

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL STUDY ABROAD (GENERAL PATHWAY) 2026/27 FACT SHEET

Bristol Inbound Team	<p>Email: cfsa-inbound@bristol.ac.uk Phone: +44(0)117 39 40207 Website: https://www.bristol.ac.uk/centre-for-study-abroad/inbound/</p>
Study Abroad Dates	<p>Autumn Semester: 14 September 2026 – 21 December 2026 Spring Semester: 11 January 2027 – 31 May 2027</p> <p>Pre-sessional dates [for those completing the STABEL (Study Abroad with English Language) programme]: 10-week online and on-campus course: 3 June 2026 – 11 August 2026 6-week online and on-campus course: 1 July 2026 – 11 August 2026</p> <p>Please find a full list of Study Abroad dates, including the breakdown of welcome weeks, teaching weeks and assessment periods, on our website.</p>



Study Abroad (General Pathway) Programme

If the agreement between our two institutions is university-wide, your students will be nominated under the [Study Abroad \(General pathway\) programme](#). Students on this pathway can choose units from across the University to create a personalised academic programme, including combining units from different Faculties. Direct-enrol students (those whose home university is partnered with Bristol but not for exchange) and independent applicants (students from any university that is not partnered with Bristol) should apply for the General Pathway programme.

Nomination deadlines:

Autumn Semester/full year – 24 April 2026

Spring Semester – 25 September 2026

Application deadlines:

Autumn Semester/full year – 3 May 2026

Spring Semester – 4 October 2026

English Language Requirements

Inbound study abroad students to Bristol are required to provide evidence that they meet our English Language requirements as part of their application. A full list of accepted English language certificates for the 2026/27 academic year can be found on our [Study Abroad Language Profile](#). Please note the length of validity of each accepted certificate as noted on the profile.

If your institution fully teaches and assesses in English, and can evidence that the English language entry requirements at your institution are equivalent to those required to come to Bristol, we may be able to put a Medium of Instruction letter in place for your students which would exempt them from the English language requirements. Please contact us on cfsa-inbound@bristol.ac.uk for further information about this prior to nominating the students.

Students studying at one of our partner institutions and applying to study at Bristol for one semester can submit a completed copy of Bristol's [letter of attestation template](#) attesting to their English language level. The letter of attestation must confirm that the students' current English proficiency is equivalent to a B2 level overall and a B2 level in all four components (writing, listening, speaking and reading) based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The letter must be signed and stamped by the home university (electronic signatures are accepted). We cannot accept letters written by a students' home institution confirming their English level.

Translation of Language Qualifications for students who need a Student Visa:

For students who require a Student visa to study at Bristol, we can only accept proof of English language qualifications in English. If a qualification isn't in English, students must provide a professional or certified translation, including the contact details for the translator or translation company. This is to comply with UK government guidelines for the Student visa.

Students who do not meet the English language requirements may be eligible for our STABEL (Study Abroad with English Language) programme. Please see further information about this below.

Academic Requirements	<p>3.0 GPA (based on US 4.0 system) or equivalent</p> <p>Students must have completed at least one year of study at university level at the time of their application which should be evidenced on their transcript. For 4-year degrees, we recommend at least 2 years of study. We have a grade conversion in place for all partners who don't grade on the 4.0 GPA system. If you are unsure how the academic requirement is converted to the marking system at your institution, please contact us on cfsa-inbound@bristol.ac.uk</p>
STABEL (Study Abroad with English Language) Programme	<p>For students who don't currently meet the English language requirement for the Study Abroad (General pathway) programme, STABEL combines Study Abroad with a pre-session English language course starting in June or July. This intensive English language course will prepare them for study in Bristol and lasts for six or ten weeks, depending on their current English language level. If they successfully complete the pre-session course, they will progress onto the Study Abroad (General pathway) programme in September.</p> <p>Students can choose an online or on-campus option for the pre-session programme. The teaching is the same for both options but the on-campus option gives students the chance to familiarise themselves with life on campus and get an introduction to living in the UK before regular teaching begins in September. You can find out more information about the pre-session courses on the website.</p> <p>Deadlines: Nomination deadline: 16 March 2026 Application deadline for 10-week pre-session programme: 22 March 2026 Application deadline for 6-week pre-session programme: 29 March 2026</p> <p>The English Language requirements for STABEL vary depending on the length of the pre-session course and whether students intend to apply to study in person or online. You can view the updated English proficiency for STABEL applicants on Profile H on our website.</p> <p>Please note that the STABEL programme has additional tuition fees for the pre-session course.</p> <p>Kindly note that the 2026/27 academic year will be the final year this programme is offered, and it will be discontinued from 2027/28 onwards.</p>
Nomination Instructions - All Programmes	<p>Please send a list of nominated students to cfsa-inbound@bristol.ac.uk including students' full name, students' email address, duration of study and their major/main subject of study. If you are nominating students through one of our approved agencies or programme providers, please also include the name of the institution where the students are currently studying. We will follow up with information to the students about how to apply and copy in the email address from which they were nominated for reference.</p> <p>When nominating students, please make sure they are suitable for the programme, based on our entry requirements, and that they have all the required documents ready to be submitted before our application deadline. This will ensure a smooth application process for both you and your students.</p>

Application Instructions - All programmes

Students apply by completing the online application form which can be signed digitally by the students. As part of their application, students will be asked to upload supporting documents. Further details about the application and required documents can be found on the [Study Abroad \(General Pathway\) programme](#) page. Please advise students that they will need to have these documents ready in order to apply. The application pages of our website are updated in January each year after we have welcomed our Spring semester students.

Where a transcript provided as part of an application is not in English, we also require an official/certified translation. Please note the translation can be made by a professional translator and include the translator's credentials along with their official declaration that the translation is accurate, or we can accept transcripts translated and certified by a partner university. Where universities translate and certify documents, these need to be stamped, dated, and signed by the university.

Students who do not achieve our academic entry requirement must also upload two additional documents: a letter of recommendation from a member of the academic staff at their institution and a personal statement on why their average does not accurately reflect their academic ability and their motivations for studying abroad. These documents must be submitted by the application deadline. Please note that while we review each application individually, we cannot guarantee admission for students who fall below our academic entry requirements.

Please note that we cannot guarantee to accept applications from students after the deadline, including applications which have been partially submitted or are missing some supporting documents.

Visa Information

Please ensure that students have a valid passport at the point of application or are due to receive one very soon if they have applied for a new/renewed passport.

Non-UK/Irish passport holders coming for more than 6 months must apply for a [Student visa](#).

Non-UK/Irish passport holders who will be studying at Bristol for only one semester will be subject to immigration control and must meet the requirements of the Standard Visitor visa. Some nationalities will need to obtain a Standard Visitor visa in advance of travelling (visa nationals) whilst others will be able to obtain permission to enter the UK as a Standard Visitor on arrival at the border without having to apply for the visa in advance (non-visa nationals). To check whether they need to apply in advance, students can use [this online tool](#) and they should also read the information on the University website about the [Standard Visitor visa](#).

Non-visa nationals are also required to apply for an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) prior to travel. The ETA gives permission to travel to the UK only, individuals must still obtain permission to enter the UK as a Standard Visitor for 6 months on arrival at the border. For a complete list of the nationalities, please refer to the [UK Government website](#). Please note that your students will not require an ETA if they have applied for and secured either a Student visa or Standard Visitor visa prior to travelling.

More information is available on [our website](#) and further guidance is sent to students after they have accepted their offer. If students have any questions regarding their particular circumstances or need assistance, they can contact our Student Visas team for help: student-visas@bristol.ac.uk.

Unit Levels and Credits	<p>Undergraduate degrees in the UK are three-year programmes. Inbound Study Abroad students can choose units from all three years. For subjects that students haven't studied at their home institution, we recommend first-year units. Second-year units are most common for students taking their major/minor abroad, and third-year units are suitable for students in their major subject if they are close to graduation. Second-year and third-year units may be subject to pre-requisite checks with the relevant academic department at the start of the semester. Please also note that, for first-year units in STEM subjects, an equivalent of A-level background knowledge is assumed. A small number of schools offer master level units. Masters' students should only be nominated if they can take undergraduate units as part of their placement at Bristol.</p> <p>A full credit load at Bristol is 60 credits (30 ECTS) per semester or 120 credits (60 ECTS) for a full academic year. Students cannot exceed this credit load and must take a minimum of 60 Bristol credits per semester (120 per year) to be considered full-time students and to meet the conditions of their visa. Students must engage with classes and assessments for all units regardless of which units they plan to transfer for credit at their home university.</p>
Unit General Guidance	<p><u>Study Guides</u> with a list of all available units for 2026/27 will be published on the Centre for Study Abroad Inbound website in March 2026. Whilst we make every effort to place students on as many of their top unit choices as possible, please note that unit choices cannot be guaranteed, and we do not advise students to rely on specific units where it may impact their academic progression or graduation.</p>
Further Unit Information	<p>The Schools of Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science are not open to Study Abroad students.</p> <p>The restrictions below are accurate as of January 2026 but further updates and changes will be highlighted on our website. For all of the subject areas listed below, we strongly advise that students review our <u>Study guides</u> before submitting their application.</p> <p>Engineering: There are a limited number of single-semester units available in some areas of Engineering. Single-semester Engineering students may therefore need to be flexible in the units that they take.</p> <p>Computer Science: Please note that Computer Science units are only available at third- and fourth-year level and therefore are only suitable for students who have already completed 2 or 3 years of a Computer Science degree. There are some restrictions in the combination of units that can be taken, particularly for TB1 units.</p> <p>Psychological Science: Psychology is taught as an experimental science rather than a social science at Bristol. Students taking Psychology units are generally required to have a strong background in Chemistry, Biology and Neuroscience. Please note that the School of Psychological Science recommends that students only undertake one 3rd year unit per semester. If students are able to come to Bristol for the full academic year this would give them a wider range of unit choices as the school does not offer a large number of 2nd or 3rd year units in each semester.</p> <p>Bristol Study Themes</p> <p>For students on the General pathway, we also offer a range of <u>study themes</u> to support students who would like additional guidance when selecting their unit combinations. These include Bristol-inspired themes that enable students to explore a common topic from multiple academic perspectives; Law and Medical Sciences tasters designed for those intending to specialise in these areas at postgraduate level; and a theme for students who wish to try something entirely new, with no prior knowledge required.</p>

Student Experience	<p>We want to ensure that Study Abroad students have an unforgettable experience. To support this, our dedicated Student Experience team run a diverse range of events and activities for Study Abroad students, designed to enhance their academic, personal, and professional development. From welcome week through to the end of the semester, the team hosts regular meet-ups, academic workshops, day trips, and weekend excursions. Many activities are free to attend, and others are offered at a subsidised cost.</p> <p>Students can browse the current Student Experience programme or check out our Instagram to get a glimpse of the activities on offer.</p>
Accommodation	<p>University of Bristol has a range of accommodation options. On our website, students can find out more about accommodation for Study Abroad students, including the types of rooms available and accommodation costs.</p> <p>Accommodation guarantee: All September entry students are guaranteed an offer of a place in University accommodation, if they apply by the deadline. January entry, non-exchange students are guaranteed an offer of a place in University accommodation, if they apply by the deadline. We cannot offer an accommodation guarantee to January-entry exchange students, but we make every effort to place as many students as possible in a University residence or help them find private accommodation.</p>
Disability	<p>We want students to make the most of their time at Bristol, and there is a range of services to support all aspects of their university life. Disability Services offer disability support and advice for students with a range of disabilities, learning difficulties and other health and mental health conditions. Students are encouraged to declare their disability when they fill out their application or contact the Centre for Study Abroad team early in the application process so we can advise them on what support is available to them and how to access it. There will also be opportunities throughout their studies to declare a disability, though we strongly recommend that they inform us at the application stage. This allows us to support students from the start of their studies at Bristol and offer support based on their specific needs.</p>
Health and Insurance	<p>Students studying with us for less than six months on a Standard Visitor visa will not be covered by the National Health Service (NHS) and should therefore make sure that they obtain adequate medical insurance that covers them while they are abroad. Students studying with us for a full academic year travelling on a Student visa, and those with a valid UK/Irish passport, will be covered by the National Health Service and therefore do not require medical insurance, but will still need to take out travel insurance for flights etc. and contents insurance for their belongings. Student visa holders pay the NHS surcharge as part of their visa application. Please note that the University is not able to make recommendations about insurance providers.</p> <p>Find more information about healthcare for international students on this page.</p> <p>Students who are EU or Swiss nationals may be eligible for an IHS refund if they have an EHIC card covering their stay. Please refer students to the guidance on the Student visas webpages.</p>



SAFETY AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Safety	<p>At the University, student safety is our priority. The University has its own Security Services and University Police Officer. All residences also have a dedicated Accommodation Facilities Team. They ensure that all residences are kept in a good state of repair and well maintained and work closely with the University's Security Services. This ensures the security of all residences, and protects the health and safety of all residents. <u>University Security Services</u> can be called on +44 (0)117 331 1223.</p>
Non-Life - threatening Emergencies	<p>Bristol Inbound team (9:00-17:00 GMT/BST Monday-Friday) Email: cfsa-inbound@bristol.ac.uk Phone: +44 (0)117 39 40207</p> <p>In University accommodation Students can contact the support team for their accommodation as specified in the relevant <u>Residence Guide</u>. The teams are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</p> <p>In private accommodation For non-medical emergencies on university campus, students can call University Security Services on +44 (0)117 331 1223. Please contact our team (cfsa-inbound@bristol.ac.uk) if you have concerns about a student. You can also contact our <u>student wellbeing services</u> directly by submitting a Serious Concern referral form. Please do not use this form for urgent, life-threatening emergencies.</p>
Life-threatening Emergencies	<p>Call 999 immediately or ask the students to go to <u>the nearest hospital</u> (if applicable).</p> <p>After calling 999 If students are on university campus call University Security Services on +44 (0)117 331 1223. Please also keep our team (Centre for Study Abroad) updated on the outcome of the emergency.</p>