Postgraduate Admissions Statement for

PhD Social Policy

University of BRISTOL

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1 October 2020 and 30 September 2021.

It should be read in association with the University Admissions Principles and Procedures for Postgraduate programmes, the relevant prospectus entry and general application guidance.

Admissions criteria	
Academic and English language requirements	The academic and English language requirements for this programme are displayed on the Postgraduate Prospectus For information on international equivalent qualifications, please refer to our International Office website.
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. Non-standard applications will require an up to date CV/resume and will be considered by the Admissions Tutor(s) for the programme on a case by case basis.

Application process	

Online application form

Applicants should complete the online application form, uploading all required documents directly. Further information is available on our guidance for online applications page

Applications will not be considered until **all** required documents have been uploaded.

Required and optional documents		
✓	**References**	We require two academic references. References should comply with our standard requirements outlined on our guidance pages.
✓	**Degree certificate(s) and academic transcripts**	From first and subsequent degrees. Degree certificates and transcripts should comply with our standard requirements outlined on our guidance pages.
✓	**Personal statement**	This should outline why the applicant has chosen this PhD programme and how it fits with their skills, experience and academic interests.
✓	**English language certificates/other evidence**	Evidence of meeting the English language profile as stated on the Postgraduate Prospectus and specified by the University English Language Requirements Policy
✓	**Curriculum Vitae (CV)**	Your CV (also known as a resume) should include details of relevant work/voluntary experience, qualifications and achievements to support an application.

✓	**Research Statement (maximum 1000 words):**	Applicants should use the research statement to define and situate your research within an academic/disciplinary context. With due regard for the fact that the academic community is the primary audience/readership for postgraduate research, applicants will need to 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 think you will use to pursue the key questions.
✓	**Research Training Statement**	Applicants are welcome to provide details of any relevant qualifications or training required to assist with their application.

Selection process

Assessment of applications

All applicants are considered in line with the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures Policy

Once a complete application has been submitted with all required supporting documents, it is considered by at least two members of staff using the following criteria:

- Strength of academic background
- Relevance of employment/work experience (if applicable)
- Strength of references
- Fit between research background, skills, interest and the programme
- Quality of research statement/proposal
- Proficiency in English language

Interviews

Interviews form part of the selection process.

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

Interviewees based overseas will normally be interviewed by telephone or Skype.

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 or pay a deposit, 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 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, 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.

Results deadline

Applicants who receive a conditional offer will be required to submit all final results to meet their offer conditions to sps-pgadmissions@bristol.ac.uk to notify the admissions team as soon as possible.

Deferrals

Deferred entry is available for this programme, subject to agreement by the relevant Admissions Team. Please contact sps-pgadmissions@bristol.ac.uk to make a formal request.

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 considering your circumstances.

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

An ATAS certificate is not required for this programme.

Visa

International students coming to the UK to study full-time may need to apply for a student visa. Tier 4 student visa guidance notes are available on the University website.

Fees and Deposits

Fees

Annual tuition fee are available on the relevant prospectus entry for this programme.

Deposits

International self-funded students accepting a place on a taught postgraduate programme are required to pay a deposit of £1500. Further information is available on how to pay programme deposits. Further information will also be provided in the offer letter to successful applicants. The deposit is non-transferable and non-refundable except under the circumstances outlined in the International Deposits Refund Policy.

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.