

Postgraduate Admissions Statement

PhD Great Western Four+ Doctoral Training Partnership (NERC)

Programmes Covered

This admissions statement applies to the following programme(s):

NERC Great Western Four+ Doctoral Training Partnership (PhD)

Applicants should also refer to the relevant prospectus entry for further programme details.

This admissions statement should be read in association with the [University Admissions Principles and Procedures for Postgraduate Taught Programmes](#).

Faculty

Faculty of Science

Admissions team and contact details

Frances Robertson

Bristol NERC GW4+ DTP Administrator

School of Earth Sciences

Wills Memorial Building

Queen's Road

Bristol BS8 1RJ

Email: bristol-nercgw4plusdtp-admin@bristol.ac.uk

Or please contact the postgraduate admissions office within the school where the main project supervisor is based:

School of Biological Sciences: biol-postgrad@bristol.ac.uk

School of Chemistry: chem-pg-office@bristol.ac.uk

School of Earth Sciences: earth-postgrad@bristol.ac.uk

School of Geographical Sciences: geog-pgadm@bristol.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 0117 33 15426

Website: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/2018/doctoral/phd-great-western-four-dtp/>

Admissions cycle

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1st October 2017 and 31st September 2018

Application deadline

Details of application deadlines for this programme are displayed on the individual programme page within the [University course finder](#).

Admissions criteria

Academic requirements

To be considered for admission to this programme, applicants are required to hold/achieve a minimum of an

upper second-class degree or higher (or international equivalent) in a discipline related to the PhD project for which you are applying, such as geology, biological sciences, environmental sciences, chemistry or geography. Applicants with additional relevant experience and/or a master's degree are encouraged to apply.

For information on international equivalent qualifications, please see our [International Office website](#).

English language requirements for non-native English speakers

For applicants whose first language is not English, and whose full undergraduate degree was not taught in an English-speaking country, it is necessary to hold/achieve a minimum score in an approved English language test as specified in Profile E of the [University's English Language Requirements Policy](#).

Applicants do not need to have reached the required level of English language before applying. If necessary, English language will be included as a condition of offer.

Applicants have the option to undertake one of the University's Pre-sessional English courses. You can find information about the University of Bristol's Pre-Sessional English courses at the [Centre for English Language and Foundation Studies website](#).

Additional requirements

There are no additional requirements for this programme.

Application process

Online application form

Applicants should complete the online application form, uploading all [required documents](#) directly into the application form. Guidance on uploading documents can be found in the [How to Apply FAQs](#). Any paper documents received by post, or electronic documents received by email, will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances.

Applicants should make every effort to choose the correct programme in the application form by reading the prospectus entry and admissions statements fully. Applicants should [contact the relevant Admissions Team](#) if clarification is required.

To apply for this programme, applicants must complete the online application form through the relevant School where the main supervisor is based, applying to the Faculty of Science and to the NERC Great Western Four+ Doctoral Training Partnership (PhD) programme, and indicating in the funding section that they will be funded by the GW4+ DTP.

If you wish to apply to multiple projects across different schools, please submit a separate application for each project (you do not need to do this if you are applying to multiple projects within the same school). You will need to change your username for each application but you can maintain the same e-mail address and password.

Documents required

The required documents for this programme are listed below. Applications may not be considered until all required documents have been uploaded to the application form.

Applicants who have already submitted an application can upload additional documents into the 'Post-submission uploads' section of the application form. Information about how to upload documents to an application form can be found in our [How to Apply FAQs](#).

Required documents for this programme are:

- **Two academic references (minimum).** References should be submitted electronically by the referee, using the online reference form. Alternatively, scanned copies of the original reference document(s)

can be uploaded by the applicant. At least one referee should be familiar with the applicant's academic work. If you graduated more than two years ago, or if professional experience is relevant to the application, professional references will be accepted in lieu of one academic reference.

At least one referee must be familiar with the applicant's academic work. If the two academic references are within one school/department, a third academic reference outside of the school/department is suggested.

References must be written, signed and dated on official letter headed paper from the referee's organisation. They must also include the referee's full contact details, i.e. postal address, telephone number and organisation email address. We cannot accept references where the contact email address is a personal email address. All references must be dated within the last two years.

- **Degree certificate(s)** from first and subsequent degrees. We require colour scans of original documents and certified translations of documents issued in any language other than English.
- **Academic transcripts** from first and subsequent degrees. We require colour scans of original documents and certified translations of documents issued in any language other than English. Transcripts must list all subjects taken and grades achieved to date, with the grade scale clearly displayed in the transcript. Applicants must clearly state their current average grade in the online application form.
- **Personal statement:** Personal statements should highlight the motivation for applying for the course, and any relevant experience and/or skills.

The personal statement should state which project the applicant wishes to be considered for.

- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** CVs might include details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application. Please do not include any school (pre-university) certificates, unless otherwise specified above.
- **Evidence of English language** is required from all students [whose native language is not English](#), in accordance with the [English requirement](#) for the programme. A colour scan of the original document or certificate is required.

Correspondence with applicants

Applicants will normally receive communication via email to the email address used to set up the application form account. Applicants should ensure the profile email address is kept up-to-date.

Selection process

Assessment of applications

All applications are considered in accordance with the [University's policy on equality and diversity](#). The University of Bristol upholds the principles of equality and diversity, respect and dignity. Candidates are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion or belief, disability, health or age.

Once a complete application has been submitted with all required supporting documents, it is considered by the main supervisor of each PhD project, who may contact applicants for an informal visit to discuss their application further. The supervisor will then put forward their best candidates to a selection panel.

Selected applicants will be invited to interview, where they will be asked to present a piece of research they have undertaken. Candidates will then be evaluated on their academic achievement, understanding of research and self-motivation.

In some subject areas, we receive a high volume of good quality applications for a small number of places. In

these areas, we may need to select applications for offer of admission from a high-quality pool using the following criteria:

Interviews

Applicants may be contacted by the main supervisor of each PhD project for an informal visit to discuss their application further. The supervisor will put forward their best applicants to a selection panel. Successful candidates will then be invited to attend a formal DTP interview day at the University of Bristol.

The purpose of the interview is to assess whether the applicant currently has the necessary skills and capabilities to pursue the chosen postgraduate programme, and whether the programme is appropriate to the applicant's interests and aspirations.

If required, interviewees based overseas will be interviewed by telephone or Skype.

All interviews are conducted by a panel of staff, at least one of whom is trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques. All interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

Following interview, up to nine studentships may be offered to successful candidates. However, candidates can also be put forward to a DTP-wide competition (usually held two weeks after interviews) following which a further 19 studentships will be offered across the DTP. All studentship offers will be made by mid-March.

Please note that although an applicant may be successful in being nominated by a supervisor for a particular project, they are not guaranteed a studentship until they have been made an offer following the DTP interview days.

Non-standard applications

We welcome applications from those with non-standard qualifications who can demonstrate knowledge, experience and skills developed in the workplace, or elsewhere, relevant to the programme of study. Please use your personal statement to provide further details.

Non-standard applications will be considered by the Admissions Tutor(s) for the programme on a case by case basis.

Decisions

Notification of decisions

Applicants will be notified by email when a decision has been made and decision letters will be available to view and print by logging into the application. If there is a deadline by which applicants must accept an offer of admission, this will be stated in the offer letter.

Offers

Offers will typically be made in line with the academic requirements set out above. Offers may be set above or below this level in recognition of an applicant's relevant qualifications and experience. Offer levels may also be adjusted in response to the level of competition for places in that application cycle.

Offers made may be conditional or unconditional. An unconditional offer will be made to successful applicants who have already met the conditions and provided evidence that conditions have been met. Where academic or language requirements have not yet been fulfilled, successful applicants will receive a conditional offer outlining the requirements that must be met.

If an applicant is not selected to receive an offer for the course to which they have originally applied, we may offer the opportunity to be considered for an alternative programme in a related subject area. In such cases applicants will receive an email notification providing any alternative course options and asking whether they wish to be considered for these. It may be necessary for applicants to submit additional documentation in order for the application to be fully considered for an alternative programme. Details of the documentation

required can be found in the [admissions statement](#) for the relevant programme.

Deferrals

This programme does not normally allow deferrals unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please contact the admissions team by emailing bristol-nercgw4plusdtp-admin@bristol.ac.uk

Or please contact the postgraduate admissions office within the school where the main project supervisor is based:

School of Biological Sciences: biol-postgrad@bristol.ac.uk

School of Chemistry: chem-pg-office@bristol.ac.uk

School of Earth Sciences: earth-postgrad@bristol.ac.uk

School of Geographical Sciences: geog-pgadm@bristol.ac.uk

if you would like to discuss the possibility of deferring your start date.

Additional information

Extenuating Circumstances

If your education has been significantly disrupted through health or personal problems, disability or specific difficulties within your studies you can submit an [extenuating circumstances](#) form as part of your application.

The information provided on the form will be treated confidentially, and will help us to fairly assess your academic performance in light of your circumstances.

ATAS

An ATAS certificate is not required.

Deposits

There is no deposit required for this programme.