



# 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](mailto:mature-students@bristol.ac.uk)

T: +44 (0)117 394 1048

# 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, Bridgwater and Taunton College, City of Bristol College, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College and Weston College.

- Means-tested funding is available for our short courses and the Foundation Year.
- The Advanced Learner Loan is available from the government to cover the costs of studying a level 3 course, such as Access to HE Diplomas.
- Your college will tell you how to apply for this loan.
- Some Access to HE Diplomas may be available as distance learning.



## I am working towards a qualification/ I have existing qualifications

### 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://bristol.ac.uk/nursery)

Explore opportunities to visit:  
[bristol.ac.uk/study/mature/events](http://bristol.ac.uk/study/mature/events)