Postgraduate Admissions Statement

# PhD Interactive Artificial Intelligence (EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training)

**Programmes covered**

This Admissions Statement applies to the following programme(s):

- Interactive Artificial Intelligence (PhD)

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 Taught and Research Programmes.

**Faculty**

Faculty of Engineering

**Admissions team and contact details**

Graduate Administration Manger
School of Computer Science, Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Engineering Mathematics (SCEEM)
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Website http://www.bristol.ac.uk/engineering/school-sceem/

## Admissions cycle

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1 September 2019 and 30 September 2020.

## Application deadline

Application deadlines can be found on the individual programme page within the University course finder.

## Admissions criteria

### Academic requirements

An upper second-class honours degree (or international equivalent) in a relevant subject. The Interactive Artificial Intelligence CDT is primarily aimed at students with a first degree in engineering or science and with strong programming skills, but will also consider applicants with suitable skills acquired in employment.

For information on international equivalent qualifications, please refer to our International Office website.

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

Applicants whose first language is not English, and whose full undergraduate degree was not taught in an English-speaking country, must hold/achieve a minimum score in an approved English language test as specified in **Profile E** of the University's English Language Requirements Policy.

You do not need to have reached the required level of English language before submitting an application, but an English language test must be submitted with the application for review. If necessary, English language will be included as a condition of offer.

There is an option to take one of the University's Pre-sessional English courses; details are available on the Centre for English Language and Foundation Studies website.

## Application process

### Online application form

Applicants should complete the online application form, uploading all required documents directly. Guidance on uploading documents can be found in the guidance for online applications. Paper documents received by post, or electronic documents received by email, are only considered in exceptional circumstances.

Before applying, make sure you choose the right programme by reading the prospectus entry and Admissions Statement fully. If you need clarification, please contact the relevant admissions team. Applications may 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.

### Documents to upload to online application form

Required documents for this programme are as follows:

- **Two academic references (minimum)**: 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.
  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 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. A reference template is available to show the required format.
  References supplied with a personal contact email address will not be accepted unless under exceptional circumstances, which must be explained within the reference. All references must be dated within the last two years.
  The reference should comment on the applicant's relative ranking where available (e.g. in the top 10 per cent of the cohort, in either a course subject or - preferably - degree programme). It should also comment on the applicant's potential for undertaking research.

- **Degree certificate(s)** from first and subsequent degrees. We require colour scans of original documents and certified translations of documents issued in any language other than English.

- **Academic transcripts** from first and subsequent degrees. We require colour scans of original documents and certified translations of documents issued in any language other than English. 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.

- **Personal statement:** Personal statements should highlight the motivation for applying for the course, and any relevant experience and/or skills.

  The applicant should describe the reasons for their application, and their passion for engineering and, in particular, composites materials and their structures. They should comment on their future career aspirations.

- **English language certificates** are required from applicants for whom English is not the native language and whose full undergraduate degree was not taught in an English-speaking country (please see the English Language Requirements for a list of English-speaking countries)

**Optional documents for this programme are:**

- *Curriculum Vitae (CV):* A CV is not required but can help an application. CVs might include details of other relevant qualifications to support an application. Please do not include any school (pre-university) certificates, unless otherwise specified above.
- *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.
- *Research Training Statement:* A Research Training Statement is not required, but applicants are welcome to provide details of any training requirements to support their postgraduate studies. If there are no training requirements this section can be left blank.

## Correspondence with applicants

We will correspond with you via the email address used to set up your application form account. Please keep this address up-to-date.

## Selection process

### Assessment of applications

All applicants are considered on an equal basis in line with the University's Equality and Diversity Policy.

Once a complete application has been submitted with all required supporting documents, it is considered by two members of staff using the following criteria:

- Academic achievement (50%);
- Performance at interview (20%);
- Programming skills and experience (20%);
- References (10%)

Applicants who have undertaken a transnational education partnership programme or top-up degree and meet the minimum academic entry criteria will not automatically receive an offer of admission. In these cases, we consider academic history alongside relevance of degree, and, if necessary, degree content and performance in key modules.

Applicants are considered holistically on their own merit and in competition with the rest of the applicant cohort during that academic cycle.

### Interviews

Interviews do form part of the selection process.

Applicants will be interviewed by the CDT Director and another CDT academic member of staff.

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.

Applicants will be assessed on their enthusiasm and knowledge of our programme and their ability to answer  technical questions related to our programme.

The purpose of the interview is to assess whether the applicant currently 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.

If required, interviewees based overseas will normally be interviewed by telephone or Skype.

All interviews are conducted by two members of staff, both of whom will have been trained in equality, diversity and inclusion with respect to recruitment techniques. All interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal  opportunities.

## Decisions

### Notification of 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. Decision letters include any deadline by which applicants must accept an offer.

### Offers

Offers are typically made in line with the academic requirements set out above.
Offers may be conditional or unconditional. Unconditional offers are made to successful applicants who have met the admissions requirements. Successful applicants who have not yet fulfilled the academic or language requirements will receive a conditional offer outlining the outstanding requirements.

Unsuccessful applicants may be considered for an alternative programme in a related subject area. In such cases, applicants will receive an email with details of the alternative options. You may have to submit additional documentation in order to be considered for an alternative programme. Please check the relevant admissions statement for details.

### Deferrals

Deferred entry is only considered in exceptional circumstances. Please contact the admissions team 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 in light of your circumstances.

### 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.

### Deposits

There is no deposit required for this programme.

### Visa

International students coming to the UK to study full-time must apply for a student visa. Tier 4 student visa guidance notes are available on the University website.

### Sponsored students

Sponsored students must upload a copy of their sponsorship letter in the 'Post-submission uploads' section of the online application, and must also complete and upload the sponsorship authorisation form.