

# PhD Law

## Programmes covered

This admissions statement applies to the following programmes: Law (PhD, MPhil)

Applicants should also refer to the relevant prospectus entry for further programme details.

This admissions statement should be read in association with the [University Admissions Principles and Procedures for Postgraduate Research/Taught Programmes](#).

## Faculty

Faculty of Social Sciences and Law

## Admissions team and contact details

Senior Postgraduate Admissions Administrator

University of Bristol Law School

Wills Memorial Building

Queens Road

Bristol BS8 1RJ

Email: [law-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:law-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk)

Telephone: +44 0117 954 5357 or 5225

## Admissions cycle

2017

## Application process

### Online application

Applicants should complete the online application form, uploading all required documents directly into the application form. Guidance on uploading documents can be found in the [How to Apply FAQs](#).

Applicants should make every effort to choose the correct programme in the application form by reading the prospectus entry and admissions statements fully. Applicants should contact the relevant Admissions Team if clarification is required.

### Application Deadline

There is currently no application deadline for this programme. Students are encouraged to apply at least two months before their intended start date.

There is a deadline for funded applications (ESRC and Bristol funding) for this programme. This is displayed on the individual programme page within the [University course finder](#).

### Required documents

All documents must be translated into English. Degree certificates and transcripts should be certified copies and list subjects taken and grades/degrees achieved. If your degree is not yet complete, please provide transcripts of subjects taken and marks achieved to date. All documents must be uploaded into the online application form unless otherwise noted. Applicants who have already submitted an application can upload additional documents into the 'Post-submission uploads' section. You can find information about how to upload documents to your application form in our [How to Apply FAQs](#).

Required documents for this programme are:

- Two academic references
- Degree certificate(s) from first and subsequent degrees

- Academic transcript(s) from your first and subsequent degrees
- Personal statement
- Research statement
- Research training statement
- Proposed research topic and the name of one proposed supervisor
- English language certificates if English is not your native language and your undergraduate degree was not in an English-speaking country (please see the English Language Requirements for a list of English-speaking countries)

## Interviews

Following the initial application assessment an interview will be held with two academics in the applicant's subject area. It will either take place in Bristol or be held by telephone or via Skype. This interview forms a major part of the selection process.

## Correspondence with applicants

Applicants will normally receive communication via email to the email address used to set up their application form account. Applicants should ensure that this profile email address is kept up-to-date.

## Admissions criteria

### Academic entry requirements

An upper second-class honours degree in law (or international equivalent), or a Master's qualification in law. Overseas students with equivalent qualifications should supply a transcript of their examination results (which should be an official English translation if the original is in a language other than English).

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

### English language criteria for non-native English speakers

For applicants whose first language is not English, it is necessary to achieve a minimum score in an approved English language test specified in Profile B of the [University's English Language Requirements Policy](#).

You can find information about the University of Bristol's Pre-Sessional English courses at the [Centre for English Language and Foundation Studies website](#).

### Reference criteria

References should either be submitted directly by the referee using the online reference form, or submitted directly by the applicant.

References should be on headed paper, with clear contact details and signed by the person who wrote it.

We require two academic references. Applicants who have previously studied at undergraduate and postgraduate level should provide an academic reference relating to each qualification.

### Personal statement criteria

Your personal statement should indicate your interest in the research area and why this 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 programme of study, and how your choice of programme fits with your future career plans.

### Research statement and research training statement criteria

We require a research statement that includes the following sections:

#### (i) Background

This section should:

- detail the essential background to the proposed research
- provide a clear explanation of the issue(s) to be covered by the project
- contain a review of the literature demonstrating an awareness of existing major works in the field
- demonstrate how the proposed programme of research interacts, if at all, with these existing works
- include a full bibliography

## **(ii) Research Questions**

This section should:

- include a series of research questions that will be addressed or problems that will be explored in the course of the research
- define its objectives in terms of answering those questions

## **(iii) Methods**

This section should:

- briefly describe the methods of the proposed research
- explain the reasons for the chosen research methods and why they provide the most appropriate means by which to answer the research questions
- demonstrate an awareness of any ethical considerations in the proposed research

Your research training statement should describe research training you have received to date, including that received as part of your employment.

### **Interview criteria**

PhD applicants may be interviewed by potential supervisors either in person, by Skype or by telephone. They should be prepared to talk about their research statement and methodology.

### **Additional requirements**

A sample of work may be requested.

## **Selection process and offers**

### **Selection process**

All applications are considered in accordance with the [University's policy on equality and diversity](#). The University of Bristol upholds the principles of equality and diversity, respect and dignity. Candidates are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion or belief, disability, health or age.

Once a completed application form has been received, documents are checked by the postgraduate senior admissions administrator. This is then passed to the research director for assessment and, if considered of possible interest, by two academics working in the applicant proposed subject area.

There will be an internal review of progress of the candidate within 18 months of admission (or equivalent for part-time students). If the candidate does not meet the requirements at the review, they may be able to exit with an MPhil award, provided they meet the requirements for an MPhil. Full details will be made available on registration.

### **Decisions**

Applications will be processed as soon as possible once a completed application has been received.

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 their application.

If there is a deadline by which applicants must accept their offer of admission, this will be stated in the offer letter.

### **Deferrals**

Applicants are able to defer their place for one year, after which applicants will need to reapply.

### **Deposits**

There is no deposit required for this programme

### **ATAS**

An ATAS certificate is not required.

