

Postgraduate Admissions Statement for



PhD Physics

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1 October 2020 and 30 September 2021.

It should be read in association with the [University Admissions Principles and Procedures](#) for Postgraduate programmes, the relevant [prospectus entry](#) and general [application guidance](#).

Admissions criteria

Academic and English language requirements	<p>The academic and English language requirements for this programme are displayed on the Postgraduate Prospectus</p> <p>For information on international equivalent qualifications, please refer to our International Office website.</p>
Non-standard applications	<p>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.</p> <p>Non-standard applications will be considered by the Admissions Tutor(s) for the programme on a case by case basis.</p>

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.

Required and optional documents

✓	References	<p>We require two academic references, and it is informative if one or both of the referees can speak to the research experience of the candidate. References should comply with our standard requirements outlined on our guidance pages.</p>
✓	Degree certificate(s) and academic transcripts	<p>From first and any subsequent degrees. Degree certificates and transcripts should comply with our standard requirements outlined on our guidance pages.</p>
✓	Personal statement	<p>Personal Statements should highlight why a candidate wishes to complete a research degree: the motivation for a research degree in general, and a research degree in Physics at Bristol in particular.</p> <p>Please explain your interest in Physics research and motivation for taking on a research degree. Examples of this might be how you developed your interest in research, and relating this to your own direct experience of conducting a research project, of any scale.</p>

		<p>Feel free to point to, in greater detail perhaps than in your CV, your experience, and level of expertise, with certain methods, techniques and research protocols.</p> <p>You should indicate the area of Physics research at Bristol that you would like to work in. It is helpful to reference your research interests with those of potential supervisors in the School of Physics, explaining your choice.</p> <p>Demonstrate your knowledge of the research training environment for research students within the School of Physics. You may be interested in joining of the Centres of Doctoral Training within the School, and if so, you should reference this in your personal statement.</p> <p>Candidates may wish to relate, how they see a research degree forming a part of their career plans, and what role it might play as they progress.</p>
✓	English language certificates/other evidence	Evidence of meeting the English language profile as stated on the Postgraduate Prospectus and specified by the University English Language Requirements Policy
✓	Curriculum Vitae (CV)	CVs should include all your recent academic qualifications (e.g. Bachelor's and Master's degree details) and details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application. Brief headings of research experience and any experimental or theoretical techniques, methods, protocols and software/hardware used, with evidence of expertise, would be helpful.

Optional Documents

Research Proposal: You may submit a specific research proposal if you wish, although research projects are generally agreed in discussion with supervisors rather than proposed by applicants.¹ Please check with your proposed supervisor if a Research Proposal is necessary.

If you are invited to submit a specific research proposal:- the primary requirement for the research proposal is to define and situate your research within an academic/disciplinary context. You should remember that people in the academic community are the primary audience/readership for postgraduate research. This means that you will need to identify:

- 1.The research questions or problems that you intend to address;
- 2.The research context for your project/programme of work, including a survey of the relevant literature
- 3.The methods and techniques you think you will use to pursue the key questions.

Selection process

Assessment of applications

All applicants are considered in line with the University's [Admissions Principles and Procedures Policy](#). Once a complete application has been submitted with all required supporting documents, it is usually considered by at least two members of staff using the following criteria:

- Decisions are made on the basis of all the available information, including the written application and references, and, if applicable, the performance at interview.

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.

Interviewees based overseas will normally be interviewed by telephone or via an online platform, at a mutually convenient time.

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

Deferred entry is available for this programme, subject to agreement by the relevant Admissions Team. Please contact physics-pg@bristol.ac.uk to make a formal request.

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)

Applicants who will require a visa to study in the UK will also be required to gain clearance through the [Academic Technology Approval Scheme](#) (ATAS). The Academic Technology Approval Scheme is a clearance process which affects overseas applicants (outside the EEA and Switzerland) for certain postgraduate science, technology, medical and engineering studies in the UK. Applicants to affected programmes are required to obtain an ATAS certificate before applying for a visa.

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 are 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.