

Postgraduate Admissions Statement for PhD Digital Health and Care



This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022

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 documents	
✓	<p>References</p> <p>We require two academic references. References should comply with our standard requirements outlined on our guidance pages.</p>
✓	<p>Degree certificate(s) and academic transcripts</p> <p>From first and subsequent degrees. Degree certificates and transcripts should comply with our standard requirements outlined on our guidance pages.</p>
✓	<p>Personal statement</p> <p>Lengthwise, a personal statement should be at least one side of A4 and written in formal English. The statement will give your nominated supervisor an opportunity to find out more about you. You should think of it as an opportunity to tell about yourself and to highlight your strengths.</p> <p>Explain your reasons for wanting to study this topic. What motivates you to do this research? Mention how your interest developed, what you have done to pursue it or how you've drawn inspiration from your current studies. Or just demonstrate your enthusiasm for it.</p> <p>It should describe your academic interests and your purpose and objectives in undertaking graduate research.</p> <p>The following questions may help you plan your personal statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you want to undertake this topic? • How does the research fit your skill set? • How do you stand out from the crowd - e.g., work experience? • What are you aspiring to be/do in your future career? • How can your work contribute to the department/University/society?

✓	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 might include details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application.
✓	Case Study	The applicant should provide up to 1 A4 page of text on an important health issue that interests them and give an example of a digital technology that has been proposed to address it. They should discuss critically, with references, if possible, the strengths and weaknesses of the technology approach. They should give at least one example of how and why they think the digital technology could be improved or used better.
Optional documents		
	Research Training Statement	Applicants are welcome to provide details of any relevant qualifications or training required to assist with their application.
	Additional References	Applicants are welcome to upload additional references to further support an application. Professional references from work experience in a related field and/or industrial placements can help an application.

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 considered by at least two members of staff using the following criteria:

- Academic achievement (50%)
- Response to questions at interview (20%)
- References (10%)
- Fit to cohort (20%)

We typically target a cohort of 50% with first degrees in engineering/computer science and 50% with first degrees in a health-related subject.

Interviews

Interviews may 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.

Each applicant will be interviewed by two representatives of the CDT management and supervisory team. During their visit, applicants will have the opportunity to meet with current CDT students and will be taken on a tour of the offices and labs by a student. The whole process (interviews and tour) usually takes no more than two hours.

Applicants will be assessed on their enthusiasm and knowledge of the programme and their ability to answer questions related to the programme. Applicants invited to interview may be required to provide a Case Study. It should consist of up to one A4 page of text on an important health issue that interests them and give an example of a digital technology that has been proposed to address it. They should discuss critically, with references, if possible, the strengths and weaknesses of the technology approach. They should give at least one example of how and why they think the digital technology could be improved or used better.

If required, 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 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 by the deadline noted in the offer.

Deferrals

This programme does not normally allow deferrals unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please contact choosebristol-pg@bristol.ac.uk if you would like to discuss the possibility of deferring your start date.

Results deadline

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

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)

International students and researchers (apart from exempt nationalities) who are subject to UK immigration control will be required to apply for an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate to study this programme. For further details see www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme.

Visa

International students coming to the UK to study full-time may need to apply for a student visa. Guidance is available on the [University website](#).

Fees and Deposits

Fees

Annual tuition fee is available on the relevant [prospectus entry](#) for this programme.

Funding

This Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) programme has Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) funds to support up to ten students per year. To be considered for a funding award applicants must normally have no restrictions on how long they can stay in the UK and must have been [ordinarily resident in the UK for at least 3 years prior to the start of the studentship](#). These are [residence requirements](#) for

research council funding for postgraduate research. Residence for education does not meet the requirements.

Limited relaxation of student eligibility requirements

To enable universities to support the very best students, UKRI has allowed this Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) programme Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) funds to offer up to 30% of the new studentships in any one year with open eligibility.

There is typically strong competition to make use of this flexibility.

The funding award will include tuition fees, stipend, research, and consumables.

Any applications received from self-funded or externally sponsored applicants will be considered.

Sponsored Students

International offer holders who will be funded by an external funder must provide evidence of funding in the form of a confirmation letter from the recognised sponsor organisation. This should be uploaded to your online application and emailed to student-fees@bristol.ac.uk.

Home fees offer holders who secure external funding sponsorship must have the sponsor complete a [Sponsorship authorisation form](#) and email it to student-fees@bristol.ac.uk.