



University of  
**BRISTOL**

# INTERNATIONAL PATHWAYS GUIDE

STUDY ABROAD AND SHAPE YOUR  
FUTURE WITH A UK DEGREE

**KAPLAN** INTERNATIONAL  
PATHWAYS

# WELCOME

Study at the University of Bristol, one of the UK's leading Russell Group universities, and follow your path to success. You'll enjoy first-class facilities, outstanding teaching and an exciting location. With Kaplan Pathways, you can apply to the University-delivered International Foundation Programme, and progress to a Bristol degree.



## 04 – 09 The University

Explore your opportunities at the University of Bristol, what makes it such a great institution, and the excellent facilities you'll find on campus. [kaplanpathways.com/university-of-bristol](https://kaplanpathways.com/university-of-bristol)

## 10 – 15 The destination

Find out what it's like to be an international student living in Bristol, and what kind of accommodation will be available to you. [kaplanpathways.com/bristol-life](https://kaplanpathways.com/bristol-life)

## 16 – 23 International Foundation Programme

Learn about how you can gain access to a University of Bristol degree, and how you'll receive full preparation for university. [kaplanpathways.com/bristol](https://kaplanpathways.com/bristol)

## 24 – 32 Next steps

Find out information on how to apply and start your path to university. [kaplanpathways.com/bristol-apply](https://kaplanpathways.com/bristol-apply)

# A PLACE TO THRIVE

**The University of Bristol is a prestigious Russell Group institution where research breaks new ground and students like you can thrive. It's a truly special place that can open the door to your future.**

## **Learn to think differently**

At the University of Bristol, you'll be encouraged to become an independent thinker. Innovative curricula and research-led teaching will help you develop the skills you need to thrive after you graduate, in work and in life. As a Russell Group university, Bristol degrees are directly influenced by the research taking place on campus, so you'll benefit from frontline knowledge. In addition, the University has many international research collaborations, and practical experience is integrated into the curricula, so you'll have lots of exciting opportunities available to you. You may even have the chance to work on real-world projects within the business, government and community sectors.

As a Bristol student, you'll be part of a supportive academic community, with advisers that are based in the Centre — and your residence — to support you. You'll have the chance to join a wide range of clubs and societies and meet other students from around the world, so you can expect to enjoy a fantastic student experience as well as a lively social life. The city of Bristol itself is also a very friendly and welcoming place to be a student, so you'll feel at home right away!

See more:  
[kaplanpathways.com/universities/university-of-bristol](https://kaplanpathways.com/universities/university-of-bristol)

## **Enhance your studies**

Get involved in professional community engagement, volunteering and student mentoring, or do a work placement. You could also take an interdisciplinary online course in Innovation and Enterprise, Global Citizenship or Sustainable Futures and learn more about the University's values. All of these experiences can help you grow as a person and become a well-rounded graduate.



➤ **Jonathan**  
from Singapore

# 5 REASONS TO CHOOSE THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL



## Top 10 in the UK

QS World University Rankings 2026



## Top 60 in the world

QS World University Rankings 2026



## One of the best places to live in the UK

Sunday Times Best Places to Live 2023



## Top 5 in the UK for research

Times Higher Education interpretation of Research Excellence Framework



## 5th most-targeted UK university by top employers

High Fliers Research 2024



- ↪ See a performance at the SU theatre
- ↪ Enjoy modern buildings and facilities
- ↪ Climb the Wills Memorial Tower



# EXPLORE YOUR CAMPUS

With world-class facilities, a campus redevelopment project informed by students, and new, state-of-the-art enterprise facilities being developed in the city centre, there has never been a better time to join the University of Bristol.

## Investing in your future

At the University's main campus in Clifton, you'll find spaces to study, relax and socialise, such as Senate House. This modern space is home to the SU Loft, as well as a multi-faith prayer room, student meeting and activity rooms, and the student-run Beckford Bar. Elsewhere, the Global Lounge is a comfortable space celebrating different cultures, where you can meet people from around the world and attend a range of exciting cultural events.

The Faculty of Engineering has invested more than £19 million in practical learning facilities, including a propulsion lab, a satellite lab and ground station, and a creative workshop, Hackspace. The Life Sciences building features a five-storey laboratory wing, a state-of-the-art greenhouse, and one of the largest teaching labs in the UK.

The University is also developing a new, world-leading campus focused on digital, business and social innovation. Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus will be a space for students, academics, businesses, partners and the local community to work together.

Take a look: [bristol.ac.uk/virtual-tour](https://bristol.ac.uk/virtual-tour)

## Life outside your studies

You can get involved with as many clubs and societies as you like at the University of Bristol. There are more than 350 societies and sports clubs to choose from, with everything from football and running, to baking and hot-air ballooning.

## → Students' Union

The students' union has spaces in both the Richmond Building and Senate house, and offers you a mix of study spaces and activity rooms. There are also spaces to relax, unwind and meet new people, such as in the popular Bristol SU Living Room.



## ← Fantastic libraries

With eight specialist libraries, you'll have all the resources you need to support your studies.



**Bristol is home to over 450 parks and green spaces, proportionally more than any other UK city.**



# WELCOME TO BRISTOL: A DYNAMIC AND WELCOMING CITY

**Bristol is the largest city in the south west of England. With a scenic harbour and many cultural activities to enjoy, it's a place where you can belong.**

### City of opportunities

Bristol has long been known for its spirit of innovation. That's why many pioneering tech and engineering companies have made the city their home. This makes it a great place to find internships and work placements.

### International destination

The city isn't just home to businesses — it's where people from all over the world have chosen to settle. It's a multicultural destination where you'll find supermarkets and specialist shops selling ingredients from many nations, as well as all kinds of places of worship, from churches to synagogues, temples and mosques.

- ↑ Enjoy great transport links from Bristol Temple Meads station
- ↗ Relax at Brandon Hill, close to Bristol city centre
- Discover world-class collections at Bristol Museum and Art Gallery



### Capital of art

There is a thriving art scene in Bristol, which hosts Europe's largest street art festival, Upfest, every summer. You'll find galleries and museums like Arnolfini and M-Shed, as well as street art from the city's most famous artist: Banksy.

### Active lifestyle

It's easy to lead an active lifestyle in Bristol. There are many walking and cycling routes in the city, as well as opportunities to take part in activities like paddleboarding, bubble football and even axe throwing.

Want to see more?  
[youtu.be/1Sm9tURivsQ](https://youtu.be/1Sm9tURivsQ)



# SEE AND DO

With so much to do in Bristol, it's almost impossible to be bored. It's an exciting city to live in, and its vibrant atmosphere will inspire you to get out there and experience it all!



## Experience a festival

← Bristol is well known for its festivals, and there are many throughout the year — enjoy everything from music and film festivals to the world-famous International Balloon Fiesta, which hosts over 130 hot air balloons from around the world.

## Relax by the harbour

↘ Bristol harbour is a beautiful place to spend time. You can go to the Sunday markets, relax at the waterside restaurants and bars, or even try out some watersports like paddleboarding and canoeing.



## Visit museums and galleries

↙ As a cultural hotspot, it's no surprise that there are lots of museums and art galleries to enjoy. From the city's social history at M Shed to contemporary art at the Arnolfini Gallery, there is so much to discover.

## Walk along the suspension bridge

↖ The Clifton Suspension Bridge is one of Bristol's most famous landmarks. There are great views across the beautiful Avon Gorge, so it's well worth taking a walk along this impressive feat of engineering.



## Go on a walking tour

↗ In Bristol, you can go on a guided street art, history, culture, or food walking tour, so there's something for everyone. You'll get to see some of the city's best sights at the same time!

Want to see more?  
[kpln.org/life-in-bristol](https://kpln.org/life-in-bristol)

# ACCOMMODATION IN BRISTOL

During your time in Bristol, you'll want to live somewhere that's comfortable, secure and convenient. The University of Bristol offers a range of accommodation options both on campus and in the city centre. It's easy to book your room with the University, and their dedicated team will be there to support you.



## University-arranged accommodation

Living in a University-allocated residence will give you the opportunity to mix with students from around the world, and help you to settle into student life at Bristol.

### What's included?

- Private bedroom with private or shared bathroom
- Fully equipped private or shared kitchen
- All electricity, gas and water bills
- Free high-speed WiFi
- On-site security
- On-site laundry (usage charges apply) and common rooms with games and TV.

## Accommodation during your degree

As an undergraduate student, you can apply through the University to stay in one of the University's many halls of residence, or in private accommodation.

# DEGREE PREPARATION

To date, students from over 50 countries around the world have studied the International Foundation Programme.

## Take a pathway course

As an international student, you might need, or benefit from, a pathway course that prepares you for degree study. Sometimes a pathway course is necessary due to differences in national education systems, or to help you improve your academic or language qualifications to the level needed.

You can take the International Foundation Programme, which is a type of pathway course, at the University of Bristol. Expert University staff will guide you in improving your English, academic skills and subject knowledge. When you pass your course at the required level, and with good attendance, you'll be guaranteed entry to your degree! During your pathway course, you'll have access to the University's excellent facilities and resources, effectively making you a full University of Bristol student before you even start your degree.



Richmond Building, the home of the International Foundation Programme



Youssef from Egypt

# STUDY OPTIONS

You can study the International Foundation Programme at the University of Bristol, which will enable you to enrol on an undergraduate degree. You can choose from several different routes: Arts and Humanities; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; and Social Sciences and Law.

↳ Crystel  
from Costa Rica

## INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

### For entry to the first year of a bachelor's degree

For students who have finished high school and meet both the academic and IELTS requirements.

Minimum English language entry requirements: UKVI IELTS 5.5 with at least 5.0 in all other skills\*

### International Foundation Programme Plus

If you have a higher level of English (minimum UKVI IELTS 7.0 overall), you will be placed on the International Foundation Programme Plus.

This programme will give you the opportunity to focus on further developing your academic language and literacy. When you speak to an adviser, they can discuss with you whether you're eligible for this course.



Undergraduate  
degree  
Year 1

Undergraduate  
degree  
Year 2

Undergraduate  
degree  
Year 3\*\*



## GRADUATE

with a University of Bristol degree

### Course details

Use the **course information booklet** to explore the full range of courses, degrees and online internship options.

You can also gain entry to the University via Kaplan International College London. Find out more: [kaplanpathways.com/london](https://kaplanpathways.com/london)

\* UKVI IELTS alternatives: we can accept alternative tests as proof of English language. Learn more at: [kaplanpathways.com/uk/ielts](https://kaplanpathways.com/uk/ielts)

\*\* Some degree programmes may last longer than 3 years, and include a year abroad, placement year or an integrated undergraduate master's year.

# EXPERT TEACHING

**Experienced University of Bristol staff will empower you to make the most of your time on the International Foundation Programme. You can gain the skills you need to progress to your degree feeling confident and excited.**

## **University-developed curriculum**

When you study on the International Foundation Programme, you'll be a full University of Bristol student, so you'll feel like part of the University before you even start your degree. Your course has been designed to prepare you for your Bristol undergraduate degree, and it will help you gain the skills and understanding that you'll need for further study.

## **With your success in mind**

As well as learning from experienced teachers, you'll receive regular one-to-one guidance from your academic tutor. This high ratio of staff to students will give you the right support to further develop your academic English and subject knowledge. You'll also enjoy opportunities to build your employability skills through practical projects, networking opportunities and the University's Career Ready courses.

See more:

[kaplanpathways.com/bristol-employability](https://kaplanpathways.com/bristol-employability)

**'My main goal is to ensure that students leave us feeling ready for their university degree. I teach them the skills they need to become independent learners who can think critically.'**

**Nathalie, International Foundation Programme Tutor**



**93% of students passed the International Foundation Programme, of whom 82% received an unconditional offer for the University of Bristol in 2023.**



📍 **Ajay Sarda**  
Programme Coordinator  
Social Science & Law

📍 **Feher**  
from Saudi Arabia

**86% of students would recommend the International Foundation Programme to a friend.**

The University of Bristol surveyed 44 International Foundation Programme students in 2023.

## STUDENT SUPPORT

**Studying abroad is a big step and it might take you out of your comfort zone. But don't worry — if you need support at any stage, the dedicated Student Services team will be able to help you. With their support, you can make the most of your time in the UK and have a fulfilling study abroad experience.**

### Academic support

Academic support will always be available to you during the International Foundation Programme, helping you to stay on track. You will have a personal academic tutor, and will attend frequent tutorials to support your professional development. You can also access independent study support through the Students' Union's Academic Advice Service, where you can speak to advisers who will be there to help you with any concerns you have related to your studies or your academic experience at university.

### Talk to someone

Positive wellbeing and success is an integral part of the International Foundation Programme. The University has a range of services available, including the Student Wellbeing Service, Residential Life teams, Student Counselling Service and Disability Service. You can request support through an easy online process, and the University will connect you with the right help.

### Welcome events

Before you start your classes, you can take part in the University of Bristol's Welcome Week. It's a chance for you to get involved in lots of fun and exciting events, meet new people, make friends and be introduced to student life in Bristol. Many of these events are free, and other events will continue to be organised after Welcome Week has finished. We strongly recommend that you take part in the fun — it will help you have the best possible start to your International Foundation Programme.



### Hear from our students

Kaplan Student Content Creators are international students who share their experiences of studying abroad through videos and blogs. Here, Dariga tells us what it was like studying the International Foundation Programme:

[kpln.org/ifp-experience](https://kpln.org/ifp-experience)

# FIND MORE ONLINE

If you want to read more about the University of Bristol, there's lots to discover online. Below, you can find a brief guide to where to go for more useful information.

## The University of Bristol

**About the University:**

[kaplanpathways.com/university-of-bristol](https://kaplanpathways.com/university-of-bristol)

**Degree options at the University of Bristol:**

[kaplanpathways.com/bristol-degrees](https://kaplanpathways.com/bristol-degrees)

**University of Bristol's website:**

[bristol.ac.uk](https://bristol.ac.uk)

## International Foundation Programme

**About the International Foundation Programme:**

[kaplanpathways.com/bristol](https://kaplanpathways.com/bristol)

**Student accommodation:**

[kaplanpathways.com/bristol-accommodation](https://kaplanpathways.com/bristol-accommodation)

**Student services:**

[kaplanpathways.com/bristol-support](https://kaplanpathways.com/bristol-support)

**Tuition fees and costs:**

[kaplanpathways.com/bristol-fees](https://kaplanpathways.com/bristol-fees)

## Information for studying abroad

**Student visa:**

[gov.uk/student-visa](https://gov.uk/student-visa)

**Student insurance:**

[kaplanpathways.com/insurance](https://kaplanpathways.com/insurance)

**College guardians for under-18s:**

[www.collegeguardians.co.uk](https://www.collegeguardians.co.uk)

**Information for parents and guardians:**

[kaplanpathways.com/parents-and-guardians](https://kaplanpathways.com/parents-and-guardians)

## Further questions?

**Get in touch:**

[kaplanpathways.com/bristol-contact](https://kaplanpathways.com/bristol-contact)

**Meet us in your country or region:**

[kaplanpathways.com/kaplan-in-my-country](https://kaplanpathways.com/kaplan-in-my-country)

Join in online

@KaplanPathways



# MEET IAN

**Ian from Kenya is on his path to a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering.**

'Before coming to study here, I had never been to the UK. I wanted to find a study destination that was similar to my home city of Kisumu, Kenya, and Bristol seemed perfect. It's not big like a capital city, so you're never too far from the city centre and it's easy to walk everywhere. I love to wander around Bristol and admire the old architecture — every building has a story to tell, and exploring the city gives me a sense of comfort and peace.

I chose the University of Bristol because I believe that you need to study somewhere that not only builds you academically, but also challenges you to be a better person. What good is education if you can't be someone who is compassionate and practises empathy towards their fellow human beings?

On the International Foundation Programme, I'm encouraged to be independent, to learn how to reason logically, and to reach conclusions on my own. It's this kind of critical thinking that prepares you for university, and for life.

After I graduate with my degree, I want to go back home and implement what I've learnt so that I can give back to the society that has given so much to me. I want to use my education in Engineering to tackle issues like flooding and drought that affect my country so deeply.

My personal mantra is a quote from Gandhi: "In a gentle way, you can shake the world". I believe that everyone should stand up and be counted — if you have the chance to study abroad, then you should always remember that you are living someone's dream. It's important to make the most of what you have, and to never be too hard on yourself.

This is my path so far.'



← Ian  
from Kenya

My personal mantra is a quote from Gandhi: "In a gentle way, you can shake the world". I believe that everyone should stand up and be counted.

# APPLICATION PROCESS

Applying to the University of Bristol with Kaplan is quick and easy. Just choose your course using the booklet at the back of this brochure, follow the steps below, and we'll help you with the rest.



**1** **Submit your application**  
We'll guide you through the entire application process, including what documents you'll need to send with or after your application. Just get in touch, or find out more via this link: [kaplanpathways.com/bristol-apply](https://kaplanpathways.com/bristol-apply)

**2** **Receive offer and book accommodation**  
Once your complete application has been reviewed, you'll receive either an unconditional or conditional offer, or we can explore other options with you. We'll send you a decision within one working day.

**3** **Accept your offer**  
You'll do this by paying your deposit to study, or sending us your financial guarantee if you're a sponsored student.



**4** **Obtain your student visa**  
To study a pathway course in the UK, you'll typically need to obtain a student visa. We'll advise you on this important step, and you'll receive the supporting documents you'll need for your visa application.

**5** **Book your flight and begin your studies**  
The most important step: arrive in the UK and begin your life-changing adventure as an international student at Bristol!

# CHOOSE YOUR PATH

If you are interested in studying at the University of Bristol and would like to know more, you can either get in touch, or use the booklet opposite to find the right path for you.

## Course information

You can use the course information booklet to find out more about the pathway courses that lead to the University of Bristol, as well as the University of Bristol degrees available to you. In the booklet, you'll find tuition fees, entry requirements, module summaries and more, to help you start your path with Kaplan.

Alternatively, you can find a digital version of this booklet on our website:

[kaplanpathways.com/bristol-course-info](https://kaplanpathways.com/bristol-course-info)

## Contact us

[kaplanpathways.com/bristol-contact](https://kaplanpathways.com/bristol-contact)



↗ Jana  
from Kuwait

↖ Safeya  
from Kuwait

## Where is Bristol?



## Who's on the cover?

Ariel (left) from China and Youssef (right) from Egypt both on their path to the University of Bristol.

## Find out more

[kaplanpathways.com/university-of-bristol](https://kaplanpathways.com/university-of-bristol)

## Explore more study options

Kaplan offers international students a wide range of education options in English-speaking countries.

Learn more: [kaplanpathways.com](https://kaplanpathways.com)

## Join in online

@KaplanPathways     

## Office for Students (OfS)

The University of Bristol is registered with the Office for Students. This means their teaching and support has met the required standards. It also means that students have the right to work part-time during their studies in the UK.

Kaplan International Pathways works in partnership with the University of Bristol to provide application counselling and admissions support to international students. Kaplan International Pathways is a trading name of Kaplan International Colleges UK Limited, company no. 05268303. Registered in England. Registered address: Palace House, 3 Cathedral Street, London SE1 9DE, United Kingdom.

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Visit our University  
of Bristol webpage!

