

# Postgraduate Admissions Statement for PhD Psychology



Awards available; PhD MSc by research.  
This programme is also available via distance learning

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.

<b>Faculty</b> Faculty of Life Sciences, School of Psychological Science	
<b>Admissions team and contact details</b> School of Psychological Science University of Bristol 12a Priory Road Bristol BS8 1TU	<b>Website</b> <a href="http://www.bristol.ac.uk/psychology/">www.bristol.ac.uk/psychology/</a>
	<b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:psychology-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk">psychology-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk</a>
	<b>Telephone</b> +44 (0)117 928 8452

## Application deadline

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

## Admissions criteria

<b>Academic requirements</b>	Applicants must hold/achieve a minimum of; An upper second-class honours degree (or equivalent) in psychology or a related discipline.
	For information on international equivalent qualifications, please refer to our <a href="#">International Office website</a> .
<b>English language requirements</b>	Profile C All applicants are required to have reached the required profile level of English language as specified by the <a href="#">University's English Language Requirements Policy</a> prior to registration on to this programme.
<b>Non-standard applications</b>	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

✓	<b>Two academic references (minimum):</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 <a href="#">reference template</a> is available to show the required format.</p>
✓	<b>Degree certificate(s)</b>	<p>From first and subsequent degrees. We require colour scans of original documents and certified translations of documents issued in any language other than English.</p>
✓	<b>Academic transcripts</b>	<p>From first and subsequent degrees. We require colour scans of original documents and certified translations of documents issued in any language other than English.</p> <p>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.</p>
✓	<b>Personal statement:</b>	<p>Personal statements should highlight the motivation for applying for the course, and any relevant experience and/or skills. For the distance learning option, the personal statement should reflect and highlight why distance learning is the best mode to undertake this particular PhD.</p>
✓	<b>English language certificates/other evidence</b>	<p>All applicants are required to have reached the required profile level of English language as specified by the <a href="#">University's English Language Requirements Policy</a></p>
✓	<b>Curriculum Vitae (CV)</b>	<p>CVs might include details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application.</p>

✓	<b>Research Statement:</b>	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proposed research topic (including potential supervisors if known)</li> <li>2. The research questions or problems that you intend to address</li> <li>3. The research context for your project/programme of work</li> <li>4. The methods you intend to use to pursue the key questions</li> </ol> <p>You should also demonstrate how any previous research experience will benefit you in your chosen field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the distance learning option only, the research statement should provide information about the external setting (facility/laboratory/environment) to undertake the proposed PhD [250 word limit].</li> </ul>
✓	<b>Distance Learning supporting letter</b>	<p>For the distance learning option only, applicants are also required to submit a supporting letter from any institution/organisation that they will depend upon for the purposes of completing their research.</p>
<b>Optional Documents</b>		
	<b>Research Training Statement</b>	<p>If necessary, you should provide details of any training requirements to support your postgraduate studies.</p>

## 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 using the following criteria:

- Academic achievement
- English language proficiency (where applicable)
- Academic references
- personal statement

### Interviews

Candidates may be invited to attend an interview. There is no set format for interviews, but they typically cover one or more of the following areas: the applicant's academic background, including training and experience that is of particular relevance to the programme or project; the applicant's motivation for applying, including specific research interests within the discipline and career aspirations; and potential research projects. Candidates will also have the opportunity to ask questions. 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 normally interviewed by telephone or Skype. Interviews are conducted by a minimum of 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.

### **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 or pay a deposit, 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 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.

### **Deferrals**

This programme does not normally allow deferrals unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please contact [psychology-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:psychology-pg-admissions@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.

## **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.

