

# PhD Sustainable Futures

## Programmes covered

This admissions statement applies to the following programmes: Sustainable Futures (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 Social Sciences and Law

## Admissions team and contact details

Senior Postgraduate Admissions Administrator

University of Bristol Law School

Wills Memorial Building

Queens Road

Bristol BS8 1RJ

Email: [law-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:law-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk)

Telephone: +44 0117 954 5357 or 5225

## 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 view the SWDTP website for pathway contact details and further information [here](#).

### Application Deadline

There is an application deadline for this programme, which is displayed on the individual programme page within the University course finder.

There is a deadline for funded applications (ESRC and Bristol funding) for this programme. This is displayed on the individual programme page within the [University course finder](#).

### 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
- 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 list of English-speaking countries)

You can include details of other relevant qualifications or a research training statement to assist with your application.

## Interviews

Following the initial application assessment, PhD applicants will be invited to attend an interview in person, by Skype or over the phone before a decision is made. Applicants for SWDTP-funded places will be interviewed by a panel of academics from each institution.

## 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 in a social sciences or law discipline (or international equivalent) or a Master's qualification. Recognised Prior Learning is currently not accepted. Previous or professional experience is not required.

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 B 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.

Referees should be familiar with the applicant's academic work.

### Personal statement criteria

In your statement you should describe the reasons for your choice of postgraduate programme and why this is important to you. Please also explain why you are applying to University of Bristol, why you think you are a suitable candidate for your programme of study, and how your choice of programme fits with your future career plans.

### Research statement and research training statement criteria

We require a research statement that includes the following sections:

(i) Background

This section should: detail the essential background to the proposed research; provide a clear explanation of the issue(s) to be covered by the project; contain a review of the literature demonstrating an awareness of existing major works in the field; demonstrate how the proposed programme of research interacts, if at all, with these existing works; and include a full bibliography.

(ii) Research Questions

This section should include a series of research questions that will be addressed or problems that will be explored in the course of the research; and define its objectives in terms of answering those questions.

### (iii) Methods

This section should briefly describe the methods of the proposed research; explain the reasons for the chosen research methods and why they provide the most appropriate means by which to answer the research questions, and demonstrate an awareness of any ethical considerations in the proposed research.

Your research training statement should describe research training you have received to date, including that received as part of your employment.

#### Additional requirements

A sample of work may be requested.

### 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, including all required information, it is considered by the SWDTP pathway lead and the school's director of graduate study. Applications are considered against selection criteria, which include: academic achievement, academic references and statement of research interest.

#### 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 in to your application. Applications will be processed as soon as possible once a completed application has been received.

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

#### Deferrals

Applicants are able to defer their place for one year, after which applicants will need to reapply.

#### Deposits

There is no deposit required for this programme

#### ATAS

An ATAS certificate is not required.