



Postgraduate Admissions Statement

PhD Computational Statistics and Data Science

Programmes covered

This Admissions Statement applies to the following programme(s):

PhD Computational Statistics and Data Science

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 Science

Admissions team and contact details

COMPASS CDT Admissions

School of Mathematics

University Walk

Bristol BS8 1TW UK

Email: compass-cdt@bristol.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)117 928 8658

Website <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/maths/postgraduate/>

Admissions cycle

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2019.

Application deadline

Application deadlines can be found on the individual programme page within the [University course finder](#).

Admissions criteria

Academic requirements

Applicants must hold/achieve a minimum of upper second-class honours degree, master's degree (or international equivalent) in mathematics, statistics, computer science or another highly numerate subject such as economics, epidemiology or physics.

For information on international equivalent qualifications, please refer to our [International Office website](#).

English language requirements for non-native English speakers

Applicants whose first language is not English, and whose full undergraduate degree was not taught in an English-speaking country, must hold/achieve a minimum score in an approved English language test as specified in **Profile B** of the [University's English Language Requirements Policy](#).

You do not need to have reached the required level of English language before submitting an application, but an English language test must be submitted with the application for review. If necessary, English language will be included as a condition of offer.

There is an option to take one of the University's Pre-sessional English courses; details are available on 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. Guidance on uploading documents can be found in the [guidance for online applications](#). Paper documents received by post, or electronic documents received by email, are only considered in exceptional circumstances.

Before applying, make sure you choose the right programme by reading the prospectus entry and Admissions Statement fully. If you need clarification, please [contact the COMPASS CDT admissions team](#).

Applications may not be considered until all required documents have been uploaded. If you have already submitted an application, you can upload additional documents into the 'Post-submission uploads' section of the application form.

Documents to upload to online application form

Required documents for this programme are as follows:

- **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. At least one reference must be from your current (if applicable) or most recent programme of academic study.

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** The personal statement (one A4 page) should:
 - explain your motivation for applying to the programme and how it relates to your plans for the future
 - explain why you should be offered a place on the programme
 - highlight elements of your academic record which align with the theme of the programme, such as project work or courses you have taken
 - highlight any other relevant skills or experience
- **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.

Optional documents

- **Additional references.** Applicants are welcome to upload additional references from work experience in a related field and/or industrial placements to support their application.
- **Post-Submission Uploads.** Applicants are welcome to upload an example of their written work such as a research project or dissertation to support their application.

Correspondence with applicants

We will correspond with you via the email address used to set up your application form account. Please keep this address 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](#).

Once a complete application has been submitted with all required supporting documents, it is considered by the admissions team on the basis of all the available information, including the written application and references, and, if applicable, the performance at interview.

Applicants who have undertaken a transnational education partnership programme or top-up degree and meet the minimum academic entry criteria will not automatically receive an offer of admission. In these cases, we consider 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 form part of the selection process. The purpose of the interview is to assess whether the applicant currently has the necessary skills and capabilities to pursue the chosen postgraduate programme, and whether the programme is appropriate to the applicant's interests and aspirations.

If required, interviewees based overseas will normally be interviewed by telephone or Skype. All interviews are conducted by at least 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 policy on equal opportunities.

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. Decision letters include any deadline by which applicants must accept an offer.

Offers

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

Offers may be conditional or unconditional. Unconditional offers are made to successful applicants who have met the admissions requirements. Successful applicants who have not yet fulfilled the academic or language requirements will receive a conditional offer outlining the outstanding requirements.

Unsuccessful applicants may be considered for an alternative programme in a related subject area. In such cases, applicants will receive an email with details of the alternative options. You may have to submit additional documentation in order to be considered for an alternative programme. Please check the relevant [admissions statement](#) for details.

Deferrals

Deferred entry may be considered in exceptional circumstances. Please contact the admissions team compass-cdt@bristol.ac.uk to discuss the possibility of deferring 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 will be treated confidentially, and will help us to assess your academic performance fairly in light of your circumstances.

ATAS

An ATAS certificate is required for this programme.

Deposits

There is no deposit required for this programme

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 must upload a copy of their sponsorship letter in the 'Post-submission uploads' section of the online application, and must also complete and upload the [sponsorship authorisation form](#).