awards from two partner institutions within a co-supervised research degree programme. These opportunities provide an enhanced training experience that gives access to a wide range of academic expertise, research facilities and international networks.

Candidates are registered at the two universities for the full period of their study, write one thesis that is examined independently by each institution, and spend approximately 50 per cent of their programme at each location.

Bristol supervisors partner with colleagues from Australia, Mexico, Europe and South Africa and students are recruited to specific research projects. For more information, visit bristol.ac.uk/doctoral-college/partnerships.

Distance learning
Several of our schools offer the opportunity for you to complete your research degree via distance learning. Supervisors can be contacted by video link, telephone or email, while scheduled visits to the University provide opportunities for face-to-face contact.

Most of the library’s electronic resources – including journal archives, e-books and library catalogues – are available to use both on site and at a distance.

If you’re thinking about applying to study by distance learning, please contact the relevant school in the first instance to explore whether this is possible.

Supervisor search
Our website gives you the opportunity to find a PhD programme by searching the research interests of your potential supervisor. Go to bristol.ac.uk/pg-study to explore your options.
Funded doctoral training

Bristol has one of the largest concentrations of funding and support for doctoral research and training in the UK sector. There are more than 300 PhD studentships available each year across the whole spectrum of Bristol research.

Many of these studentships are nationally funded, with support from UK Research and Innovation and other major funders, including the Wellcome Trust and the British Heart Foundation, among others. This investment funding, coupled with our top-five position in the most recent UK-wide Research Excellence Framework*, means we can offer numerous opportunities for funded, world-class PhD research.

The studentships will often cover fees and living costs for successful candidates. Some doctoral programmes are delivered in collaboration with other universities and research organisations, or with regional and global companies, giving doctoral students access to a wealth of resources and opportunities.

Centres for Doctoral Training
In recent years, Bristol has led eight Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs), and was a partner in six additional collaborative CDTs. An application for continued funding for these programmes has been submitted to EPSRC and is being considered at the time of this prospectus going to press. Confirmation of funding from 2019-20 onwards will be available from December 2018. Please check bristol.ac.uk/pg-study for the most up-to-date information. CDTs that are supported by other funders in diverse areas across the sciences continue to offer research training opportunities.

Doctoral Training Partnerships
Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) are funded by the other UK research councils and typically span several universities.

In 2016, the Medical Research Council awarded £4.6 million to launch the GW4 BioMed Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), bringing together the Universities of Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter to develop the next generation of medical researchers.

The South, West and Wales Doctoral Training Partnership has been awarded £14.2 million by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. This DTP represents a collaboration with seven other universities and draws on the resources and expertise of non-academic partners such as BBC Drama, the National Trust and English Heritage.

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) funds the NERC Great Western Four+ Doctoral Training Partnership. This DTP is designed to train tomorrow’s research leaders in earth and environmental sciences. It brings together the four GW4 universities (Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter) and six research organisations with 24 associate partner organisations representing the full range of employers of NERC science PhD graduates.

The South West Biosciences Doctoral Training Partnership is one of 12 DTPs funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council to provide PhD training across the UK in areas of strategic relevance. It provides training in two priority areas: Agriculture and Food Security, and World-class Underpinning Bioscience.

The South West Doctoral Training Partnership represents a collaboration between the Universities of Bristol, Exeter, Bath, Plymouth and the West of England, bringing together social science academic leaders across 17 disciplinary and interdisciplinary pathways.

More information about all these options and more can be found at bristol.ac.uk/doctoral-college/prospective-research-students/funding.

*Times Higher Education analysis of Research Excellence Framework 2014
‘The staff are incredibly encouraging and provide all the support needed, whether academic or personal. The course itself brings together people from across different disciplines, which grants a fantastic opportunity to learn more about science from a different prospective.’

Agata (PhD Functional Nanomaterials)
Bristol Doctoral College grows, develops and supports our community of postgraduate researchers across all research programmes at the University of Bristol.

We work to ensure that the environment in which you carry out your research is supportive, that the skills training you receive is of the highest possible quality, and that you are well prepared for the next stage in your career.

To support our research community, we:

• co-ordinate a number of PhD scholarship schemes, such as the China Scholarship Council/University of Bristol joint scholarships programme;
• work with our extensive network of doctoral training centres to attract the best students to Bristol;
• develop a suite of PhD programmes with global partner universities that allows students to carry out research with both partner institutions;
• work to extend the opportunities for you to gain experience and to do research in collaboration with industry partners;
• hold an inauguration ceremony for our research students that celebrates their achievements and anticipates their contributions to our multidisciplinary research community.

Building a highly skilled community of researchers

Bristol’s outstanding research profile is underpinned by the contribution of our postgraduate researchers. Our team of dedicated staff supports a thriving and innovative interdisciplinary community of researchers.

We provide a co-ordinated, University-wide approach to doctoral training and researcher development. Our comprehensive programme of personal and professional development activities helps ensure that doctoral researchers excel in their studies. This programme was commended by the UK Quality Assurance Audit for Higher Education in 2016. From public speaking to project management, networking to writing quality papers, our programme of training also enables research students to develop the skills and competencies to succeed in their chosen career.

We organise a wide range of training sessions, collaborative events, interactive workshops and engagement opportunities, specifically designed for doctoral researchers. Our annual Research without Borders festival of postgraduate research enables doctoral students to showcase their research to the public, industry professionals and academic peers. The fortnightly BDC Bulletin keeps the postgraduate research community up to date with the latest news and opportunities across the University and beyond.

For more information about Bristol Doctoral College, visit bristol.ac.uk/doctoral-college.
Bristol's researchers share ideas and expertise to tackle global challenges, help solve practical problems and mentor future generations. Our pioneering academics are involved in addressing some of the world’s most pressing issues, from climate change to cardiovascular disease.
Seabed life promises new wave of antibiotics
The search is on for new antibiotics, with antimicrobial resistance now one of the world’s most pressing public health issues. Researchers from the Bristol BioDesign Institute have discovered microorganisms on the Pacific seabed that can produce molecules with potent antibiotic properties. This raises the prospect of producing a new generation of drugs to combat so-called superbugs – strains of bacteria that are resistant to current antibiotics.

At the cutting edge of 5G technology
Experts from Bristol, King’s College London and the University of Surrey are developing a world-class 5G technology test network to put Britain at the forefront of the next wave of mobile technology. 5G is expected to deliver reliable ultra-fast mobile connectivity and could be used in new technologies with the potential to revolutionise society, such as autonomous vehicles, augmented reality, remote surgery and smart homes.

Artificial snow makes big-screen debut
A new form of artificial snow is now being used in blockbuster movies, such as Murder on the Orient Express, thanks to a collaboration between the School of Chemistry and industry supplier Snow Business. Master’s student Lizzie Mould investigated hundreds of combinations of chemicals before finding the right formula to create realistic-looking snow that is safe, affordable and environmentally friendly.

Success in sight-saving treatment
The eye disease uveitis affects thousands of children every year – but a landmark trial has enabled worldwide access to new, sight-saving medication. Professor Athimalai A. Ramanan’s study team investigated the use of the drug adalimumab to control inflammation in the eye and reduce permanent damage. It was found to be so successful that NHS England gave immediate approval for access to the treatment across England. It has been licensed for use in Europe and this may soon be replicated in the US.

More summer sunshine leading to increased Greenland ice melt
A team of scientists led by the University of Bristol has discovered that a marked decrease in summer cloud cover over the past 20 years has significantly accelerated melt from the Greenland ice sheet. The researchers found that since 1995 Greenland has lost about 4,000 gigatons of ice, which has become the biggest single contributor to the rise in global sea levels.

bristol.ac.uk/pg-study
Bristol is ranked in the top 50 most international universities in the world (Times Higher Education, 2018)

‘Just like the city, the University is a beautiful mixture of cultures and ideas from all over the world.’

Chara (PhD Translational Health Sciences)
We welcome students from all over the world, and Bristol’s vibrant, multicultural community helps to create a friendly and safe environment in which to live and study. Together with our international outlook and the worldwide impact of our research, this is what makes Bristol a truly global university.

**Our international community**

Of the 6,000 postgraduates studying at Bristol in 2017/18, more than a third were from outside the UK. Our Students’ Union societies will help you to meet other students and feel at home. There are more than 40 different cultural organisations that build links between students from countries across Asia, Europe, Africa and North and South America.

You will find Bristol to be a forward-looking, dynamic and innovative city. It has an international and diverse population, with 91 languages spoken and 187 countries of birth represented.

**Preparing to come to Bristol**

Our international recruitment team offers guidance and information on our range of programmes, entry requirements and scholarships. Throughout the year, representatives from the team travel the world to meet prospective students and answer queries. Details of where we are visiting can be found at [bristol.ac.uk/international/countries/visits.html](http://bristol.ac.uk/international/countries/visits.html).

During arrivals weekend, we provide a meet-and-greet service at Heathrow and Bristol Airports. In the Richmond Building, the International Welcome Lounge is a place where you can relax and get to know your fellow students, and where advisers are on hand to answer your questions. The Student Visa Services team is here to support you from the moment you accept an offer of a place right through to graduation in securing and ensuring you comply with your UK student visa. For advice and information, please visit [bristol.ac.uk/directory/visas](http://bristol.ac.uk/directory/visas).

**English language requirements**

If your first language is not English, you will need to reach a suitable standard in an approved English language test; visit [bristol.ac.uk/pg-language-requirements](http://bristol.ac.uk/pg-language-requirements).

**Working in partnership**

Bristol benefits from research and teaching partnerships with universities across the world. We are part of the Russell Group of research-intensive UK universities, the Worldwide Universities Network, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, and the Coimbra group. We will continue to improve our strong record of international collaboration across our teaching and research, including the development of dual PhD awards.

Our research has far-reaching global impact. For example, findings from the School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies on the importance of civil participation in post-conflict states are widely employed from the Balkans and Afghanistan to sub-Saharan Africa. Meanwhile, geophysicists are using satellites to provide advance warning of eruptions from forgotten volcanoes around the world, thanks to Dr Juliet Biggs and colleagues in the School of Earth Sciences. And strategic animal husbandry changes developed by our researchers have been adapted for use in New Zealand, a major dairy producer with over 11,000 farms and 4.5 million cows.

[bristol.ac.uk/pg-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/pg-study)
A postgraduate degree from Bristol is the start of an exciting career journey. Our postgraduates go on to become inspiring and influential leaders in a huge variety of fields.

Specialists at the University’s Careers Service support postgraduates through expert knowledge, tailored events and strong links with leading employers. Postgraduates at Bristol have many opportunities to meet employers from industry, business, local start-ups and third sector organisations. Our Careers Service runs discipline-specific careers fairs, which attract industry leaders. As a Bristol postgraduate you are strongly encouraged to build a professional network in your chosen career.

Get ahead
We understand that as a postgraduate, your career aspirations and ambitions may be different from those of an undergraduate. Specific postgraduate events, vacancies and resources will help you realise your ambitions, make well-informed career decisions, and learn how to articulate the skills you develop during your postgraduate degree. Creating an exceptional CV will be one of your starting points. Our expert Careers Service staff run talks for postgraduates on academic and non-academic CVs, as well as giving one-to-one CV feedback.

Challenge accepted
Discovering the range of opportunities open to you as a postgraduate should be fun and inspiring. Whether you’re attending a talk on options after your PhD or organising a conference, the Bristol PLUS Award offers a framework to help you structure your career planning and skills development. Visit bristol.ac.uk/careers/employable/plus-award to find out more.

Take some risks
Bristol postgraduates are fantastic problem solvers and we actively encourage the innovators and entrepreneurs of the future. Bristol has a reputation as a leading centre for creativity and technical innovation, and the Careers Service can support you to become part of this. We offer business masterclasses, workshops, start-up support, competitions and one-to-one enterprise consultations. We also provide access to the award-winning SETsquared partnership, which has links with a team of consultants and external business advisers: bristol.ac.uk/careers/student-enterprise.
‘My MSc and PhD at Bristol have made me an excellent thinker and improved both my team and independent working skills. I intend to go into teaching and research at some point in my career.’

Awal (PhD Veterinary Sciences)
Bristol SU, our Students’ Union, exists to help all students have the best possible time while they are at Bristol.

Led by students, we are central to the University experience and support all aspects of student life:

- We represent students’ views to the University through elected student officers and course reps.
- We support student development through more than 330 sports clubs and societies (covering international relations to hot air ballooning).
- We provide a buzzing social hub for students, in the Richmond Building and beyond – everything from club nights to debates and conferences.
- We provide quality services, such as our lettings agency and our Just Ask advice service.
- Whatever your need, we can help. If we aren’t currently providing what you need us to, come and speak to us and we’ll see if we can make it happen.

**The Richmond Building**
The Richmond Building, home of the Students’ Union, has hundreds of study spaces and is where you’ll find The Balloon, your student bar.

It also houses one of the city’s biggest gig venues, two theatres, dance studios, rehearsal rooms, a pottery studio, a photography darkroom and a swimming pool.

**Bristol SU Postgraduate Network**
All postgraduates (both research and taught) are automatically members of Bristol SU Postgraduate Network, a student-led initiative that seeks to develop an active, strong and vibrant postgraduate community at Bristol.

The Postgraduate Network provides a real chance for students to shape and develop Bristol postgraduate community life together. Its cohesive and supportive nature inspires postgraduate students to get involved in organising and attending social events, and provides a platform for students to influence the decisions made and priorities set by Bristol SU and the University of Bristol.

You may also decide to stand for one of the elected representative roles to help shape the postgraduate experience.

* [@Bristol_SU](https://twitter.com/Bristol_SU)
* [bristolsu](https://www.facebook.com/bristolsu)
* [@bristol_su](https://www.instagram.com/bristol_su)
* [bristolsu.org.uk](http://bristolsu.org.uk)
Whether you are looking to offer your time to help a charity, bring sport to the local community or try something new while keeping fit with friends, you’ll find something at Bristol that matches your interests, abilities and experience.

**Staying active**
Bristol’s excellent sports and fitness facilities will help you stay on top of your game in an environment that promotes a proactive approach to sports, health and wellbeing. Our range of monthly and annual memberships offers great value for money, giving you free or discounted access to the University’s extensive sports facilities.

These include:
- the Indoor Sports Centre on the Clifton campus, which recently underwent a £4.9 million refurbishment and features a state-of-the-art gym, CrossFit-style rig studios, a sports hall and a sports medicine clinic;
- a 33-metre swimming pool in the Richmond Building;
- outdoor sports facilities at Coombe Dingle Sports Complex, featuring 3G, artificial and grass pitches for a range of sports, indoor and outdoor tennis courts and a fully equipped strength and conditioning suite;
- a rowing club boathouse at Saltford on the River Avon;
- on-site gyms at Langford Veterinary School, and at the Hiatt Baker Hall and Badock Hall student residences;
- a range of free and low-cost fitness classes from the B:Active Campus and Residences programmes.

**Join a team**
Bristol SU has more than 70 sports clubs and societies, ranging from cycling to Ultimate Frisbee, and from netball to skydiving. This means plenty of opportunities to play sport – at university representative level, in the intramural leagues or just for fun.

**Performance Sports Squad**
Our Performance Squad programme supports and develops the journey of student athletes who are combining sporting and academic excellence while studying. Members develop a personal action plan, supported by services such as strength and conditioning, nutrition advice, coaching and mentoring. The squad’s alumni include Olympians, Commonwealth medallists and world champions.

**Volunteering**
Volunteering is a great way to build confidence, develop your skills and make the most of your university experience. It is easy to get involved and there are dozens of opportunities – both student-led projects and links to charities and community groups across Bristol and beyond. In 2016, Bristol SU Volunteering was awarded the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work in their communities.

**Green Gown award**
In 2017, Bristol students were awarded a prestigious International Green Gown award for their work alongside businesses and voluntary organisations to improve the environment. In total, students gave over 140,000 hours of their time to sustainability projects, such as teaching in primary schools or volunteering with wildlife conservation groups.
Eight Bristol alumni competed at the 2016 Olympic Games, including gold medallists Georgie Twigg (pictured) and Hannah Mills.
Our Accommodation Office will help you find somewhere to live, and can advise you on both University and private accommodation throughout your time at Bristol.

We offer an advice service for students with particular housing needs, such as students with disabilities and those with young families. Details of all our services, including films of our residences, can be found at [bristol.ac.uk/accommodation](http://bristol.ac.uk/accommodation).

**Accommodation options**

**University-allocated accommodation**
The University offers around 1,500 self-catered single rooms for postgraduate students, all located within walking distance of the University. If you are accompanied by a partner or family, you can apply for one of a small number of University couple and family flats. The online application process starts in May and offers will be emailed from July; please check our website for further information.

**Private rented accommodation**
There is a good supply of accommodation available from private landlords in Bristol. The Accommodation Office provides information and guidance about renting privately and can point you to websites where landlords and students advertise for tenants. We also run a residential house search event in August, giving you the opportunity to meet other postgraduates and to look for private rented accommodation as an individual or with other students as a group.

**Accommodation guarantee**
We guarantee to offer you University-allocated accommodation for one year provided that you:

- are paying fees at the overseas rate;
- apply by the given deadline;
- are unaccompanied;
- have accepted an offer of a place of study;
- are a new, full-time student in your first year of study at the University of Bristol;
- will be starting your studies in September and will be here for a full academic year.

Please be aware that the guarantee does not apply to students who pay fees at the UK/EU rate. However, you may still be able to apply for University-allocated accommodation even if you do not meet the criteria for a guaranteed offer. From August, we will email all non-guaranteed applicants with updates on the availability of University accommodation and information about alternative housing options.

**Support you’ll receive**
All postgraduate students living in University-allocated accommodation have the support of pastoral staff, who are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The team is trained to provide a wide range of expert help, including advice and practical guidance on wellbeing; community-building and student development activities; and student support and mentoring. Building representatives are also on site in case there’s an issue with damage to your room or flat or if something needs to be repaired. For more information on the support available, visit [bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/student-life/wellbeing](http://bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/student-life/wellbeing).
'I’d advise any student coming to Bristol to make the most of your university experience by embracing all the possibilities you can. Join societies, make friends and attend extra-curricular events.'

**Anderson** (PhD Civil Engineering)
We want you to get the most out of your time at university, and aim to provide a safe, supportive environment in which you can reach your potential.

Our comprehensive network of support services is available across the University: in our residences, our academic schools and through central services such as student counselling and student health. Together, they ensure you have access to academic, personal and practical support throughout your studies.

Support for your wellbeing
We can support you in managing your own wellbeing as well as putting you in touch with support services when you need them.

- **In your school** – student wellbeing advisers work with academic personal tutors, supervisors and other staff to address any personal and emotional difficulties you might experience, helping you to make the most of your academic studies.

- **In your residence** – Each of our Residential Villages is supported by a team of full-time support staff, who are trained to provide a visible and approachable source of expert help 24/7, 365 days a year. The team also includes 120 Chief and Senior Residents who live in our residences and provide a familiar face and peer support for their fellow students.

- **With your health** – the Students’ Health Service offers the full range of NHS GP services. It is run by a team of doctors, nurses and administrative staff with specific expertise in student issues.

- **With a disability** – students who come to Bristol with ongoing health conditions, mental health or specific learning difficulties, autism spectrum conditions, sensory impairments or mobility difficulties can access additional advice and support from Disability Services. It is best to make contact early to find out what support is available and how to access it.

- **With your faith and spirituality** – the Multifaith Chaplaincy offers confidential pastoral and spiritual support, religious information and advice, regular events, and a welcoming space for people of all faiths and none.

**Health and wellbeing**
Making the transition to a new university can be challenging. We offer a range of services to support you in managing your health and wellbeing. As well as helping you to access local NHS services, our Student Counselling Service provides group and individual counselling. We encourage students with enduring mental health and ongoing health conditions to notify us early on in the application process so we can help with setting up the appropriate support networks in advance.

As a University of Bristol student, you will also have access to Big White Wall, a free, online service, available all day, every day, allowing you to chat to others, access tools, set goals and track progress.

For more information about support services at Bristol, please visit bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/student-life/wellbeing.
Part of a safe environment
We do not tolerate any form of bullying, harassment or victimisation and we are committed to providing a fair and safe environment in which students can study and socialise. We have an online tool for reporting incidents and our round-the-clock Security Service operates 365 days a year to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff.

Support for students with children
Our subsidised day nursery is located on the Clifton campus. It can accommodate children from three months to five years old and is open weekdays throughout the year.

Welcoming international students
During arrivals weekend, we provide a meet-and-greet service at Heathrow and Bristol Airports. When you arrive at the University, you can relax and get to know your fellow students in the International Welcome Lounge, where advisers are on hand to answer questions.
If you are considering a postgraduate degree, it's a good idea to think about funding as soon as possible. We can provide advice about funding postgraduate study and details of the living expenses you will need to budget for while you’re here.

**Postgraduate loans**
Students from England can take out a government loan to help pay for their master’s programme. This scheme is administered by the Student Loans Company. As a guide, in 2018/19 students could borrow up to £10,609. Students from other parts of the UK could borrow other amounts, depending on the relevant government stipulations. Students from the EU may also qualify for a loan if they satisfy the UK government’s residency requirements. PhD students ordinarily resident in England can take out a government loan (up to £25,000 in 2018/19) towards the costs of their studies.

For more details on these loans, please visit [bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/postgraduate](http://bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/postgraduate).

**Professional and Career Development Loan**
Professional and Career Development Loans are bank loans to pay for courses and training that help with your career or help get you into work. You may be able to borrow between £300 and £10,000. Loans are usually offered at a reduced interest rate and the government pays interest while you’re studying. Visit [www.gov.uk/career-development-loans](http://www.gov.uk/career-development-loans). The loan scheme will close to new applications on 25 January 2019.

**University of Bristol alumni scholarship**
If you are a University of Bristol student or graduate, you could benefit from a ten per cent reduction in your tuition fees for postgraduate study at Bristol. For full details and eligibility requirements, visit [bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/awards/alumni-discount](http://bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/awards/alumni-discount).

**Studentships**
Studentships are vacancies attached to specific research projects or fields and include opportunities for dual PhDs (with co-funding provided by world-class international universities) and industrial collaborations (supported by leading business partners). Our available studentships are typically advertised on faculty web pages or [www.jobs.ac.uk/employer/university-of-bristol/phd](http://www.jobs.ac.uk/employer/university-of-bristol/phd).

**Scholarships and bursaries**
The University offers a number of scholarships and awards to postgraduate research students. Some funding is programme-specific; you could also contact your prospective department to find out if it offers any other awards. Visit [bristol.ac.uk/doctoral-college/prospective-research-students/funding](http://bristol.ac.uk/doctoral-college/prospective-research-students/funding).

**Trusts and charities**
The Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding ([www.postgraduate-funding.com](http://www.postgraduate-funding.com)) provides contact information for a wide range of charities and organisations that offer grants for postgraduate study. As a prospective student, you can access the guide for free. Email careers-service@bristol.ac.uk to request your PIN.

**Cohort-based doctoral training**
Bristol’s research-intensive profile and reputation has helped us to secure funding for 29 cohort-based doctoral research and training centres from all of the UK’s research councils and other funding bodies. See pp20-21 to find out more.
INTRODUCTION

FUNDING
We welcome applications from talented candidates of all backgrounds and we are committed to promoting equal opportunities.

Choose your programme
Browse this prospectus and the online programme finder to find a programme that you are interested in. Check the online programme catalogue for full details of unit titles and content.

Visit Bristol
If you want to find out more about studying at Bristol, our annual university-wide postgraduate open day takes place in November. We also hold regular tours, talks and cafés on campus for prospective postgraduate students.

Begin your application
For most programmes, you will need to apply using our online application system. Check the information for your chosen programme carefully in case there is an alternative method of application. There are specific application deadlines for each programme, but you are encouraged to apply early as places may fill before the deadline.
Make a research proposal
Check the admissions statement for your chosen programme to see if you are required to identify an area of research that you are interested in. You should consider the supervision interests of members of staff in the relevant department when writing your statement.

Submit your application
As part of the online application, you will need to submit additional supporting documents. You should read the programme admissions statement thoroughly to ensure you have included all required documents.

Check your progress
For taught postgraduate programmes, we aim to make a decision on complete applications within 21 days. For research programmes, we aim to get in touch with you within five days. You can check the progress of your application using the online application system.

Further details

Your application
We offer an online application system for all our programmes (except the PGCE, for which you will need to apply via the UCAS website). Begin your application at bristol.ac.uk/pg-howtoapply. If you wish to apply for more than one programme, you must make a separate application for each. Please contact the relevant department if you intend to make more than one application.

Entry requirements can be found in the admissions statement for your chosen programme. Application deadlines will be stated in the online programme finder; however, you should try to apply as early as possible because places are limited and programmes may fill up. If you are applying for funding, check with your funding body for any additional deadlines.

What you need to provide
Whichever programme you are applying for, there are standard documents that you must provide with your application. Some of these are listed below. Please see the admissions statement for specific programme requirements.

- You should submit a minimum of two academic references dated within the past two years. These should be from someone who oversaw your degree studies. References must be written, signed and dated on headed paper from the referee’s organisation, and include the referee’s full contact details. They should be submitted by the referee using our online form.

- If you graduated more than two years ago, we may accept professional references to support your application. In this case, it is advisable to include a CV with your application to show your employment history. You may submit additional references that are directly relevant to your chosen programme. You may also submit additional professional references from work related to the subject you have applied for (including industrial placements, if applicable).

- You should submit interim official transcripts of marks or final official degree certificates and final official transcripts of marks. University degree transcripts must show an overall current average or your final grade. Transcripts must be official certified documents from your university, showing all the grades for individual units or essays and exams throughout your degree. Diploma supplements (i.e. Bologna degrees) should be included if applicable.

bristol.ac.uk/pg-apply
English language certificates are required if English is not your native language and your undergraduate degree was not taught entirely in an English-speaking country. View the list of English-speaking countries at bristol.ac.uk/study/language-requirements/english-countries. If you need to meet English language requirements, you can use any of the accepted methods at bristol.ac.uk/study/language-requirements.

Making a research proposal
If you are proposing your own area of research, you will need to identify that area in a research proposal. You should find a suitable supervisor using our research supervisor search function at bristol.ac.uk/pg-study and contact them to discuss your ideas before submitting your proposal.

A good research proposal includes information about the academic impact of your research, as well as the material or data you will need to access. You should include details of relevant skills and how you will manage your time at the University. Your proposal can be amended as you refine your study with us.

Studentships, professional doctorates and Doctoral Training Centre applications
Many studentships (funding to cover research degree fees and sometimes including support to help with living costs) are advertised on www.jobs.ac.uk/jobs/studentships. Professional doctorates and funded doctoral training programmes are listed on pp20-21. To apply for a studentship or professional doctorate, you should speak to the relevant supervisor or programme director before making your application online. To apply for one of the funded doctoral training programmes, please check bristol.ac.uk/docrtoral-college/centres for further information.

Assessing your application
Your application will be processed by our faculty and school admissions teams. You can use the online application system to keep track of the progress of your application, view the decision and, if applicable, accept our offer of admission. We aim to make decisions on applications to most taught postgraduate programmes within 21 days and to get in touch with research applicants within five days of receiving an application. For more information on our admissions policies, please visit bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/after-you-apply/policies.

Visas for international applicants
If you are from outside the EU/EEA, you may need to apply for a Tier 4 visa with sponsorship from the University. For information on visa criteria, visit the UK Visas and Immigration website (www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/student-visas) and the University website (bristol.ac.uk/directory/visas). Some science and engineering programmes require an Academic Technology Approval Scheme certificate. For further information, visit www.gov.uk/academic-technology-approval-scheme.
Tuition fees are reviewed each year and will depend on your programme of study and fee status. We classify all students as UK, EU or overseas for fees purposes.

The amount you pay for tuition fees and the financial support on offer will depend on your classification. You can find further information and advice on fees classification at bristol.ac.uk/fee-status.

Tuition fees
Wherever possible, up-to-date fees are provided with each programme entry in this prospectus. Fees are quoted per year and are subject to annual review, so are liable to rise each year. Please budget for up to a five per cent increase per year. The tuition fee itself covers charges for tuition, examination and registration, and a contribution towards the cost of membership of the Students’ Union. Self-funded international students accepting a place on a taught postgraduate programme will generally need to pay a fee deposit of £1,500. All students accepting a place on MSc Public Health will need to pay a fee deposit of £1,500.

Tuition fees can be paid in full at registration or in two instalments. Payment may be made online, by direct debit or by credit/debit card. For further details, email student-fees@bristol.ac.uk or call the Student Fees Office on +44 (0)117 954 6372.

For information on online payments please visit bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/tuition-fees/payment.

Additional fees
Some programmes charge a bench fee in addition to tuition fees. Bench fees cover specific extra costs, usually associated with specialist laboratory or field work. If there is a bench fee for the programme you are interested in, this will be stated on the relevant page of our online programme finder: bristol.ac.uk/pg-study.

Some postgraduate research programmes charge a fee related to submission of the final thesis or extension of the usual period of registration.

Cost of living
Living costs in Bristol are higher than in some other parts of the country, although less than in London. Currently, postgraduate students might need around £850-£950 per month in addition to tuition fees. You will need to think about accommodation, food, utilities, books, entertainment and other costs. For more information about living costs, please see bristol.ac.uk/living-expenses.

Part-time work
For many students, part-time or vacation work is a way of boosting finances, while also helping to develop transferable skills in preparation for your future career. Our Careers Service can help you find the right job and advise you on your rights. To find out more, visit bristol.ac.uk/careers/find-and-apply/job-search.
Visit us

There are many ways you can meet us to talk about your interests and find out more about what Bristol can offer you.

Visiting the University of Bristol

Postgraduate open events
We hold an annual institution-wide postgraduate open day in November and a range of smaller events throughout the year. To find out about our events, visit our website: bristol.ac.uk/pg-visits.

Postgraduate campus tours
We offer campus tours specifically for prospective postgraduate students. These are available on request and can be tailored to suit your interests. To request a tour, please email us: postgraduate-recruitment@bristol.ac.uk.

Contact your department
If you’ve already applied for a programme, or you are keen to meet with a supervisor, you can contact the relevant department using the details found on our online prospectus. You may even be able to arrange a private visit to discuss your options. Find the contact details for the departments you’re interested in: bristol.ac.uk/pg-study.

Self-guided tour
If you’re not able to arrange an official visit, you can still come and visit our campus. Our self-guided tour will take you around the brightest spots on campus, and give you a taste of what it’s like to be a student here: bristol.ac.uk/pg-visits.

Virtual visits
If you are unable to visit the University of Bristol in person, you can explore our exceptional facilities and services using our virtual events system: bristol.ac.uk/pg-visits.

Attending a postgraduate fair near you

In the UK
We attend a range of postgraduate fairs in the UK throughout the academic year. If you’re not able to make it to Bristol, why not check our website to find out when we will next be near you? bristol.ac.uk/pg-visits.

Overseas
If you’re not based in the UK, you can still meet representatives from the University without travelling to us. Find out when our international recruitment advisers will be visiting your country: bristol.ac.uk/international/visit.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name</th>
<th>Floor</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation Office</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation (postgraduate)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chantry Court</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
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<td>Harbour Court</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>Orchard Heights</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>The Courtrooms</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
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<td>Woodland Court</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting and Finance</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerospace Engineering</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology and Anthropology</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Social Sciences Library</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beacon House</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Sciences Building</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol Centre for Complexity Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol Doctoral College</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol Glaciology Centre</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol SU Lettings</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabot Institute</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careers Service</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for Applied Anatomy</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for Child and Adolescent Health</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for English Language and Foundation Studies</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellular and Molecular Medicine</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Engineering</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classics and Ancient History</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Research and Imaging Centre</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Centre</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental School</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Hodgkin Building</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Sciences</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics, Finance and Management</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical and Electronic Engineering</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Blackwell Institute for Health Research</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Mathematics</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise, Nutrition and Health Sciences</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experimental Psychology</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film and Television</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical Sciences</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorns, The</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heilbronn Institute for Mathematical Research</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Art</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol Heart Institute (BHI)</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol Royal Infirmary (BRI)</td>
<td>84, 95, 97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Hospital</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye Hospital</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Michael's Hospital</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law School</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Sciences Building</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical School</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchant Venturers Building</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifaith Chaplaincy Centre</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanoscience and Quantum Information, Bristol Centre for</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuroendocrinology, Research Centre for</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Studies</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Health Sciences</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen's Building</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion and Theology</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate House</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences Complex</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology, Politics and International Studies</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West Doctoral Training Centre</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport, Exercise and Health</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Counselling Service</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Funding Office</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students’ Health Service</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students’ Union</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translational Health Sciences</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Sciences, Langford</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Sciences (Pre-Clinical)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wickham Theatre</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wills Memorial Building</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[bristol.ac.uk/maps]
Travel

Bristol is located in the south west of the United Kingdom, about 100 miles (160 kilometres) west of London, and has excellent road, rail and air links. The main University campus is at the heart of the city and is easily accessible by public and private transport.

By car
Bristol has excellent road links, enabling easy access to the city from all over the UK. The M4 and M5 motorways put London and Birmingham within a two-hour drive, while the M32 allows direct access from the M4 into the heart of the city. You can find more detailed directions to the University campus at bristol.ac.uk/maps/directions.

By train
Bristol has two main railway stations – Bristol Temple Meads and Bristol Parkway; we advise you arrive at Temple Meads as it is much closer to the main University campus in Clifton. The number 8 and 9 bus services run to the campus from Bristol Temple Meads every 10-15 minutes at peak times. The journey should take about 25 minutes. If you wish to walk from Temple Meads, it will take around 30-40 minutes and involves an uphill climb.

By plane
Bristol Airport is 13 kilometres south of the city and operates scheduled flights between many UK and European cities. There is a direct National Express coach service between London Heathrow, London Gatwick and Bristol. Alternatively, there are good rail connections from Heathrow and Gatwick Airports to London National Rail terminals. The train journey from London Paddington to Bristol Temple Meads takes just under two hours.

How to find us
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The University values its students and works to provide the support structures and opportunities that will enable you to excel in every aspect of your life and make your time at Bristol a genuinely transformative experience. To help create a positive environment for learning and academic achievement, the University has established various rules and regulations that all students must follow if they accept an offer of a place to study with us. These rules and regulations include a Student Agreement, which sets out the relationship between the University of Bristol and its students. Copies of the current versions of the agreement and other policies are available at bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/after-you-apply/policies.

If you need all or part of this publication in an alternative format, please contact the Student Marketing Office, tel +44 (0)117 394 1573 or email student-marketing@bristol.ac.uk

This guide contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2019. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (July 2018). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University’s website, bristol.ac.uk/pg-study, for the latest updates.

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