Postgraduate Admissions Statement

PhD South West Biosciences (SWBio) Doctoral Training Partnership (BBSRC)

Programmes Covered

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

PhD South West Biosciences Doctoral Training Partnership

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 Taught or Research Programmes.

Faculty

Faculty of Life Sciences

Admissions team and contact details

Faculty Graduate Team
University of Bristol
65 St Michael's Hill
Bristol BS2 8DZ

Email: fls-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 0117 33 11644

Website: www.bristol.ac.uk/life-sciences/study/postgraduate/

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

A first or upper second-class honours degree (or international equivalent) in a biomedical science discipline, or a closely related discipline (e.g. chemistry, earth sciences, geography, biology, veterinary science) with a minimum of a grade B in A-level Mathematics (or evidence of an equivalent level of maths).

For information on international equivalent qualifications, please see 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 C of the University's English Language Requirements Policy.

Applicants 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.

Applicants have the option to undertake one of the University's Pre-sessional English courses. You can find information about the University of Bristol's Pre-Sessional English courses at the [Centre for English Language and Foundation Studies website](#).

Application process

Online application form

Applicants should complete the online application form, uploading all required documents directly into the application form. Guidance on uploading documents can be found in the [Guidance for online applications](#). Any paper documents received by post, or electronic documents received by email, will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances.

Applicants should make every effort to choose the correct programme in the application form by reading the prospectus entry and admissions statements fully. Applicants should [contact the relevant Admissions Team](#) if clarification is required.

Documents required

The required documents for this programme are listed below. Applications may not be considered until all required documents have been uploaded to the application form.

Applicants who have already submitted an application can upload additional documents into the 'Post-submission uploads' section of the application form. Information about how to upload documents to an application form can be found in our [Guidance for online applications](#).

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.

  Neither referee should be part of the supervisory team for the intended project.

  If a reference is included by the PhD project supervisor, a third reference will need to be included.

- **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:** The personal statement should state the project they want to be considered for. The statement should summarise the suitability of the applicant for the intended project, including how their academic credentials match the programme requirements (including the required mathematical training).

- **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).

- **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.

Optional documents for this programme are:

- *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.
Applications are considered using the following criteria:
- Academic achievement
- Academic references
- Personal statement
- Skills training, prior research experience and appropriateness for the project applied for

Interviews

Interviews will be used as part of the selection process. Project supervisors may invite candidates for informal visits before shortlisting.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an institutional interview. During the interview, applicants will be asked to make a short research presentation; instructions will be provided in advance of the interview. Candidates can expect to be questioned by the interview panel on their research presentation, their background research interests and experience, and future career plans. In addition to the interview there will also be a task-based exercise to complete (instructions will be provided in advance).

After the interviews, the selection panel will allocate the available studentships to the highest-ranked candidates. This means that although a student may be successful in being nominated by a supervisor for a particular project, they are not guaranteed a studentship until they have been successful at the institutional interview day.

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.

If there is a deadline by which applicants must accept their offer of admission, this will be stated in the offer letter.

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.

Deferrals

Due to the nature of postgraduate funding, deferred entry is not permitted for funded applicants to this programme. Applicants are encouraged to re-submit their application for consideration at a later 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

Applicants who will require a visa to study in the UK may also be required to gain clearance through the Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS). Please see the ATAS page on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website for further information.

The Academic Technology Approval Scheme is a clearance process which affects overseas applicants (outside the EEA and Switzerland) for certain postgraduate science, technology, medical and engineering studies in the UK. Applicants to affected programmes are required to obtain an ATAS certificate before applying for a visa.

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 will need to upload a copy of their sponsorship letter using the 'Post Submission Uploads' section of the online application. Sponsored students will also need to complete and upload the sponsorship authorisation form.

Version 1 created September 2018	
Version 1.1 updated 9/11/2018	Contact details and selection process section updated to list selection criteria and update process.