



Postgraduate Admissions Statement

PhD Molecular, Genetic and Lifecourse Epidemiology (Wellcome Trust)

Programmes Covered

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

PhD Molecular, Genetic and Lifecourse Epidemiology

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 Health Sciences

Admissions team and contact details

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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](#) and on the [programme website](#).

Admissions criteria

Academic requirements

Applicants must hold/achieve a minimum of an upper first-class honours degree or master's degree in a relevant discipline. As this is a multidisciplinary programme, degrees may be in a range of science subjects, but you should demonstrate in your research statement how you intend to apply your degree to the field of

molecular, genetic or lifecourse epidemiology.

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 applying. 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](#).

Additional requirements

There are no additional requirements for this programme.

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 relevant 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 required

Required documents for this programme are as follows:

- **A covering letter** stating clearly that you are applying for the Wellcome Trust four-year PhD programme in Molecular, Genetic and Lifecourse Epidemiology. The letter should include a personal statement (maximum 250 words) about your career aspirations.
- **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 specified above.
- **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.
- **Research statement (approximately 1,200 words)**. You should use the research proposal 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
- **English language certificates** are required from applicants whose native language is not English and whose full undergraduate degree was not taught in an [English-speaking country](#).
 - **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 your application, a professional reference will be accepted in lieu of one academic reference. At least one referee should be familiar with your academic work. References must be written, signed and dated on official letter-headed paper from the referee's organisation, and must include full referee contact details, as shown in the [reference template](#). References supplied with a personal contact email address are only accepted in exceptional circumstances, which must be explained within the reference. All references must be dated within the last two years .
- **Copy of your current passport** (for Tier 4 visa applicants who hold a current passport).

Optional documents

- **Additional references.** You are welcome to upload additional references, such as professional references from work experience in a related field and/or industrial placements, to further support your application.
- **Research training statement.** You are welcome to provide details of any training requirements to support their postgraduate studies.

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](#).

Once a complete application has been submitted with all required supporting documents, it is considered by a selection panel (including programme directors) following the closing date. As we receive a large volume of high-quality applications for a small number of places, we typically shortlist applicants for interview according to their academic qualifications and the strength of their research proposal and personal statement.

Where an applicant has undertaken a transnational education partnership programme or top-up degree, meeting the minimum academic entry criteria will not automatically mean an applicant will receive an offer. For these applicants, admissions decisions will consider the academic history of the applicant alongside relevance of degree, and, if required, degree content, and performance in key modules.

Each applicant is considered both holistically on their own merit and in competition with the rest of the applicant cohort during the academic cycle.

Shortlisted applicants are invited for interview within three to four weeks.

Interviews

Interviews form part of the selection process for this programme, and comprise a five-minute presentation from the applicant on their proposed research, followed by project-specific and generic questions from the panel.

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 applicants with non-standard qualifications who can demonstrate knowledge, experience and skills developed in the workplace, or elsewhere, relevant to their chosen programme. Please use your personal statement to provide further details.

Non-standard applications are considered by the programme directors.

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 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

We only allow deferrals in exceptional circumstances, and any deferral is subject to the agreement of the funder. Please [contact](#) the admissions team if you would like 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 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

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.