

## Postgraduate Admissions Statement

# PhD Synthetic Biology (EPSRC and BBSRC Centre for Doctoral Training)

### Programmes covered

Synthetic Biology (PhD) (Centre for Doctoral Training)

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 Science

### Admissions team and contact details

Professor Claire Grierson

Associate Director (Bristol lead)

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### 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.

You can apply to SBCDT through the graduate admissions procedures at Oxford, Bristol or Warwick. By applying to SBCDT through Bristol, you are identifying it as your preferred host institution. If you would also like to be considered for admission to any of the other collaborating universities, please indicate this in your research statement. All successful applicants will spend the first six months of their studentship at the University of Oxford, where staff from all three universities will contribute equally to their training.

#### Application Deadline

There is an application deadline for this programme, which 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 references (at least one academic)
- Degree certificate(s) from first and subsequent degrees
- Academic transcript(s) from your first and subsequent degrees
- Personal statement
- Research training statement
- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- 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)

Research statements are not required but can be submitted to support your application.

## Interviews

Interviews are an important part of the admissions process. You may be invited to attend an interview in Bristol or, if you are overseas, via Skype. You will be interviewed by academic staff from both the University of Bristol and the University of Oxford.

## 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.

Applicants can expect communication primarily via email, or occasionally over the phone if applicants are invited to interview. Applicants will be advised by email if their application is considered to be incomplete and will be asked to provide any missing information or documentation.

## Admissions criteria

### Academic entry requirements

Applicants must possess an upper second-class honours undergraduate degree (or equivalent international qualification) as a minimum in physical sciences (eg engineering, physics, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, plant sciences) or life sciences (eg biology, biochemistry, microbiology, plant sciences, medical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences).

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 A 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.

Confidential references uploaded by referees are strongly preferred. Referees should address an applicant's suitability for the course. While there is no set format, references typically address several of the following: academic achievement and potential; motivation; intellectual maturity and independence; relevant experience; potential for benefiting from and contributing to the course; written and spoken communication skills; ways in which an applicant's performance does not reflect their ability, including special circumstances.

### Personal statement criteria

The candidate should explain why they think the course they have applied for is suitable for them, why they feel well qualified to do it, and how it will help them to achieve their future goals. Strong candidates will be able to demonstrate detailed knowledge of their proposed research area and well-founded, realistic expectations of what might be achieved during their studies.

## Research statement and research training statement criteria

Research statements are not required but can be submitted to support your application. They should contain information about any relevant research experience the applicant already has.

## Interview criteria

There is no set format for interviews, but they typically cover one or more of the following: the applicant's academic background, including training and experience of particular relevance to the programme or project; the applicant's potential to develop mathematical and computation skills, and biological knowledge relevant to the programme; the applicant's motivation for applying, including specific research interests within the discipline and career aspirations; potential research projects; an opportunity for the applicant to ask questions.

## Additional requirements

There are no additional requirements for this programme.

## 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.

Applications are considered by a SynBio CDT admissions committee that may involve several members of staff from multiple institutions, including Bristol. Decisions are made on the basis of all the available information, including the written application, references and the performance at interview. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate sufficient biological and mathematical aptitude and knowledge to be able to complete the course successfully.

### 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 their application.

Candidates are expected to accept or decline an offer within 40 days of receipt unless otherwise stated in the offer letter. Offers and acceptances can be conditional (ie subject to the candidate meeting all the conditions set out in the offer letter prior to registration).

### Deferrals

It is generally possible for candidates to defer entry. However this may be restricted for certain types of funding. The candidate needs to be aware of their funders regulations in this regard.

### Deposits

There is no deposit required for this programme.

### 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). Please see the ATAS page on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website for further information.

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.