

## Guidance for Development and Approval of Bristol Futures Open Units

Open units are a category of units which are available broadly to students in certain programmes. They fall into two groups:

1. **Interdisciplinary (Bristol Futures Open)** units. These units provide students with opportunities to broaden their horizons outside the disciplinary areas of their programmes. Many of these units are oriented towards addressing global challenges and issues which are interdisciplinary by nature (e.g. climate change, inequality, migration, slavery). Staff on these units are typically drawn from multiple schools and the teaching is often based around group-based and problem-based activities where students work in authentic settings with students from other disciplines.
2. **University Wide Language Programme (UWLP)** units provide the opportunity for students to broaden their horizons by learning a modern language during their degree.

### Criteria for Bristol Futures Open Units (not including UWLP)

New open units will be intellectually interdisciplinary, and it is desirable for teaching to be drawn from more than one school. The subject areas of these units will appeal to students across disciplines. They will fall into one of the two categories specified above and they must be developed in line with the criteria set out below:

- Interdisciplinarity in nature, for example Black Lives Matter, climate change, global health
- Link to Bristol Futures themes and aim to tackle the key challenges in Global Citizenship, Sustainable Futures and Innovation and Enterprise.
- Blended delivery (synchronous face-to-face and asynchronous online activities)
- Some teaching will be scheduled on a Wednesday afternoon. Students will be offered the option to opt out of Wednesday afternoon timetabled sessions in place of alternative sessions, for example if they have other commitments.
- New Open Units should fit with the existing portfolio of open units, filling gaps in student demand or proposing new social and global challenges for their focus.

### Approval process for Bristol Futures Open Units

University-level approval is required for new Bristol Futures Open Units. New Bristol Futures Open Units must first be approved by the owning school, before being approved by the relevant Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee and finally, University Teaching and Learning Committee (ULTC) approval is required.

The case for a new Open Unit should be made on the standard new unit form. Proposers should demonstrate the criteria above have been met.

The ULTC will consider the case for how the new Open Unit meets the criteria for Open Units and how the new unit fits with the existing portfolio of Open Units. Consideration will also be given to the impact on Timetabling and the viability of running an additional unit; potential overlap with existing Open Units; disciplinary spread and diversity of the overall offering.

### Contact for queries and further help

Please contact [agpo-info@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:agpo-info@bristol.ac.uk) with any queries regarding this guidance.