

Postgraduate Admissions Statement

MSc Volcanology

Programmes Covered

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

MSc Volcanology

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 Science

Admissions team and contact details

Postgraduate Administrator
School of Earth Sciences
Wills Memorial Building
Queen's Road
Bristol BS8 1RJ

Email: earth-postgrad@bristol.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)117 331 5133

Website: www.bristol.ac.uk/science

Admissions cycle

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1st October 2017 and 30th September 2018

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 or master's degree (or international equivalent) in earth sciences, geographical sciences, chemistry, physics, computer science, engineering, mathematics or another related subject. We may also consider applicants with relevant professional experience or qualifications equivalent to the specified academic entry requirements.

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 E 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](#).

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 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)
- **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.

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 Programme Coordinator, who may consult an internal admissions committee comprising several members of staff. Decisions are generally made on the basis of all the available information, including the written application, references and interview performance where applicable. The most important criteria are generally performance in the first degree and referees' statements regarding the individual's potential to do well and develop as a scientist.

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

Candidates may be invited for interview, and to visit the School of Earth Sciences and meet potential supervisors.

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](#).

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 by the relevant Admissions Team. Please contact the admissions team by emailing earth-postgrad@bristol.ac.uk if you would like to request 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.

Deposits

International self-funded students accepting a place on a taught postgraduate programme must pay a deposit of £1,500. Further information on [how to pay programme deposits](#) is provided in the offer letter as well as online.

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 are not required to pay the deposit but 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](#).

