University of BRISTOL

University of Bristol
International Foundation Programme

Course information: 2026–27

This booklet contains information about the University of Bristol International Foundation Programme. Choose your preferred degree, and discover which course you need to pass to qualify for entry to your degree. You can also see further information about the courses, including tuition fees, start dates, entry requirements and programme unit summaries.

Undergraduate pathways

Published: February 2026

KAPLAN INTERNATIONAL PATHWAYS

University of Bristol International Foundation Programme
Course information

Your path to university:

Costs of studying abroad: For details about the cost of studying in Bristol, in addition to pathway course tuition fees, see: *kaplanpathways.com/bristol-study-costs*

Accepted English tests: we accept UKVI IELTS and several alternatives. For full details, see: *kaplanpathways.com/uk/ielts*

University of Bristol International Foundation Programme

Choose your undergraduate degree

Available degree options may change over time, so visit our online Degree Finder for the most up-to-date list: kaplanpathways.com/bristol-degrees

Key:

A: International Foundation Programme Arts, Law and Social Sciences

B: International Foundation Programme Business and Economics

S: International Foundation Programme Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Business and Finance	
BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance	B
BSc (Hons) Accounting and Management	B
BSc (Hons) Business Analytics	B
BSc (Hons) Business and Management	B
MSci (Hons) Business and Management with Innovation	B
BSc (Hons) Economics	B
BSc (Hons) Economics and Accounting	B
BSc (Hons) Economics and Data Science	B
BSc (Hons) Economics and Econometrics	B
BSc (Hons) Economics and Finance	B
BSc (Hons) Economics and Management	B
BSc (Hons) Economics and Mathematics	B
BSc (Hons) Economics and Politics	B
MSci (Hons) Economics with Innovation	B
BSc (Hons) Finance	B
BSc (Hons) International Business Management	B

Computing	
BEng (Hons) Artificial Intelligence	S
BSc (Hons) Computer Science	S
MEng (Hons) Computer Science	S
BSc (Hons) Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence	S
MEng (Hons) Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence	S
MEng (Hons) Computer Science with Innovation	S

Education	
BSc (Hons) Education Studies	A
BSc (Hons) Psychology in Education	A

Engineering	
BEng (Hons) Aerospace Engineering	S
MEng (Hons) Aerospace Engineering	S
MEng (Hons) Civil Engineering	S
BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering	S
BEng (Hons) Design Engineering	S
MEng (Hons) Electrical and Electronic Engineering	S
BEng (Hons) Electrical and Electronic Engineering	S
MEng (Hons) Mechanical and Electrical Engineering	S
BEng (Hons) Mechanical and Electrical Engineering	S
MEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering	S
BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering	S

Law	
LLB (Hons) Law	A

Marketing and Media	
BA (Hons) Film and Television	A
MArts (Hons) Film and Television with Innovation	A
BSc (Hons) Marketing	B

Mathematics	
BEng (Hons) Engineering Mathematics	S
BSc (Hons) Mathematics	S
MSci (Hons) Mathematics	S
BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Computer Science	S
MEng (Hons) Mathematics and Computer Science	S
MSci (Hons) Mathematics and Philosophy	S
BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Philosophy	S
MSci (Hons) Mathematics and Physics	S
BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Physics	S
BSc (Hons) Mathematics with Statistics	S
MSci (Hons) Mathematics with Statistics	S
BSc (Hons) Mathematics with Statistics for Finance	S

Music and Performing Arts	
BA (Hons) Music	A
MArts (Hons) Music with Innovation	A
BA (Hons) Theatre and English	A
BA (Hons) Theatre and Film	A
BA (Hons) Theatre and Performance Studies	A
MArts (Hons) Theatre with Innovation	A

Science and Health	
BSc (Hons) Applied Anatomy	S
BSc (Hons) Biochemistry	S
MSci (Hons) Biochemistry	S
BSc (Hons) Biochemistry with Medical Biochemistry	S
MSci (Hons) Biochemistry with Medical Biochemistry	S
BSc (Hons) Biochemistry with Molecular Biology and Biotechnology	S
MSci (Hons) Biochemistry with Molecular Biology and Biotechnology	S
BSc (Hons) Biology	S
MSci (Hons) Biology	S

BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences	**S**
BSc (Hons) Cancer Biology and Immunology	**S**
MSci (Hons) Cancer Biology and Immunology	**S**
BSc (Hons) Cellular and Molecular Medicine	**S**
MSci (Hons) Cellular and Molecular Medicine	**S**
BSc (Hons) Chemistry	**S**
MSci (Hons) Chemistry	**S**
BSc (Hons) Chemistry with Computing	**S**
MSci (Hons) Chemistry with Computing	**S**
MSci (Hons) Chemistry with Industrial Experience	**S**
BSc (Hons) Data Science	**S**
BSc (Hons) Environmental Geoscience	**S**
MSci (Hons) Environmental Geoscience	**S**
BSc (Hons) Geography	**S**
MSci (Hons) Geography with Innovation	**S**
BSc (Hons) Geology	**S**
MSci (Hons) Geology	**S**
BSc (Hons) Medical Microbiology	**S**
MSci (Hons) Medical Microbiology	**S**
BSc (Hons) Neuroscience	**S**
MSci (Hons) Neuroscience	**S**
MSci (Hons) Palaeontology and Evolution	**S**
BSc (Hons) Palaeontology and Evolution	**S**
MSci (Hons) Pharmacology	**S**
BSc (Hons) Pharmacology	**S**
BSc (Hons) Physics	**S**
MSci (Hons) Physics	**S**
BSc (Hons) Physics and Philosophy	**S**
MSci (Hons) Physics and Philosophy	**S**
BSc (Hons) Physics with Astrophysics	**S**
MSci (Hons) Physics with Astrophysics	**S**
BSc (Hons) Physics with Computing	**S**
MSci (Hons) Physics with Computing	**S**
MSci (Hons) Physics with Computing with Industrial Experience	**S**
MSci (Hons) Physics with Industrial Experience	**S**
MSci (Hons) Physics with Innovation	**S**
MSci (Hons) Physics with International Experience	**S**
BSc (Hons) Physiological Science	**S**
MSci (Hons) Physiological Science	**S**
BSc (Hons) Plant Sciences	**S**
MSci (Hons) Plant Sciences	**S**
BSc (Hons) Psychology	**S**
MSci (Hons) Psychology and Neuroscience	**S**
MSci (Hons) Psychology with Innovation	**S**
MSci (Hons) Theoretical Physics	**S**
BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour	**S**
BVSc Veterinary Science	**S**
BSc (Hons) Virology and Immunology	**S**
MSci (Hons) Virology and Immunology	**S**
BSc (Hons) Zoology	**S**
MSci (Hons) Zoology	**S**

Social Science and Humanities

BA (Hons) Ancient History	**A**
BA (Hons) Anthropology	**A**
MArts (Hons) Anthropology with Innovation	**A**
BA (Hons) Archaeology and Anthropology	**A**
BSc (Hons) Childhood Studies	**A**
BA (Hons) Classical Studies	**A**
BA (Hons) Classics	**A**
BA (Hons) Comparative Literatures and Cultures	**A**
BSc (Hons) Criminology	**A**
BA (Hons) English	**A**
BA (Hons) English and Classical Studies	**A**
BA (Hons) English and History	**A**
BA (Hons) English and Philosophy	**A**
BA (Hons) Film and English	**A**
BA (Hons) History	**A**
BA (Hons) History of Art	**A**
MArts (Hons) History with Innovation	**A**
BSc (Hons) International Social and Public Policy	**A**
BA (Hons) Liberal Arts	**A**
MLibArts (Hons) Liberal Arts	**A**
BA (Hons) Modern Languages	**A**
BA (Hons) Philosophy	**A**
BSc (Hons) Philosophy and Economics	**A**
BSc (Hons) Philosophy and Politics	**A**
BA (Hons) Philosophy and Theology	**A**
BSc (Hons) Politics and International Relations	**A**
BSc (Hons) Politics and Sociology	**A**
BSc (Hons) Psychology in Education	**A**
BA (Hons) Religion and Theology	**A**
BSc (Hons) Social Policy	**A**
BSc (Hons) Social Policy and Politics	**A**
BSc (Hons) Social Policy and Sociology	**A**
BSc (Hons) Social Policy with Criminology	**A**
BSc (Hons) Sociology	**A**
BSc (Hons) Sociology and Philosophy	**A**

Note: Some of the degree courses listed are 4 or 5 years in duration, including study abroad options.

Please check our online Degree Finder for details *kaplanpathways.com/bristol-degrees*

University of Bristol International Foundation Programme

Programme Learning Outcomes

The International Foundation Programme (IFP) is a full-time, one-year university preparation course, designed to prepare international students for degree-level study at the University of Bristol.

- The programme is taught by University of Bristol academics who are experts in their area of study and in teaching international students.
- The language component is structured to develop your academic language and literacy so as to meet University admissions requirements and successfully engage with study in your chosen area of undergraduate study.
- The subject content is designed in conjunction with Schools and Faculties in the University with students completing pathway subjects tailored for your chosen undergraduate degree.
- The assessment processes align with the types of assessment you will complete at undergraduate level so as to support your transition into university.
- You have access to all University facilities, supports, and resources, as well as student societies.

On successful completion the programme, you will achieve the following outcomes:

Learning by knowing (i.e. making a personal connection to your field of study)

- Understand, define, and describe core knowledge, recognising fundamental key concepts, processes, and principles in your field of study.
- Understand how knowledge is constructed and communicated in your field of study.
- Demonstrate awareness of how theories and facts from the field of study might inform your understanding of the world around you.

Learning by doing (i.e. applying your knowledge and practising your skills)

- Interpret, analyse, and evaluate data and ideas, using evidence effectively to build and communicate knowledge.
- Make appropriate communication choices for the discipline.
- *For IFP Business and Economics & IFP Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths:*
  - Use language appropriately for academic purposes.

  For IFP Arts, Law, and Social Sciences:
  - Use language flexibly and effectively for academic purposes.
- Use and reflect on a range of academic skills to support personal learning and strategically complete tasks individually or cooperatively.
- Apply feedback in its various forms and assessment practices to develop assessment literacy within your discipline at the University of Bristol.

Learning by being (i.e. personal and skills and attributes)

- Value the principles that underpin the University of Bristol's approach to academic integrity.
- Actively reflect on feedback and experiences to support future academic study at the University of Bristol.
- Recognise the diverse ideas of others and the benefits of collaboration to develop your understanding of the world around you.

International Foundation Programme

Minimum English level: UKVI IELTS score*	Course length	Course tuition	Course start > Course end
> International Foundation Programme Arts, Law and Social Sciences			
6.0 overall, with at least 5.5 in writing and 5.0 in all other skills	2 terms	£26,900	September 2026 > May 2027
> International Foundation Programme Business and Economics			
6.0 overall, with at least 5.5 in writing and 5.0 in all other skills	2 terms	£26,900	September 2026 > May 2027
> International Foundation Programme Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics†			
5.5 overall, with at least 5.0 in all skills	2 terms	£28,000	September 2026 > May 2027

*** UKVI IELTS alternatives:** we can accept other tests as proof of English language. Learn more at: *kaplanpathways.com/uk/ielts*

IELTS exceptions: selected degrees have higher English language requirements for entry to the International Foundation Programme. For example, Veterinary Science and Psychology degrees: IELTS 6.0 overall, with at least 5.5 in writing and 5.0 in all other skills. See our online Degree Finder for details: *kaplanpathways.com/bristol-degrees*

Academic entry requirements: for all course options above, you need to have completed high school at the required level. For requirements specific to your country, select your preferred degree from our online Degree Finder: *kaplanpathways.com/bristol-degrees*

International Foundation Programme Arts, Law, and Social Sciences
Core (compulsory) units taken by all students on this pathway:
- English for Academic Communication in Arts, Law, and Social Sciences

In addition to the core unit, students on this pathway will take some of the following units depending on the choice of undergraduate degree‡:
- Contemporary Global Challenges
- Foundations of Law
- Foundations of Psychology
- Law and Society
- Power, Culture, and Dissent
- Reality, Realism, and Representation

International Foundation Programme Business and Economics
Core (compulsory) units taken by all students on this pathway:
- English for Academic Communication in Business and Economics

In addition to the core unit, students on this pathway will take some of the following units depending on the choice of undergraduate degree‡:
- Essential Mathematics
- Foundations of Finance and Economics
- Foundations of Management
- Foundations of Mathematics for Finance and Economics
- Foundations of Statistics
- Research and Data Skills

International Foundation Programme Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Core (compulsory) units taken by all students on this pathway:
- English for Academic Communication in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

In addition to the core unit, students on this pathway will take some of the following units depending on the choice of undergraduate degree‡:
- Foundations and Applications of Calculus
- Foundations of Biomedical Sciences
- Foundations of Chemistry
- Foundations of Computer Programming
- Foundations of Physics
- Foundations of Psychology
- Foundations of Statistics
- Techniques in Mathematics
- Research and Data Skills

‡ The units you will need to take will depend upon the undergraduate degree you will study. Details of this can be found on the Degree finder or on your offer letter.

Core units in English for Academic Communication

You will take a core unit in English for Academic Communication that is tailored to your pathway (Arts, Law, and Social Sciences, Business and Economics, or Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). These units aim to provide you with the language communication and literacy skills needed to be successful in your studies. You will practise and develop your reading, writing, speaking and listening through a range of contemporary topics and real-world problems related to the University of Bristol's research themes.*

A key focus of these units will involve you learning to make language and organisation choices for different audiences and purposes. Opportunities to explore language as choice within your broad disciplinary area, through awareness raising tasks, will also form a key part of the work on this unit. Specifically, this will involve focusing on how to communicate relationships between disciplinary concepts and related processes, as well as appropriately communicating how theory is realised through empirical/real-world phenomenon within the context of your disciplinary area.

* More information about these themes can be found at: *bristol.ac.uk/research/our-research-themes*

Pathway Units in International Foundation Programme Arts, Law, and Social Sciences

You will take some of the following units depending on the choice of undergraduate degree.

Contemporary Global Challenges

The aim of this unit is to introduce you to ten contemporary challenges facing humanity. The views of activists, governments, and theorists will be analysed alongside traditional and critical approaches to solving problems. This unit will enhance your critical thinking and problem solving, alongside how to research an issue in depth, and your communication skills in presenting your views to others. You will debate your ideas in small group settings, discussing and developing the approaches to global challenges that you think will serve us best in the 21st century.

Foundations of Law

This unit will introduce you to the knowledge, skills and intellectual background of legal studies and prepare you for undergraduate studies in areas such as law and criminology. You will view and interrogate the law through a critical lens, opening up a breadth of perspectives. Topics include the UK's legal system and its relationship with the EU, key concepts and sources of law, the law-making process and court system, and core legal sources such as legislation, precedent and statutory interpretation.

Foundations of Psychology

This unit will provide you with a broad understanding of the fundamental principles of psychology, covering cognitive, social, and developmental psychology. You will enhance your critical thinking in these areas and become familiar with contemporary research methods and techniques for studying psychology.

Law and Society

This unit is a lively and enriching unit that explores the practice of law within the different contexts where it is conceived, interpreted and applied. This includes the intersection of law with the foundational concepts of justice and the rule of law, showing its potential to drive societal change. It also explores how the law is represented in art, culture and media, providing an understanding of its position and influence in society.

Power, Culture, and Dissent

This is a unit that mixes literature, film, art, politics, philosophy, and the history of ideas, to explore the ways that culture has been shaped by, and reacted to, the actions and plans of the powerful. Sometimes this takes the form of slow reform, at others sudden revolution; and in turn it has provoked sometimes fierce reaction, and sometimes the reconciliation of different ideas and positions. You will look at literature, film, art work, and non-fiction texts, chosen for their discussion of ideas and concepts that are both timeless, and that speak to our contemporary issues now. You will learn how to pick out fine detail in close reading of texts, and to set them within their broader cultural and historical contexts. You will develop your analyses, in discussion in small groups, and in your own written work, preparing you for future study in a wide variety of disciplines.

Reality, Realism, and Representation

This unit is an introduction to both communicating complex ideas and identifying those ideas hiding in the texts that we consume every day. The poet Percy Shelley claimed that poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world, and in the contemporary world this includes the creators of all media. Complex and often controversial ideas are communicated, discussed, and debated through art, documentary, and performance, while at the same time works of media make bold and even extraordinary claims about the people, beliefs, and institutions that they represent. In this unit you will learn how philosophers and theorists have decoded conscious and unconscious biases and messaging in media, film, and literary texts. You will also develop your ability to communicate your own complex ideas in formats that can reach wide audiences.

Pathway Units in International Foundation Programme Business and Economics

You will take some of the following units depending on the choice of undergraduate degree.

Essential Mathematics

This unit for students pursuing degrees related to business and management. It provides you with a strong mathematical foundation for further academic study, emphasising logical thinking and providing you with the appropriate mathematical skills, knowledge for your undergraduate studies.

Foundations of Finance and Economics

This unit aims to provide you with an introduction to finance and economics. Finance will include both financial accounting and management accounting. Economics will include both microeconomics and macroeconomics. You will have the opportunity to engage with a range of concepts, models and theories used in the world of business.

Foundations of Management

This unit aims to provide you with an introduction to the concept of management, and will centre around three core themes: marketing and consumption; people, work and organisations; and the global business environment. You will develop an understanding of meeting customer needs, the market and the marketing mix, business objectives and strategy, influences on business decisions, global markets and marketing, and global industries and companies.

Foundations of Mathematics for Finance and Economics

This unit prepares you for the mathematical modelling and analysis required in highly quantitative undergraduate programmes in Economics and Finance. Concepts include sequences and series, graphical representations of equations and the calculus needed to apply mathematical frameworks to the analysis of individual, business, market and government behaviour in a changing world. Analysing and solving problems collaboratively will enable you to practice using this mathematical toolkit to confidently explore economic, business, and financial models in real-world contexts.

Foundations of Statistics
This unit equips you with essential data handling and statistical methods needed for undergraduate study in mathematics, science, and social science. It covers descriptive and inferential statistics, providing opportunities to analyse, evaluate, and critique data sets and statistical results. The unit also introduces key probability concepts and distributions, enabling you to analyse and make informed decisions in uncertain or probabilistic contexts.

Research and Data Skills
This unit will allow you to develop a range of transferrable skills in context relevant to your chosen pathway to become an effective learner in preparation for undergraduate study. You will be introduced to a range of effective learning strategies as well as data handling, inquiry, and research. The unit will provide you with opportunities to develop and apply your collaborative and communications skills according to your disciplinary conventions.

Pathway Units in International Foundation Programme Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
You will take some of the following units depending on the choice of undergraduate degree.

Foundations and Applications of Calculus
Foundations and Application of Calculus is an engaging and illuminating unit that contains the fundamental building blocks to develop a solid comprehension of the meaning and application of calculus. No prior knowledge of calculus is assumed, which allows a comprehensive journey through common functions and their graphical representations leading to the essential understanding and application of techniques for differentiation and integration. By the end of the unit, you will be confident with single variable calculus and be aware of the use of differential equations. By working collaboratively to solve complex problems, you will then be ready to learn undergraduate techniques in calculus.

Foundations of Biomedical Sciences
This unit will provide an introduction to selected topics in biomedical sciences. You will also be introduced to skills required for scientific research, including data acquisition, handling and scientific reporting, as well as gaining practical laboratory experience. Topics may include cell biology, biological molecules, respiratory system, circulatory system, nervous system, digestive system, immune system and disease.

Foundations of Chemistry
This unit will allow you to develop the discipline-specific knowledge, understanding and skills to prepare for your chosen degree programme. You will learn about fundamental theories of chemistry and be able to apply your understanding to solve simple problems. The unit will also include an experience of practical chemistry, to allow you to become confident and proficient in experimentation.

Foundations of Computer Programming
This unit introduces basic programming concepts and techniques in Python, and does not assume any prior knowledge of programming. You will learn the fundamental principles of programming languages, algorithms, and data structures that underpin modern software development. The course will also emphasise problem-solving and critical thinking skills. You will gain a solid foundation in programming and be able to apply your skills to real-world problems.

Foundations of Physics
This unit will allow you to develop the discipline-specific knowledge, understanding and skills to prepare for your chosen degree programme. You will learn about fundamental theories of physics and be able to apply your understanding to solve simple problems. The unit will also include an experience of practical physics, to allow you to become confident and proficient in experimentation.

Foundations of Psychology
This unit will provide you with a broad understanding of the fundamental principles of psychology, covering cognitive, social, and developmental psychology. You will enhance your critical thinking in these areas and become familiar with contemporary research methods and techniques for studying psychology.

Foundations of Statistics
This unit equips you with essential data handling and statistical methods needed for undergraduate study in mathematics, science, and social science. It covers descriptive and inferential statistics, providing opportunities to analyse, evaluate, and critique data sets and statistical results. The unit also introduces key probability concepts and distributions, enabling you to analyse and make informed decisions in uncertain or probabilistic contexts.

Research and Data Skills
This unit will allow you to develop a range of transferrable skills in context relevant to your chosen pathway to become an effective learner in preparation for undergraduate study. You will be introduced to a range of effective learning strategies as well as data handling, inquiry, and research. The unit will provide you with opportunities to develop and apply your collaborative and communications skills according to your disciplinary conventions.

Techniques in Mathematics
Techniques in Mathematics is an introduction to key mathematical concepts in preparation for undergraduate programmes in the maths, computing, and physical sciences. It explores diverse but relevant concepts in mathematics including sequences and series, vectors and matrices, and complex numbers. You will gain an appreciation of the adaptability of mathematics whilst analysing complex problems and solving them collaboratively.

University of BRISTOL

View the University's courses webpage

Contact us at:

kaplanpathways.com/bristol-contact

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