

Postgraduate Admissions Statement for PhD Great Western Four+ Doctoral Training Partnership (NERC)



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 Science

Admissions team and contact details

Bristol NERC GW4+ DTP Administrator
School of Earth Sciences
Wills Memorial Building
Queen's Road
Bristol BS8 1RJ

Or please contact the postgraduate admissions office within the school where the main project supervisor is based:

- School of Biological Sciences: biol-postgrad@bristol.ac.uk
- School of Chemistry: chem-pg-office@bristol.ac.uk
- School of Earth Sciences: earth-postgrad@bristol.ac.uk
- School of Geographical Sciences: geog-pgadmin@bristol.ac.uk

Website

www.nercgw4plus.ac.uk/

Email bristol-nercgw4plusdtp-admin@bristol.ac.uk

Telephone +44 (0)117 331 5426

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;
An upper second-class degree or higher (or international equivalent) in a discipline related to the PhD project for which you are applying, such as geology, biological sciences, environmental sciences, chemistry or geography. Applicants with additional relevant experience and/or a master's degree are encouraged to apply.

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

English language requirements

Profile E

	All applicants are required to have reached the required profile level of English language as specified by the University's English Language Requirements Policy prior to registration on to this programme.
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.

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.
✓	Programme specific personal statement requirements	Applicants should make it clear in the Personal statement to which project their application refers.
✓	English language certificates/other evidence	All applicants are required to have reached the required profile level of English language as specified by the University's English Language Requirements Policy
✓	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

A Research Training Statement is not required. However, applicants are welcome to provide details of any relevant qualifications or training required to assist with their application.

Selection process

Assessment of applications

All applicants are considered 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 at least two members of staff.

Interviews

Interviews form part of the selection process. The purpose of the interview is to assess whether the applicant 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.

Selected applicants are invited to attend a formal DTP interview at the University of Bristol, where they will be asked to present a piece of research they have undertaken. Interviews are conducted by a panel 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](#).

Following interview, all studentship offers will be made by mid-March.

Please note that although you may be successful in being nominated by a supervisor for a particular project, you are not guaranteed a studentship until you have been made an offer following the interview.

Interviewees based overseas will normally be interviewed by telephone or Skype.

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 may be set above or below this level in recognition of an applicant's relevant qualifications and experience. Offer levels may also be adjusted in response to the level of competition for places in that application cycle.

Offers made may be conditional or unconditional. An unconditional offer will be made to 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, 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.

Results deadline

Applicants who receive a conditional offer will be required to submit all final results to meet their offer conditions by the date advised in their offer correspondence. Offer holders who will be unable to provide their final results by this date should email bristol-nercgw4plusdtp-admin@bristol.ac.uk to notify the admissions team as soon as possible.

Deferrals

This programme does not normally allow deferrals unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please contact bristol-nercgw4plusdtp-admin@bristol.ac.uk 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 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.