

**UNDERGRADUATE
OPEN DAY
2012**



Information for Parents and Carers

This session

- How you can support your son or daughter in choosing universities and courses
- How you can help them to navigate the application process
- How you can help them prepare for university

The benefits of university

- Financial
- Career preparation
- Employment prospects
- Development of important skills
- Social experience

Choosing a university

- Civic or campus
- Collegiate
- Location/distance
- Size
- Accommodation
- Facilities
- Reputation



Choosing a course

- Choice of course is crucial
- One or more of current subjects?
- Subject leading to a particular area of work, e.g. Medicine, Law
- A completely new subject?
- Don't discount last option, but it's important to do research, read around subject

Possible new subjects for chemists

- Biochemistry with Medical Biochemistry
- Cancer Biology and Immunology
- Chemical Physics
- Pathology and Microbiology
- Pharmacology



Choosing a course: further considerations

- Type of course, e.g. single, joint honours
- Course content – obvious but courses with same title, course code can be very different
- Any subject requirements
- Teaching and assessment methods
- Entry requirements – be realistic

Sources of information

- Prospectuses – online more up to date
- UCAS entry profiles
- Departmental admissions statements
- Guides to universities including subject tables but use with caution
- Adviser in schools, colleges
- Open days

Applying for high demand courses

- Competition for some courses is fierce
- Research the market and the course
- Know the selection criteria (not just the standard offer)
- Tailor application accordingly

Selection criteria – how to find out more

- UCAS entry profiles
- University prospectuses
- Departmental admissions statements
- Information at open day
- Check both academic criteria and tips for application/personal statement including skills, qualities, experience needed

[Course search main menu](#)[Search](#)[Subject search](#)[Course code search](#)[UCAS bookstore](#)[Institution guide](#)[Help](#)

Home/EU Search

University of Bristol
Geography
3 year full-time Degree

information required to complete the UCAS application :

Open for all applications

institution code	BRISL
name :	
institution code :	B78
course code :	F800
start date :	01 October 2012
campus code :	see below for list of campus codes
short form of course :	BSc/G
further details :	see notes about this course
application deadline date:	15 January 2012

[Entry profile](#)

- > [What does this course offer me?](#)
- > [What qualifications do I need?](#)
- > [Application and selection](#)
- > [About this institution](#)

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BRISTOL

The application process

- Summer 2012- open days, results
- September 2012 – application cycle begins
- 15 October – deadline for Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Science, Oxbridge
- 15 January 2013 – main deadline
- January – May – offers received, asked for firm and insurance choice
- August 2013 - confirmation

A few FAQs

- To gap year or not to gap year?
- Ranking of choices?
- Keeping four subjects?
- What to drop/not drop?
- Work experience – type/quantity?
- Additional tests?

How parents can help

- Overview of key dates
- Offer advice but let them make decision
- Choice should suit both academically and personally
- Allow them space to change mind, have a crisis, express their worries

Preparing for university

- Accommodation
- Funding
- Preparing to start



Funding

- Two main expenses – tuition fees and living expenses
- Tuition fee loan, maintenance loan
- Grants and bursaries
- Bristol – tuition fee remission/ or fee remission/bursary
- Depends on household income

Preparing to start

- Insurance/Bank accounts
- Travel arrangements
- Reading
- What to take - checklist
- Survival skills

Support at university

- In halls and student houses – tutor who is named support person
- Personal academic tutor
- Mentoring schemes
- Counselling service
- Students' Union

How parents can help

- Overview of key financial information
- Make sure finances sorted and discuss budgeting
- Check deadlines for accommodation and when payments due
- Discuss means of communication
- Offer support but too much contact can make homesickness worse

Your relationship with university

- Very different to school
- Can share the experience but from a distance
- Don't expect progress reports



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Useful websites

- www.ucas.com/parents
- www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance
- www.unistats.com
- betsy.bowerman@bristol.ac.uk