

Postgraduate Admissions Statement

PhD Oral and Dental Sciences

Programmes Covered

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

PhD by dissertation and by published work, MSc by research

Distance learning option available

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

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

Faculty

Faculty of Health Sciences

Admissions team and contact details

Senior Postgraduate Admissions Administrator

Faculty of Health Sciences

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Telephone: +44 (0)117 428 2752

Website: www.bristol.ac.uk/dental/research

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 honours degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject. If you hold a non-UK degree or other qualifications, please contact the [faculty office](#) for advice.

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 E 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:

- **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 clearly state their current average grade in the online application form.
- **Research statement.** 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
- **Distance learning research statement.** Applicants for the distance learning option must submit a

research statement providing a description of the subject and focus of the research project, including the research materials and resources required (250-word limit).

- **Personal statement.** Please use the statement to outline your motivation for, and interest in, postgraduate research in this area. Highlight details of any previous academic or professional experience and skills related to your research area and any other information you feel is relevant.
- **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](#).
- **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.
- **Copy of your current passport** (for Tier 4 visa applicants who hold a current passport).
- **Distance learning supporting letter.** Applicants for the distance learning option must submit a supporting letter from any institution/organisation playing a role in their research.

Optional documents

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

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 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 postgraduate tutor, who will check the application to verify that you meet the minimum academic requirements for admission and request additional supporting documentation if necessary. Applications are then referred to potential supervisors for evaluation, and you will be informed about the status of your application soon thereafter. Supervisors may contact applicants directly for additional information to help them to evaluate the application.

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 form part of the selection process. Interviews typically last 30 minutes and 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 the applicant's interests and aspirations.

Interviewees based overseas are normally interviewed by telephone or Skype.

Interviews are normally conducted by two members of staff, one of whom is the proposed supervisor and 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 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 are typically 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 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 in order to be considered for an alternative programme. Please check the relevant [admissions statement](#) for details.

Deferrals

Deferred entry 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

There is no deposit 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](#).