Postgraduate Admissions Statement

PhD Security, Conflict and Human Rights

Programmes Covered

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

PhD Security, Conflict and Human Rights

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

Postgraduate Student Administrator
School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies
University of Bristol
11 Priory Road
Bristol BS8 1TU

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Telephone: +44 (0)117 331 7572

Website: www.bristol.ac.uk/spais/study/postgraduate-research

Admissions cycle

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1st October 2018 and 30th 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 equivalent) and a master's qualification (or equivalent).

For information on international equivalent qualifications, please refer to our International Office website.

English language requirements for non-native English speakers

For applicants whose first language is not English, and whose full undergraduate degree was not taught in an English-speaking country, it is necessary to hold/achieve a minimum score in an approved English language test as specified in Profile B of the University's English Language Requirements Policy.

Applicants do not need to have reached the required level of English language before submitting an application, however an English Language test must be submitted with the application in order for this to be reviewed. If necessary, English language will be included as a condition of offer.

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 to upload to online application form

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 the application, professional references will be accepted in lieu of one academic reference. At least one referee should be familiar with the applicant's academic work. References must be written, signed and dated on official letter headed paper from the referee's organisation. They must include the referee's full contact details, i.e. postal address, telephone number and organisation email address. A reference template is available to show the required format.

  References supplied with a personal contact email address will not be accepted unless under 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.

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

- **English language certificates** are required from applicants for whom English is not the native language and whose full undergraduate degree was not taught in an English-speaking country (please see the English Language Requirements for a list of English-speaking countries).

- **Research statement. PLEASE NOTE: As this is an interdisciplinary PhD pathway, applicants are required to articulate clearly and substantively, within their proposal, how and in what ways their proposed research is interdisciplinary in nature. Further to this, applicants should also be aware that an offer of a place on this programme is dependent upon the availability of co-supervision from two staff members from different disciplines relevant to the proposal, and so applicants are also required to identify this in the 'proposed supervisor' section of their application.** 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

Optional documents for this programme are:

- *High School (pre-university) certificates:* These must be colour scans of original documents or certified copies, as well as certified translations of documents in any language other than English.

- **Curriculum vitae (CV).** CVs might include details of other relevant qualifications to support an application.

- *Additional References:* 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.

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 admissions team/admissions tutor(s) using the following criteria:

- Academic achievement
- Academic references

- Research statement
- English language proficiency

Applicants who have undertaken a transnational education partnership programme or top-up degree and meet the minimum academic requirements will not automatically receive an offer. In these cases, admissions decisions are based on the applicant's academic history alongside relevance of degree, and, if necessary, degree content and performance in key modules.

Applicants are considered holistically on their own merit and in competition with the rest of the applicant cohort during that academic cycle.

Interviews

Interviews do not normally form part of the selection process. However, it may be deemed necessary to interview applicants with non-standard qualifications or who have additional skills and experience to be considered as part of the application process.

The purpose of the interview is to assess whether the applicant currently 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.

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

All interviews are 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 policy on equal opportunities.

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 will typically be made in line with the academic requirements set out above.

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

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 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 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.

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