Admissions Statement – SWDTC Awards

Programmes covered: MRes plus MPhil/PhD (1+3 award) and MPhil/PhD (+3 award)

Entry requirements

Qualifications

Applicants for a +3 award should have completed, or be due to complete, an ESRC-accredited or a research Masters with a significant element of research training. Applicants should provide a detailed transcript and may be asked for further information to determine the relevance of the content covered.

An equivalent research Masters is defined as including significant social sciences research design, quantitative and qualitative research methods elements. All applications will be considered on an individual basis. For students who have undertaken a Masters in the UK, the transcript will need to show that a minimum of a third of your programme entailed research methods elements. For students who have undertaken a Masters outside the UK we will look for appropriate equivalencies. All awards are subject to ratification by the Academic Advisory Board, who shall have the authority to reconsider the equivalence of any Masters awards.

If the Masters degree has not been completed at the point of application, then the current average grade should be of at least Merit (60%) grade. If the application is successful, continued registration on the programme will be subject to successful completion of the Masters degree.

Holders of Masters degrees that include research training, but are not considered equivalent (as above), must apply for the 1+3 award. They may be eligible for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) or exemptions from certain units of the MSc/MRes element. Programme Co-ordinators will consider any cases for APL or exemptions, subject to institutional requirements. Any cases for APL for exemptions will be considered on an individual basis. Any exemption will be subject to the:

- Relevance of aims, objectives and learning outcomes of training taken
- Provision of transcripts or other supporting information
- Regulations of the institution

Language requirements

For those applicants for whom English is not their first language a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 overall with no sub-test lower than 6.0, or equivalent, is required. You are advised to check the language requirements for your programme within your institution.
Selection process and offers

All applicants are subject to the entry requirements above.

Research proposals are assessed according to the following criteria:

- Previous experience of the applicant;
- The quality of the proposal;
- The originality of the proposal;
- The content and coherence of the proposal;
- The methodology and methods;
- The applicant's references.

The assessment and ranking will be based on the following:

- Research Potential
  - Level of qualification
  - Institution
  - Classification
  - Mark Profile
- Academic Excellence
  - Achievable project
  - Adds to the field
  - Fits with strategic priorities
    - (e.g. ESRC - http://www.esrc.ac.uk/about-esrc/mission-strategy-priorities/index.aspx.)
    - (e.g. Your School – see Institutional website for strategic priorities.)
    - (e.g. Interdisciplinary Pathways - http://www.swdtc.ac.uk/prospectivestudents/)
- Collaborative Elements
  - Level of user engagement (ESRC collaboration and engagement guidance can be found at: http://www.esrc.ac.uk/collaboration/.)
  - Knowledge exchange activity (ESRC knowledge exchange guidance can be found at: http://www.esrc.ac.uk/collaboration/knowledge-exchange/index.aspx.)

The SWDTC upholds the principles of equality and diversity, respect and dignity. Candidates are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion or belief, disability, health or age.
Application process

To apply for this programme please complete the online relevant institutional application form and provide the following information:

- 2 References from referees familiar with the applicant’s academic work.
- Research proposal of normally 1,000 words, applicants are encouraged where possible to include one or both of the following:
  
  o some form of collaboration with an external (non academic) public, private and civil-society sector organisation – collaborations may include Co-funding, Internships, Placements and Contribution in terms of time, resources, access to data;
  o potential joint supervision between supervisors at more than one institution (having liaised with two from Bristol, Bath and Exeter);

- Research training statement
- Verified Degree Transcripts and Certification (transcripts must include titles of courses taken and grades achieved)
- Language Testing Certification (If applicable)
- Proof that your first degree was taught in English (if applicable)

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1 Please note that the University of Bristol are currently in the process of changing the entry requirements for English Language, so the minimum may vary.