

Postgraduate Admissions Statement

PhD Accounting and Finance

Programmes covered

This Admissions Statement applies to the following programme(s):

PhD Accounting and Finance

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 Research Programmes](#).

Faculty

Faculty of Social Sciences and Law

Admissions team and contact details

Graduate Studies Admissions Team
Graduate Studies Office
School of Economics, Finance and Management
8 Woodland Road
Bristol BS8 1TN

Email: efim-pgadmissions@bristol.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)117 394 1519

Website: www.bristol.ac.uk/efm

Admissions cycle

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2019.

Application deadline

Application deadlines can be found on the individual programme page within the [University course finder](#).

Admissions criteria

Academic requirements

Applicants must hold/achieve an upper second-class or first-class honours degree in a related subject (or equivalent qualification), and a master's degree in a related subject either attained or under way at the time of application.

Significant weight will be given to the extent to which your application demonstrates a clearly thought out and specific interest in research and how this would fit into the wider context of research undertaken in the department.

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

English language requirements for non-native English speakers

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

You 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.

There is an option to take one of the University's Pre-sessional English courses; details are available on 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. Guidance on uploading documents can be found in the [guidance for online applications](#). Paper documents received by post, or electronic documents received by email, are only considered in exceptional circumstances.

Before applying, make sure you choose the right programme by reading the prospectus entry and Admissions Statement fully. If you need clarification, please [contact the relevant admissions team](#).

Applications may not be considered until all required documents have been uploaded. If you have already submitted an application, you can upload additional documents into the 'Post-submission uploads' section of the application form.

Documents required

Required documents for this programme are as follows:

- **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.
If you graduated more than two years ago, or if professional experience is relevant to your application, a professional reference will be accepted in lieu of one academic reference. At least one referee should be familiar with your academic work, including your current or past academic performance at master's level. References must be written, signed and dated on official letter-headed paper from the referee's organisation and must include full referee contact details, as shown in the [reference template](#). References supplied with a personal contact email address are only accepted in exceptional circumstances, which must be explained within the reference. 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 state their current average grade in the online application form.
- **Research statement.** You should use the research statement to define and situate your research within an academic/disciplinary context. With due regard for the primary audience/readership for postgraduate research (that is, the academic community), you should identify the following:
 1. The research questions or problems that you intend to address
 2. The research context for your project/programme of work
 3. The methods you intend to use to pursue the key questions
 4. Two potential supervisors for your research– please refer to the staff profiles as listed by [Research Group/interest](#)

- **Personal statement.** Personal statements should highlight the motivation for applying for the course, and any relevant experience and/or skills.

You should describe the reasons for your choice of postgraduate programme and why it is important to you. Please also explain why you are applying to University of Bristol, why you think you are a suitable candidate for your chosen programme of study, and how it fits with your future career plans.

- **English language certificates** are required from applicants whose native language is not English and whose full undergraduate degree was not taught in an [English-speaking country](#).

Correspondence with applicants

We will correspond with you via the email address used to set up your application form account. Please keep this address up-to-date.

Selection process

Assessment of applications

All applicants are considered on an equal basis in line with the [University's Equality and Diversity Policy](#).

Once a complete application has been submitted with all required supporting documents, it is considered by an admissions tutor in the first instance. Those applications likely to be successful are then circulated to potential supervisors.

Significant weight will be given to the extent to which applications demonstrate a clearly thought out and specific interest in research and how this would fit into the wider context of research undertaken in the department.

Where an applicant has undertaken a transnational education partnership programme or top-up degree, meeting the minimum academic entry criteria will not automatically mean an applicant will receive an offer. For these applicants, admissions decisions will consider the academic history of the applicant alongside relevance of degree, and, if required, degree content, and performance in key modules.

Each applicant is considered both holistically on their own merit and in competition with the rest of the applicant cohort during the academic cycle.

Interviews

In some cases, we may hold informal interviews in person or via Skype to assess candidates' suitability for their chosen research area. These are usually arranged directly with applicants by potential supervisors.

Interviews are used to assess whether the applicant has the necessary skills and capabilities to pursue their chosen programme, and whether the programme is appropriate to their interests and aspirations. Interviews may influence the final decision.

Interviewees based overseas are usually interviewed by telephone or Skype.

Interviews are normally conducted by two members 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 Equality and Diversity Policy](#).

Non-standard applications

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

Non-standard applications are considered by the programme admissions tutor(s).

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. Decision letters include any deadline by which applicants must accept an offer of admission.

Offers

Offers are typically made in line with the academic requirements set out above.

Offers may be conditional or unconditional. Unconditional offers are made to successful applicants who have met the academic requirements. Successful applicants who have not yet fulfilled the academic or language requirements will receive a conditional offer outlining the outstanding requirements.

Unsuccessful applicants may be considered for an alternative programme in a related subject area. In such cases, applicants will receive an email with details of the alternative options. You may have to submit additional documentation to be fully considered for an alternative programme. Please check the relevant [Admissions Statement](#) for details.

Deferrals

Deferrals are not permitted for this programme. Applicants who wish to defer are encouraged to resubmit their application for consideration in the relevant year.

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 in light of your circumstances.

ATAS

An ATAS certificate is not required for this programme.

Deposits

A deposit is not required for this programme.

Visa

International students coming to the UK to study full-time must apply for a student visa. [Tier 4 student visa guidance notes](#) are available on the University website.

Sponsored students

Sponsored students must upload a copy of their sponsorship letter in the 'Post-submission uploads' section of the online application, and must also complete and upload the [sponsorship authorisation form](#).

Version 1.0	Created August 2018
Version 1.1	Updated 1.1 Request to contact potential supervisors added.