Adults returning to education

The University of Bristol offers tailored support for adults interested in entering higher education.

We offer:
• Flexible short courses (no qualifications needed)
• A Foundation Year in Arts and Social Sciences (no qualifications needed)
• A wide range of degrees which accept Access to HE Diplomas and recent level 3 qualifications

Get in touch to receive personalised information and guidance on how to apply:
E: mature-students@bristol.ac.uk
T: +44 (0)117 394 1048

bristol.ac.uk/mature
What are my options?

I have few or no formal qualifications

Prepare for a degree: at the University of Bristol

Short courses
- If you’re wondering about time commitment or cost, our short courses will let you try out studying and build confidence.
- We offer short courses in Education, English, History, Philosophy and Social Policy. These courses run in the local Bristol area, one evening a week.
- Students who complete the course are encouraged to apply to our Foundation Year in Arts and Social Sciences.

Foundation Year in Arts and Social Sciences
- If you do not have standard qualifications, or have no prior qualifications, you can apply to our Foundation Year in Arts and Social Sciences.
- This one-year course is taught on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 10 am to 3pm at the University.
- Satisfactory completion allows students to progress to a number of undergraduate degrees in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Prepare for a degree: at a local college

Access to Higher Education Diploma
- Access to HE Diplomas are designed with adults in mind and provide preparation in specific subjects.
- These one-year full-time courses are available at most local colleges, including: Bath College, Bridgewater and Taunton College, City of Bristol College, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College and Weston College.

I have working towards a qualification

Apply for an undergraduate degree
- We offer a wide range of degrees, in fields such as science, engineering, health sciences, arts and social science.
- Most of our undergraduate degrees require evidence of recent study.
- Entry requirements vary per course and can be found on individual course pages: [bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate](http://bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate)

Tips for mature students with existing qualifications
- The accepted amount of time passed since completing your last qualification varies for each course.
- Some courses require study within the last year, whereas others require study within the last five years.
- You can view individual course requirements in our admissions statements: [bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/admissions-statements](http://bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/admissions-statements)

Tips for Access to HE Diploma students
- It’s a good idea to check that your Access subjects are suitable for your chosen degree course.
- Applicants must be on track to meet the Access to HE Diploma offer stated on individual course pages.
- We encourage mature students to submit their UCAS application while undertaking their Access to HE course.

‘I was nervous about returning to study after over a decade in the working world, but it has ended up being one of the best experiences of my life […] There is so much support for mature students, both academically and socially’.

Steven King (BSc Pharmacology)

For full-time undergraduate degrees, you need to apply through UCAS: [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- **15 October**: Deadline for medicine, veterinary science, and dentistry.
- **15 January**: Deadline for most full-time undergraduate degrees.
- A number of our full-time undergraduate degree courses can be studied on a part-time basis.
- We are developing new, flexible ways of studying at undergraduate level, which includes a BA in English Literature and Community Engagement studied one evening per week for six years.
Mature student support

Who to contact?
The Mature Student Recruitment Officer provides guidance to prospective mature students at the pre-application stage.
E: mature-students@bristol.ac.uk
T: +44 (0)117 394 1048

When you are enrolled as a mature student, you can get support from the Mature Students’ and Peer Support Adviser for the duration of your studies.

Find out about the support available: bristol.ac.uk/students/new/mature

Financial support

Tuition fees
• If you take out a loan from the government (Student Finance England), this will cover your tuition fees and you will not have to pay anything up front.
• How much you pay back each month will be proportionate to how much you earn.
• You can apply for Student Finance before you have heard back from your university choices: www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance

Support with living costs
Your household income will determine the level of financial support you are eligible for.
• The maximum a full-time University of Bristol student could receive from the government Student Loan’s Company is £8,944*.
• The University offers a range of bursaries including the Bristol Bursary of up to £2,060* (does not need repaying).
• Additional support may be available if you have children or dependents, benefits entitlement, a low income and/or a disability.
If you’re 60 or over on the first day of the first academic year of your course, you can apply for up to £3,783*.

* Figures for 2018-19 academic year.

Childcare
The University day nursery accommodates children of students and staff between 3 months and 5 years. Priority is given to student parents: bristol.ac.uk/nursery

Explore opportunities to visit: bristol.ac.uk/study/mature/events