

# Postgraduate Admissions Statement for Computer Science PhD, MSc by Research



This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022.

It should be read in association with the [University Admissions Principles and Procedures](#) for Postgraduate programmes, the relevant [prospectus entry](#) and general [application guidance](#).

## Admissions criteria

<b>Academic and English language requirements</b>	<p>The academic and English language requirements for this programme are displayed on the <a href="#">Postgraduate Prospectus</a></p> <p>For information on international equivalent qualifications, please refer to our <a href="#">International Office website</a>.</p>
<b>Non-standard applications</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>Non-standard applications will be considered by the Admissions Tutor(s) for the programme on a case by case basis.</p>

## Application process

### Online application form

Applicants should complete the online application form, uploading all required documents directly. Further information is available on our [guidance for online applications page](#).

Applications will not be considered until **all** required documents have been uploaded.

### Required and optional documents

✓	<b>References</b>	<p>We require two academic references. References should comply with our standard requirements outlined on <a href="#">our guidance pages</a>.</p>
✓	<b>Degree certificate(s) and academic transcripts</b>	<p>From first and subsequent degrees. Degree certificates and transcripts should comply with our standard requirements outlined on <a href="#">our guidance pages</a>.</p>
✓	<b>Personal statement</b>	<p>Lengthwise, your personal statement should be approximately one side of A4 and written in formal English.</p> <p>The Personal Statement gives your nominated supervisor an opportunity to find out more about you. Therefore, you should think of the Personal Statement as an opportunity to tell about yourself and to highlight your strengths.</p> <p>Explain your reasons for wanting to study this topic. What motivates you to do this research? Mention how your interest developed, what you have done to pursue it or how you've drawn inspiration from your current studies. Or just demonstrate your enthusiasm for it.</p> <p>It should describe your academic interests and your purpose and objectives in undertaking graduate research.</p> <p>The following questions may help you plan your personal statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why do you want to undertake this topic?</li> <li>• How does the research fit your skill set?</li> <li>• How do you stand out from the crowd - e.g., work experience?</li> <li>• What are you aspiring to be/do in your future career?</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can your work contribute to the department/University/society?</li> </ul>
✓	<b>Research Proposal</b>	<p>The primary requirement for the research proposal is to define and situate your research within an academic/disciplinary context. You should remember that people in the academic community are the primary audience/readership for postgraduate research. This means that you will need to identify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The research questions or problems that you intend to address;</li> <li>The research context for your project/programme of work;</li> <li>The methods you think you will use to pursue the key questions.</li> <li>The names of any academics you might like to work with, and the research group that most closely covers your interests.</li> </ol> <p>You will find details of the research groups and their contact details on the <a href="#">Faculty of Engineering research</a> website and the <a href="#">Computer Science Research</a> website.</p> <p>You can use the <a href="#">University of Bristol Research Portal</a> to find academics interested in your research topic. You should get in touch with the lead supervisor on the projects you're interested in and ask them questions about the research to make sure it's right for you. When emailing prospective Supervisors, the best way to attract their attention will be a well-formed research proposal and a Curriculum Vitae (CV).</p>
✓	<b>English language certificates/other evidence</b>	Evidence of meeting the English language profile as stated on the <a href="#">Postgraduate Prospectus</a> and specified by the <a href="#">University English Language Requirements Policy</a>
✓	<b>Curriculum Vitae (CV)</b>	CVs might include details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application.
<b>Optional Documents</b>		
<b>Research Training Statement</b>	Applicants are welcome to provide details of any relevant qualifications or training required to assist with their application.	
<b>Additional References</b>	Applicants are welcome to upload additional references to further support an application. Professional references from work experience in a related field and/or industrial placements can help an application.	

## Selection process

### Assessment of applications

All applicants are considered in line with the University's [Admissions Principles and Procedures Policy](#)

Once a complete application has been submitted with all required supporting documents, it is considered by at least two members of staff using the following criteria:

- Academic Performance in relevant qualification(s)
- Evidence of readiness to pursue a research degree
- English language ability (where applicable)
- References
- Personal statement
- Research Proposal

### Interviews

Interviews may form part of the selection process.

The purpose of the interview is to assess whether the applicant 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. Interviews do not reflect the decision to offer a place. Decisions are made only after completed applications have undergone academic review.

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

### **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 or pay a deposit, this will be stated in the offer letter.

### **Offers**

Offers will typically be made in line with the entry requirements set out on the prospectus page.

Offers made may be conditional or unconditional. An unconditional offer will be made to 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, applicants will receive a conditional offer outlining the requirements that must be met by the deadline noted in the offer.

### **Deferrals**

This programme does not normally allow deferrals unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please contact [sceem-pgr-admissions@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:sceem-pgr-admissions@bristol.ac.uk) if you would like to discuss the possibility of deferring your start date to the next academic year.

### **Results deadline**

Applicants who receive a conditional offer will be required to submit all final results to meet their offer conditions by the deadline stated in the offer letter. Offer holders who will be unable to provide their final results by this date should email [sceem-pgr-admissions@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:sceem-pgr-admissions@bristol.ac.uk) to notify the admissions team as soon as possible.

## **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 will be treated confidentially and will help us to assess your academic performance fairly considering your circumstances.

### **Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)**

International students and researchers (apart from exempt nationalities) who are subject to UK immigration control will be required to apply for an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate to study this programme. For further details see [www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme).

### **Visa**

International students coming to the UK to study full-time may need to apply for a student visa. Guidance is available on the [University website](#).

## **Fees and Deposits**

### **Fees**

Annual tuition fee is available on the relevant [prospectus entry](#) for this programme.

## **Funding**

Applicants will indicate on their application form if they are applying for a funded studentship/scholarship, will be self-funded, or if they have secured funding elsewhere. Funding will not be considered as part of an offer unless specific funding opportunities have been advertised and noted on the application form by the applicant. If an offer of funding is made in relation to advertised opportunities, it will be sent to the applicant in a separate offer letter.

Offer letters for programmes do not represent any intention to fund. It is the offer holders responsibility to ensure they arrange funds for any programme they accept an offer for.

## **Sponsored Students**

International offer holders who will be funded by an external funder must provide evidence of funding in the form of a confirmation letter from the recognised sponsor organisation. This should be uploaded to your online application using the 'Evidence for conditions' section and emailed to [student-fees@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:student-fees@bristol.ac.uk).

Home fees offer holders who secure external funding sponsorship must have the sponsor complete a [Sponsorship authorisation form](#) and email it to [student-fees@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:student-fees@bristol.ac.uk).