Postgraduate Admissions Statement

PhD Advanced Quantitative Methods

Programmes Covered
This admissions statement applies to the following programme(s):

PhD Advanced Quantitative Methods

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 Programmes.

Faculty
Faculty of Social Sciences and Law

Admissions team and contact details
Postgraduate Student Administrator
School of Geographical Sciences
University Road
Bristol BS8 1SS

Email: geog-pgadmis@bristol.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)117 331 7328
Website: www.bristol.ac.uk/geography

Admissions cycle
This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1st October 2018 and 31st September 2019.

Application deadline
Details of application deadlines for this programme are displayed on the individual programme page within the University course finder.

Admissions criteria
Academic requirements
Applicants must hold/achieve a minimum of upper second-class degree (or equivalent qualification) with substantive quantitative elements (at least 60 credits plus a quantitative dissertation).

For information on international equivalent qualifications, please refer to our International Office website.
English language requirements for non-native English speakers
For applicants whose first language is not English, and whose full undergraduate degree was not
taught in an English-speaking country, it is necessary to hold/achieve a minimum score in an
approved English language test as specified in Profile B of the University’s English Language
Requirements Policy.

Applicants do not need to have reached the required level of English language before submitting an
application, however an English Language test must be submitted with the application in order for
this to be reviewed. If necessary, English language will be included as a condition of offer.

Applicants have the option to undertake one of the University’s Pre-sessional English courses. You
can find information about the University of Bristol’s Pre-Sessional English courses at the Centre for
English Language and Foundation Studies website.

Application process

Online application form
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 guidance for online
applications. Any paper documents received by post, or electronic documents received by email, will
not be considered except in exceptional circumstances.

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.

Documents to upload to online application form
The required documents for this programme are listed below. Applications may not be considered
until all required documents have been uploaded to the application form.

Applicants who have already submitted an application can upload additional documents into the
‘Post-submission uploads’ section of the application form. Information about how to upload
documents to an application form can be found in our guidance for online applications.

Required documents for this programme are:

- **Two academic references (minimum):** References should be submitted electronically by the
  referee, using the online reference form. Alternatively, scanned copies of the original
  reference document(s) can be uploaded by the applicant.
  If you graduated more than two years ago, or if professional experience is relevant to the
  application, professional references will be accepted in lieu of one academic reference. At
  least one referee should be familiar with the applicant’s academic work. References must be
  written, signed and dated on official letter headed paper from the referee’s organisation.
  They must include the referee’s full contact details, i.e. postal address, telephone number
  and organisation email address. A reference template is available to show the required
  format.
  References supplied with a personal contact email address will not be accepted unless under
  exceptional circumstances, which must be explained within the reference. All references
  must be dated within the last two years.
● **Degree certificate(s)** from first and subsequent degrees. We require colour scans of original documents and certified translations of documents issued in any language other than English.

● **Academic transcripts** from first and subsequent degrees. We require colour scans of original documents and certified translations of documents issued in any language other than English. Transcripts must list all subjects taken and grades achieved to date, with the grade scale clearly displayed in the transcript. Applicants must clearly state their current average grade in the online application form.

● **Personal statement**: Personal statements should highlight the motivation for applying for the course, and any relevant experience and/or skills.

● **English language certificates** are required from applicants for whom English is not the native language and whose full undergraduate degree was not taught in an English-speaking country (please see the [English Language Requirements](#) for a list of English-speaking countries)

● **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**: CVs might include details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application. Please do not include any school (pre-university) certificates, unless otherwise specified above.

● **Research statement**. You should use the research statement to define and situate your research within an academic/disciplinary context. With due regard for the primary audience/readership for postgraduate research (that is, the academic community), you should identify the following:
  1. The research questions or problems that you intend to address
  2. The research context for your project/programme of work
  3. The methods you intend to use to pursue the key questions

● **Research training statement** from candidates applying for the 1+3 ESRC PhD studentship (UK residents only).

**Correspondence with applicants**

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

**Selection process**

**Assessment of applications**

All applicants are considered on an equal basis in line with the [University’s Equality and Diversity Policy](#).

Applicants who have undertaken a transnational education partnership programme or top-up degree and meet the minimum academic requirements will not automatically receive an offer. In these cases, admissions decisions are based on the applicant’s academic history alongside relevance of degree, and, if necessary, degree content and performance in key modules.

Applicants are considered holistically on their own merit and in competition with the rest of the applicant cohort during that academic cycle.
Interviews
Interviews do not normally form part of the selection process. However, we may interview applicants with non-standard qualifications or those with additional skills and experience to be considered as part of their application.

Interviews are used to assess whether the applicant has the necessary skills and capabilities to pursue their chosen programme, and whether the programme is appropriate to their interests and aspirations.

Interviewees based overseas are usually interviewed by telephone or Skype.

Interviews are normally conducted by two members of staff, at least one of whom is trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques. All interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University’s Equality and Diversity Policy.

Non-standard applications
We welcome applications from those with non-standard qualifications who can demonstrate knowledge, experience and skills developed in the workplace, or elsewhere, relevant to the programme of study. Please use your personal statement to provide further details.

Non-standard applications will be considered by the Admissions Tutor(s) for the programme on a case by case basis.

Decisions

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

Offers
Offers will typically be made in line with the academic requirements set out above.

Offers made may be conditional or unconditional. An unconditional offer will be made to successful applicants who have already met the conditions and provided evidence that conditions have been met. Where academic or language requirements have not yet been fulfilled, successful applicants will receive a conditional offer outlining the requirements that must be met.

If an applicant is not selected to receive an offer for the course to which they have originally applied, we may offer the opportunity to be considered for an alternative programme in a related subject area. In such cases applicants will receive an email notification providing any alternative course options and asking whether they wish to be considered for these. It may be necessary for applicants to submit additional documentation in order for the application to be fully considered for an alternative programme. Details of the documentation required can be found in the admissions statement for the relevant programme.

Deferrals
Deferred entry is available for this programme, subject to agreement. Please contact the admissions team if you would like to defer your start date.
Additional information

**Extenuating Circumstances**
If your education has been significantly disrupted through health or personal problems, disability or specific difficulties within your studies you can submit an extenuating circumstances form as part of your application.

The information provided on the form will be treated confidentially and will help us to fairly assess your academic performance in light of your circumstances.

**ATAS**
An ATAS certificate is not required.

**Deposits**
International self-funded students accepting a place on a taught postgraduate programme are required to pay a deposit of £1500. Further information is available on how to pay programme deposits. Further information will also be provided in the offer letter to successful applicants.

The deposit is non-transferable and non-refundable except under the circumstances outlined in the International Deposits Refund Policy.

**Visa**
International students coming to the UK to study full-time must apply for a student visa. Tier 4 student visa guidance notes are available on the University website.

**Sponsored Students**
Sponsored students are not required to pay the deposit but will need to upload a copy of their sponsorship letter using the ‘Post Submission Uploads’ section of the online application. Sponsored students will also need to complete and upload the sponsorship authorisation form.