

PhD Complexity Sciences

Programmes covered

Complexity Sciences (PhD)

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/Taught Programmes](#).

Faculty

Faculty of Engineering

Admissions team and contact details

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Admissions cycle

2017

Application process

Online application

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 [How to Apply FAQs](#).

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.

Please ensure you upload all documents in the online application form and do not send any paper documents. Sending paper documents will result in delays in processing your application.

Application Deadline

There is currently no application deadline for this programme.

Required documents

All documents must be translated into English. Degree certificates and transcripts should be certified copies and list subjects taken and grades/degrees achieved. If your degree is not yet complete, please provide transcripts of subjects taken and marks achieved to date. All documents must be uploaded into the online application form unless otherwise noted. Applicants who have already submitted an application can upload additional documents into the 'Post-submission uploads' section. You can find information about how to upload documents to your application form in our [How to Apply FAQs](#).

Required documents for this programme are:

- Two references (at least one academic)
- Degree certificate(s) from first and subsequent degrees
- Academic transcript(s) from your first and subsequent degrees
- Personal statement
- Research statement
- English language certificates if English is not your native language and your undergraduate degree was not in an English-speaking country (please see the English Language Requirements for a list of English-speaking countries)
- Curriculum vitae (CV)

A research training statement is not required but can help your application. You can include details of other relevant qualifications to assist with your application. Please do not include any school (pre-university) certificates.

Interviews

Applicants will be invited to attend an interview.

Correspondence with applicants

Applicants will normally receive communication via email to the email address used to set up their application form account. Applicants should ensure that this profile email address is kept up-to-date.

Admissions criteria

Academic entry requirements

An upper second-class honours degree (or international equivalent) in mathematics, physics, computer science or a similar field. Other degrees are considered but please note that evidence of a strong mathematical background is essential.

For information on international equivalent qualifications, please see our [International Office](#) website.

English language criteria for non-native English speakers

For applicants whose first language is not English, it is necessary to achieve a minimum score in an approved English language test specified in Profile E of the [University's English Language Requirements Policy](#).

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

Reference criteria

References should either be submitted directly by the referee using the online reference form, or submitted directly by the applicant.

References should be on headed paper, with clear contact details and signed by the person who wrote it.

References should either be submitted directly by the referee using the online reference form, or submitted directly by the applicant, ensuring that the reference is dated within the last year. At least one reference should be academic, preferably from the institution that awarded your highest degree.

Personal statement criteria

The personal statement should set out what within the content of the degree programme connects to the applicant's own interests, and it may include an account of the applicant's own intellectual journey and how this has forged their interest in and passion for the subject.

Research statement and research training statement criteria

Your application must include a research statement. We will look carefully at the statement when deciding whether we can find suitable supervisors for your research project. Your research statement does not commit you to researching in a specific area if your application is successful, but it is important that we have a clear idea of the broad research field you are most interested in.

Ideally, your statement should be organised around a small set of ideas or hypotheses that you would like to investigate, and some evidence of relevant background literature reading is useful. As a rough guide, your statement should be between 500 and 1000 words.

Before you write your research statement, you should consider the supervision interests of our current members of staff to ensure that we can offer expert supervision in your chosen field. If we cannot offer supervision in your field, the application will be rejected.

Interview criteria

This programme normally requires an interview with at least two academic staff (typically including the centre director) preferably in person when travel permits, or via video-conferencing.

Additional requirements

There are no additional requirements for this programme.

Selection process and offers

Selection process

All applications are considered in accordance with the [University's policy on equality and diversity](#). The University of Bristol 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.

Once a complete application has been submitted, it is considered by core academic staff within the centre as well as the centre director.

Applications are considered against selection criteria, which include:

- Academic achievement
- Academic references
- Personal statement
- Research statement

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

An unconditional offer may be made where applicants have provided evidence that conditions have been met. Where academic requirements have not yet been met, a conditional offer for the applicant to meet those requirements may be made.

Deferrals

Applicants may be able to defer their place for one year and should contact the Bristol Centre for Complexity Sciences to confirm if this is possible.

Deposits

There is no deposit required for this programme.

ATAS

Applicants who will require a visa to study in the UK will 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.