Postgraduate Admissions Statement for
PhD Accounting and Finance

Awards available; PhD

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1 October 2019 and 30 September 2020. It should be read in association with the University Admissions Principles and Procedures for Postgraduate programmes and the relevant prospectus entry for this programme.

Faculty
Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, School of Economics, Finance and Management

Admissions team and contact details
Graduate Studies Office
School of Accounting and Finance
15-19 Tyndalls Park Road
Bristol
BS8 1PQ

Website www.bristol.ac.uk/accounting/
www.bristol.ac.uk/efm

Email efim-pgr@bristol.ac.uk

Telephone +44 (0)117 394 1518

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 an upper second-class or first-class honours degree in a related subject (or equivalent qualification), and a master's degree in a related subject either attained or under way at the time of application. Significant weight will be given to the extent to which your application demonstrates a clearly thought out and specific interest in research and how this would fit into the wider context of research undertaken in the department. The ability to communicate clearly and precisely is also an important academic requirement.

For information on international equivalent qualifications, please refer to our International Office website.

English language requirements
Profile B

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.
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 of study.
Please use your personal statement to provide further details. Non-
standard applications are considered by the programme admissions
tutor(s).

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Application process

Online application form

Applicants should complete the online application form, uploading all required documents directly. Further
information is available on our guidance for online applications page

Applications will 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. Paper documents received by post, or electronic documents received by email, are
only considered in exceptional circumstances.

Required and optional documents

✓ 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 supplied with a personal
contact email address will be accepted in exceptional circumstances,
which must be explained within the reference.
All 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 and must be dated within the last two
years. A reference template is available to show the required format.

✓ 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. You should describe
the reasons for your choice of postgraduate programme and why it is
important to you. Please also explain why you are applying to University
of Bristol, why you think you are a suitable candidate for your chosen
programme of study, and how it fits with your future career plans.
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.

CVs might include details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application.

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
4. Two potential supervisors for your research—please refer to the staff profiles as listed by Research Group/interest

Applicants are welcome to provide details of any relevant qualifications or training required to assist with their application.

Assessment of applications

All applicants are considered on an equal basis in line with the University’s Admissions Principles and Procedures Policy and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy.

Once a complete application has been submitted with all required supporting documents, it is considered by an admissions tutor in the first instance. Those applications likely to be successful are then circulated to potential supervisors.

Significant weight will be given to the extent to which applications demonstrate a clearly thought out proposal and specific interest in research and how this would fit into the wider context of research undertaken in the department. The ability to communicate clearly and precisely is also an important academic requirement.

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.

Interviews

Informal interviews usually form part of the selection process to assess candidates’ suitability for their chosen research area. These are usually arranged directly with applicants by potential supervisors. 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. Interviews may influence the final decision. Interviewees based overseas are usually interviewed by
telephone or Skype. Interviews are normally conducted by two members of staff in accordance with the University’s Equality and Diversity Policy.

### 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 of admission.

### 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 academic 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 to be fully considered for an alternative programme. Please check the relevant Admissions Statement for details.

### Deferrals

Deferrals are not permitted for this programme. Applicants are encouraged to re-submit their application for consideration following year.

### 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 considering your circumstances.

#### Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

An ATAS certificate is not required for this programme.

#### Visa

International students coming to the UK to study full-time may need to apply for a student visa. [Tier 4 student visa guidance notes](#) are available on the University website.

### Fees and Deposits

#### Fees

Annual tuition fee for 2020/21 if available on the relevant [prospectus entry](#) for this programme.

#### Deposits

Deposits are not required for this programme.

#### Sponsored Students

Sponsored students will need to upload a copy of their sponsorship letter using the ‘Post Submission Uploads’ section of the online application.