

# MSc Social Work

## Programmes covered

Social Work (MSc)

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 Taught Programmes](#).

## Faculty

Faculty of Social Sciences and Law

## Admissions team and contact details

Emma Western

Senior Postgraduate Admissions Administrator

School for Policy Studies

University of Bristol

8 Priory Road

Bristol BS8 1TZ

Email: [sps-pgadmissions@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:sps-pgadmissions@bristol.ac.uk)

Telephone: +44 0117 954 6785

## 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.

### 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
- Degree certificate(s) from first and subsequent degrees
- Academic transcript(s) from your first and subsequent degrees
- Evidence of GCSE (or international equivalent) Mathematics and English qualifications
- 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 list of English-speaking countries)

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

## Interviews

Students who meet all the required characteristics for the initial application review will be invited for 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.

We will correspond by email and/or phone.

## Admissions criteria

### Academic entry requirements

An upper second-class honours degree (or international equivalent) in any discipline. Relevant social work/social care related experience. GCSE Mathematics and English grade C or above (or international equivalent).

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

Applicants should arrange for referees to provide electronic references, which can be submitted through the online application system. Non-electronic references should be on headed paper, with clear contact details and signed by the person who wrote it. One of these should be an academic reference and the other a work reference from one of the social work-related jobs you have listed in your application.

### Personal statement criteria

In an unequal society, social workers enable people to address inequality and discrimination, resolve problems and meet personal needs. They work with individuals, families, groups and communities. Successful practitioners demonstrate:

- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Well developed emotional sensitivity
- Proven resilience and tenacity
- The capacity to develop others
- Good team working skills
- A commitment to service user involvement
- A capacity to work within professional boundaries.

In not less than 1,000 and not more than 1,500 words, describe and critically evaluate your education, work and life experiences, showing how these have motivated, prepared and developed you for the challenges of becoming a professional social worker. Use specific examples where possible. Analysis and discussion of the relevance of your work experience should be addressed in your Personal Statement.

### Interview Criteria

Candidates will be interviewed jointly by a member of university staff, a representative of a social services agency and a service user/carer. The interview day will have four parts. There will be:

1. An information session

2. A writing exercise, which will be based on a pre-set academic article. This exercise should demonstrate your ability to write clearly and logically in English and to think critically about social issues.
3. A group exercise to demonstrate service user awareness, communication and inter-personal qualities
4. A 20-minute personal interview which will cover the following: the reasons for your interest in social work, your initial understanding of the role and your reflective ability when evaluating any relevant life experiences that may help or hinder your development as a social worker; evaluation of an article related to social work; your awareness of the effects of race, age, sex, and other forms of discrimination, and how this relates to anti-oppressive practice.

### Additional requirements

Your curriculum vitae (CV) should give details of education and information on employment. Please cover all periods including gap years and career breaks from leaving school to the present. When providing information on your work experience in the application form, please describe and quantify your most relevant work experience. Please give start and end dates, and note if full or part-time. If part-time, include number of hours worked per week or month. This information is to be provided in the application section in addition to the employment record in a CV.

## 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.

Successful written applications will be rated with regard to the ability to benefit from social work study. The following criteria will be used: academic preparedness and good written English; relevant learning from work and life experience; understanding of social care, social work and appropriate personal and intellectual qualities; understanding of, and commitment to, the values and ethics of social work.

### 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.

Applicants will be notified by email if invited to interview and of the interview outcome. Successful applicants will be offered either an unconditional place, a place conditional on the fulfilment of specified requirements or a place on the waiting list. Unsuccessful applicants will receive notification from the University and will be offered feedback by the admissions tutor.

Offers will be conditional on various factors being completed before the start of the programme including:

- Satisfactory completion of a self-declaration form regarding suitability for practice. This includes offending, health and work disciplinary history
- Successful completion of a degree
- Evidence of relevant social care experience
- Applications for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks will be arranged at the start of the programme. The University reserves the right to withdraw any offer of a place on the programme in the light of information regarding serious criminal convictions or other relevant misdemeanours.

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

### Deferrals

The Social Work programme does not normally defer offers to the following year, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

### Deposits

International self-funded students are required to pay a deposit of £1000. You can pay this deposit online at <http://bris.ac.uk/online-payments/deposits> using a credit or debit card. Alternatively you can pay through our

PaytoStudy account at [www.bristol.ac.uk/paytostudy](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/paytostudy). PaytoStudy is an international payment solution which offers competitive exchange rates. Where PaytoStudy has a local bank account, all wire fee charges will be eliminated and you will be able to pay in your local currency to a local bank account.

The deposit is non-transferable and non-refundable except under the circumstances outlined in the International Deposits Refund Policy which is available at <http://www.bris.ac.uk/academicregistry/office/policies/idrp.html>. You may pay your deposit in advance of meeting the conditions of your offer. If you subsequently fail to meet the conditions attached to your offer and are therefore rejected from your course on academic grounds then a refund will be made to you. To make the payment you will need your student number which you will find in your offer letter.

## ATAS

An ATAS certificate is not required.