

UK Qualification Reforms

The University of Bristol response

The University of Bristol has carefully considered the UK government reforms to post-16 school qualifications, and recognises the challenges and uncertainty being faced by schools, colleges and students. During this extended period of qualification reform, we are committed to maintaining a fair and transparent admissions service in line with University's [admissions principles and procedures](#)

AS & A-levels reform

The University will accept the reformed A-level and GCSE qualifications, and will formulate offers on an equivalent basis to the pre-reformed qualifications. We do not plan to make major changes to course entry requirements in response to these qualification reforms.

- In our offer making process we will consider study on three A-levels and eight GCSEs (or equivalent qualifications), and additional qualifications will not confer any advantage. However, where an applicant has not met the conditions of their offer, other qualifications may be taken into consideration. Please also see statement below relating to the EPQ.
- While we value the breadth which comes with studying four subjects at AS-level, we do not expect to introduce a requirement for AS-levels to be taken and do not plan to use them as part of the process to select applicants.

A-level Science practical

The University will require applicants taking a reformed **Physics, Biology or Chemistry** science A-level in England to pass the practical science element.

Core Maths

The University will not generally require the new Core Maths qualification. Where applicable, this will be specified in the course entry requirements.

GCSE reform

From 2017 entry, the University of Bristol will accept a mixture of GCSEs, those which have been taken under the reformed format and those which have not. The University has aligned the pre-reformed and reformed marking schemes based on recommendations from Ofqual. GCSE grade requirements will be specified as follows:

Old grade scheme/ Grading scheme for non-UK GCSE exam boards	Reformed grade scheme (England only)
A*	8 or 9
A	7
B	6
C	4 or 5

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The University is supportive of the requirement for Diploma students to undertake an Extended Project as part of their Diploma programme. The University recognises that some A-level students may also choose to take the Extended Project. In some cases we may make two alternative offers, one of which involves success in the Extended Project (eg either AAA at A-level or AAB at A-level plus Extended Project). Please check the relevant [admissions statement](#).

Vocational qualifications

BTEC Nationals

The University of Bristol considers applications from students offering a BTEC National Level 3 qualification provided it is in a relevant subject to the chosen course. Distinctions may be requested in particular units, and some admissions tutors may ask for an additional A-level to satisfy subject requirements.

A-level requirement	BTEC Nationals (QCF) Extended Diploma
A*AA	D*DD
AAA - AAB	DDD
ABB - BBB	DDM

Specialist QCF qualifications are not generally accepted.

Further information on the acceptability of vocational qualifications will be listed on individual course [admissions statement](#), or you can email the Admissions Office at choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

Welsh Baccalaureate

The University accepts the new Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate qualification, and will generally accept:

i) a minimum of two appropriate level 3 qualifications at grades stipulated in standard offer requirement (eg A-levels); and

ii) English/Welsh Language and Mathematics Numeracy/ Mathematics GCSEs; and

iii) the Skills Challenge Certificate (same grading as an A Level).

For further details please see the [admissions statement](#) for a specific course.

Reference

The reference alongside the personal statement, provides important supplementary indications of ability, motivation and potential, as well as information about personal circumstances and social and cultural context, and may be taken into account in reaching a decision. If the applicant's school or college has restrictions on qualifications or curriculum, i.e breadth of subject/qualification choice available at Level 3, then it would be useful for the University admissions staff to be made aware of this in the reference. Criteria for assessing the personal statement may include:

- Demonstrable interest in, and commitment to, the subject;
- Evidence of clear thinking and excellent understanding;
- Appropriateness of the Bristol course in relation to the applicant's declared interests and aspirations;
- Non-academic achievement and/or experience, or extracurricular interests, that indicate the likely contribution an applicant will make to the life of the University;
- Other relevant skills – eg fluency in foreign language/s.

