

## Postgraduate Admissions Statement

# PhD Population Health Sciences

### Programmes Covered

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

PhD by dissertation and published work, DSc, MD by dissertation and 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 the [University Admissions Principles and Procedures for Postgraduate Research Programmes](#).

### Faculty

Faculty of Health Sciences

### Admissions team and contact details

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### Admissions cycle

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

### 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

Applicants must hold/achieve a minimum of an upper second-class honours degree (or international equivalent) or a master's degree in a subject relevant for the proposed research.

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

Candidates must include in their application the names of two potential supervisors (with evidence of discussion with the proposed lead supervisor, and their willingness to support your proposal) .

## 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 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

Applicants for the PhD by published work are not required to provide research statements.

- **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 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

- **Additional references.** You are welcome to upload additional references, such as professional references from work experience in a related field and/or industrial placements, to further support your application.
- **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 team and the proposed supervisors or senior members of academic staff.

Shortlisted applicants are then be invited for interview. We aim to reach a decision within three to four weeks of receiving complete applications.

Where we receive a large volume of high-quality applications for a small number of places, we shortlist applicants for interview on the basis of their qualifications, and research and personal statements.

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**

Offers without interview are typically only offered to applicants who have already secured a nationally competitive studentship.

Interviews are typically conducted by members of the postgraduate team and potential supervisors, at least one of whom is trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques. Interviews are used to assess applicants' academic and professional potential and to provide feedback on the proposed research. Interviews may include an oral research presentation.

Interviewees based overseas are interviewed by telephone or Skype.

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. Please use your personal statement to provide further details.

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

## **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 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**

Deferrals are only permitted in exceptional circumstances, but may be possible for self-funded students. Please [contact](#) the admissions team 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.

### **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](#).