PhD Education

Programmes covered

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

PhD Education

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 Social Sciences and Law

Admissions team and contact details

Student Services Office
School of Education
University of Bristol
35 Berkeley Square
Bristol BS8 1JA

Email: ed-masters-admiss@bristol.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)117 331 4234
Website: www.bristol.ac.uk/education/study/doctoral

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 a minimum of an upper second-class undergraduate honours degree (or equivalent) and normally a merit at master's level (or equivalent).

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 and master's 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 C of the University's English Language Requirements Policy.

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. 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 proposal (1,000 words).** You should use the research proposal 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

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

  Please set out your reasons for applying clearly and concisely. This element of the application is

extremely important in the decision-making process. The statement should focus on the relationship between your professional and academic experience, your future professional and academic development, and the role that a PhD will play in this.

- **English language certificates** are required from applicants whose native language is not English and whose full undergraduate and master's degrees were not taught in an English-speaking country.

Optional documents

- **Research training statement.** Applicants are welcome to provide details of any training requirements to support their postgraduate studies.

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 the admissions tutor and relevant academic colleagues in the School of Education. All applicants must meet the entry requirements above, and we pay particular attention to the research proposal.

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

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.

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.

Interviews are required for the scholarship funding process.

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. 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 you must accept an offer.

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 admissions 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 considered for an alternative programme. Please check the relevant Admissions Statement for details.

Deferrals

Deferred entry (moving an offer holder's programme start date to a later date) is available for this programme, subject to agreement. Please contact the admissions team if you would like to defer 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 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

International self-funded students accepting a place on a taught postgraduate programme are required to pay a deposit of £1500. Further information is available on how to pay programme deposits. Further information will also be provided in the offer letter to successful applicants.

The deposit is non-transferable and non-refundable except under the circumstances outlined in the International Deposits Refund Policy.

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.