

PhD South West Biosciences- SWBio (BBSRC Doctoral Training Partnership)

Programmes covered

South West Biosciences 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 Biomedical Sciences

Admissions team and contact details

Mrs Ruth Batterham
Postgraduate Administrator
Biomedical Sciences Building
University Walk
Bristol BS8 1TD

Email: fbs-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 0117 33 11599

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.

To apply for this programme, applicants must complete the online application form, applying to the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences and specifying 'South West Biosciences Doctoral Training Partnership (PhD)' programme. If you apply for more than one project you will need to make separate applications.

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
- Personal statement
- Curriculum vitae (CV), which should include details of academic grades throughout your degree programme
- 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

Individual project supervisors may invite selected candidates for an informal visit before shortlisting. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview. All interviews will be held on a common date to be advertised on the SWBio DTP website (likely to be in late January or early February).

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

A minimum of an upper second-class UK degree in either biosciences or an appropriate science or technology, and/or a Masters degree, and a minimum of a B grade in A-Level Mathematics (or international equivalent qualification or experience).

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 C 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. Neither referee should be part of the supervisory team for the intended project.

Personal statement criteria

The applicant's personal statement should state the project they want to be considered for. The statement should summarise the suitability of the applicant for the intended project, including how their academic credentials match the programme requirements (including the required mathematical training).

Research statement and research training statement criteria

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

Interview criteria

Applications will initially be screened based on the following criteria: eligibility, academic performance, skills training, appropriateness for the project applied for, prior research experience, letters of reference and other relevant information. Project supervisors may invite selected candidates for informal visits before shortlisting.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview on a common date. During the interview, applicants will be asked to make a short research presentation; instructions will be provided in advance of the interview. Candidates can expect to be questioned by the interview panel on their research presentation, their background research interests and experience, and future career plans. Performance in the interview along with previous academic record, research experience and potential will all be used to select successful candidates.

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

Additional requirements

Due to the nature of the funding, fully funded studentships for this programme are only available to UK/EU students. However other students with their own sources of funding can apply to join the programme. External-funding students (including self-funding and overseas) are required to provide bench fees to the cost of £5,000 per annum, with an additional £1920 payable from year 2 onwards for fieldwork/conference attendance.

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.

There is a two-stage selection process. All applications submitted by the closing date will be considered by the main PhD supervisor of each project, who may contact applicants for an informal visit or to discuss their application further. The supervisor will then nominate their best applicant who will normally be invited to attend a common interview day at the relevant institution. After these interviews, the selection panel will allocate the available studentships to the highest-ranked candidates. This means that although a student may be successful in being nominated by a supervisor for a particular project, they are not guaranteed a studentship until they have been successful at the interview day.

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 who are successful at the interview day will be made an offer of study within a fortnight of the interview. If there is a deadline by which applicants must accept their offer of admission, this will be stated in the offer letter.

Deferrals

Due to the nature of the funding deferrals are not permitted.

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.