Discover more about Bristol Futures

If you have any questions about Bristol Futures, degree courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact:

Enquiries Team
Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649
Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

If you need all or part of this publication in an alternative format please contact
Student Marketing:
Tel +44 (0)117 394 1573
Email ug-publications@bristol.ac.uk

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Welcome to your Bristol Future

Bristol Futures is a unique initiative that will enrich your university experience. Through new course content, professional and community engagement and a fresh approach to core academic skills, you will develop as a highly informed and adaptable graduate.

Bristol Futures has a reputation for being a leading, research-intensive university. We combine our rigorous approach to learning with an innovative edge that reflects the forward-thinking, independent spirit of our city.

Bristol Futures reflects this approach in a pioneering new curriculum enrichment programme. Designed by students, staff, employers and alumni, Bristol Futures encourages you to broaden your university experience and strengthen your skills.

Through Bristol Futures you will develop the qualities you need to thrive beyond university. Skills development, multidisciplinary working and professional and community engagement will equip you with intellectual tools and real-world insight. You’ll be prepared to take the experiences and education you receive at Bristol into your ever-changing, global society.

We want you, as a Bristol student, to understand your responsibilities and your environment so you can live and work effectively and with integrity. Bristol Futures ensures you graduate from Bristol ready not just for your job or career but for your life.

Bristol Futures pathways
Bristol Futures is built around three personal and professional development pathways.

Innovation and enterprise
Using problem-solving and innovation skills, learn to adapt effectively to diverse situations and possibilities. Recognise opportunities and use your creativity to shape and influence the world you want to live in.

Global citizenship
Understand different environments, cultures, languages and perspectives to become an informed and adaptable graduate in a diverse and ever-changing world.

Sustainable futures
Reflect on how to live ethically and sustainably and how you can define and shape your role within your society and your environment to make a significant contribution to the future.

These pathways will be interwoven within degree subjects, new units, placement opportunities and projects.

The Bristol Skills Framework, our personal and professional development framework, underpins Bristol Futures and enables you to apply the pathways in a practical way.

From 2018 students will be able to take part in Bristol Futures and it will become a formal part of all courses from 2019.

Exploring your discipline
All our degrees are aligned to Bristol Futures meaning that it will be an integral part of your study. Throughout your time at Bristol we will challenge you to explore your subject in innovative ways and apply your knowledge to real-world problems so that you develop a keen awareness of the use and value of your disciplinary knowledge.

Bristol Futures units
On many of our degree courses you will be able to choose from a tailored suite of multidisciplinary Bristol Futures units. These units emphasise problem-based challenges and offer you the chance to apply your academic expertise to new situations. You might want to dive deeper into your own subject through units that enhance and extend your specialist knowledge. Alternatively, you could challenge yourself by taking units outside of your discipline, working in new learning communities with students from other degree subjects.

Identifying your skills and attributes
Throughout your studies you will work with your personal tutor to evaluate your development within the Bristol Skills Framework. A personal development plan will enable you to record and evidence your skills and identify areas for improvement.

The Bristol Skills Framework includes enhanced support for core academic skills. You will have easy access to academic support, helping you make the step up to degree-level study and develop as an effective, independent learner.

As you progress through your degree, the framework will support you in recognising and developing the transferable skills you need to take your next steps. Whether you choose to progress to graduate employment, start your own enterprise, or further explore your academic discipline, Bristol Futures will help you find your path. The Bristol Skills Framework will teach you to identify and articulate the unique contribution you can make as a Bristol graduate.

Shaping your experience
We will provide opportunities for you to develop your skills beyond the University through professional and community projects, placements and internships. Through Bristol Futures you will gain experience in learning and reflecting with others, adding greater breadth to your study and enhancing your academic knowledge through hands-on practice.

You can extend your involvement through activities such as the Bristol PLUS Award, which is supported by employers and offers recognition for personal development beyond your course.

Bristol Futures open courses
Our four-week, online open courses are aligned to the three Bristol Futures pathways. These courses are a jumping-off point to bigger things. We will encourage you to apply your ingenuity and seek out creative opportunities to take your learning further through student-led activities, shaped by you.