

Postgraduate Admissions Statement

PhD Great Western Four+ Doctoral Training Partnership (NERC)

Programmes covered

NERC Great Western Four+ Doctoral Training Partnership (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 Science

Admissions team and contact details

Dr. Andrew Rodrigues
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School of Earth Sciences
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Or please contact the postgraduate admissions office within the school where the main project supervisor is based:

- School of Biological Sciences: biol-postgrad@bristol.ac.uk
- School of Chemistry: chem-pg-office@bristol.ac.uk
- School of Earth Sciences: earth-postgrad@bristol.ac.uk
- School of Geographical Sciences: geog-pgadmis@bristol.ac.uk
- School of Veterinary Sciences: medscivet-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk
- School of Mathematics: pgsec-maths@bristol.ac.uk
- Department of Mechanical Engineering: meng-pgradmissions@bristol.ac.uk

Admissions cycle

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1st October 2016 and 6th January 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.

To apply for this programme, applicants must complete the online application form through the relevant school where the main supervisor is based, applying to the Faculty of Science and to the NERC Great Western Four+ Doctoral Training Partnership (PhD) programme, and indicating in the funding section that they will be funded by the GW4+ DTP. If you wish to apply to multiple projects across different schools, please submit a separate application for each project (you do not need to do this if you are applying to multiple projects within the same school). You will need to change your username for each application but you can maintain the same e-mail address and password.

Application Deadline

There is an application deadline for this programme, which 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 (at least one academic)
- Degree certificate(s) from first and subsequent degrees
- Academic transcript(s) from your first and subsequent degrees
- Personal statement
- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- 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)

Interviews

Applicants may be contacted by the main supervisor of each PhD project for an informal visit to discuss their application further. The supervisor will put forward their best applicants to a selection panel. Successful candidates will then be invited to attend a formal DTP interview day at the University of Bristol.

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

Applicants for a studentship must have obtained, or be about to obtain, an upper second-class degree or higher (or international equivalent) in a discipline related to the PhD project for which they are applying, such as geology, biological sciences, environmental sciences, chemistry or mathematics. Applicants with additional relevant experience and/or a Master degree are encouraged to apply.

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.

At least one referee must be familiar with the applicant's academic work. If the two academic references are within one school/department, a third academic reference outside of the school/department is suggested.

Personal statement criteria

The personal statement should state which project the applicant wishes to be considered for.

Research statement and research training statement criteria

Research statements and research training statements are not required for this programme.

Interview criteria

If you are invited to interview, you will be asked to give a presentation and asked a series of questions with respect to your academic achievement, understanding of research and self-motivation.

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.

All applications submitted by the application deadline will be considered by the main supervisor of each PhD project, who may contact applicants for an informal visit to discuss their application further. The supervisor will then put forward their best candidates to a selection panel.

Selected applicants will be invited to interview, where they will be asked to present a piece of research they have undertaken. Candidates will then be evaluated on their academic achievement, understanding of research and self-motivation.

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.

Following interview, up to nine studentships may be offered to successful candidates. However, candidates can also be put forward to a DTP-wide competition (usually held two weeks after interviews) following which a further 19 studentships will be offered across the DTP. All studentship offers will be made by mid-March.

Please note that although an applicant may be successful in being nominated by a supervisor for a particular project, they are not guaranteed a studentship until they have been made an offer following the DTP interview days.

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.

Deferrals

Normally offers are only valid for the academic year stated on the application, however deferrals may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Deposits

There is no deposit required for this programme.

ATAS

An ATAS certificate is not required

