Postgraduate Admissions Statement for MSc by research Global Environmental Challenges

University of BRISTOL

Awards available; MSc by research

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1 October 2019 and 30 September 2020.
It should be read in association with the University Admissions Principles and Procedures for Postgraduate programmes and the relevant prospectus entry for this programme.

Faculty
Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Life Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences.

Your application will be handled by two teams within the University of Bristol in the order outlined below. Contact the Cabot Institute with any enquiries relating to the structure, benefits, training, or projects available on the programme, or indeed for advice on completing your application. Once you have made the decision to apply, your application will first be viewed by the Faculty of Science Administration Office, who will check all necessary documents are present and that you have met the basic criteria for the programme. The Cabot Institute will then contact your prospective supervisor and ask that they assess your application. Finally, if successful, you will be issued with a conditional/ unconditional offer by the Faculty of Science Administration Office.

Admissions team and contact details	
Faculty of Science Administration Office Royal Fort House, University of Bristol, Bristol, BS8 1UJ	**Website:** www.bristol.ac.uk/science/contacts/
	Email science-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk
	Telephone +44 (0) 117 39 41263
Admissions team and contact details University of Bristol Cabot Institute Royal Fort House Tyndall Avenue Bristol, BS8 1TH	**Website** www.bristol.ac.uk/cabot/
	Email cabot-masters@bristol.ac.uk
	Telephone +44 (0)117 428 2487

Application deadline

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

Admissions criteria

Academic requirements	Applicants must hold/achieve a minimum of; An upper second-class honours degree (or an equivalent qualification) in a topic aligned to the research project against which you are applying.
	For information on international equivalent qualifications, please refer to our International Office website.
English language requirements	Profile C

		All applicants are required to have reached the required profile level of English language as specified by the University's English Language Requirements Policy prior to registration on to this programme.
Non-standard applications		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. Non-standard applications will be considered by the Admissions Tutor(s) for the programme on a case by case basis.

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. If you have already submitted an application, you can upload additional documents into the 'Post-submission uploads' section of the application form. Paper documents received by post, or electronic documents received by email, are only considered in exceptional circumstances.

Required and optional documents		
✓	**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 supplied with a personal contact email address will be accepted in exceptional circumstances, which must be explained within the reference. All 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 and must be dated within the last two years. A reference template is available to show the required format.
✓	**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.

✓	**English language certificates/other evidence**	All applicants are required to have reached the required profile level of English language as specified by the [University's English Language Requirements Policy](#)
✓	**Curriculum Vitae (CV)**	CVs might include details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application.
✓	**Research Statement:**	There are three routes of application into the Cabot Masters by Research: 1) apply for a project; 2) apply for a challenge area; or 3) propose your own research project. Options 2 and 3 require a research statement. You should use the research statement to define and situate your research within an academic context. With due regard for the primary audience/readership for postgraduate research (that is, the academic community), you should identify the following: 1) the specific research question you are interested in posing; 2) why you feel this is important; 3) what research has been done in this field to date; 4) what is novel about the research you are proposing; 5) what methods/ approaches you would employ to answer the research question and why you have chosen this method; 6) a plan to outline how you would complete the project within the one year programme; 7) if and how you would plan to disseminate the outcomes of your research. Please use the template on our website to upload the research statement. Applicants should contact the Cabot Institute via the details above if clarification is required.
Optional Documents 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](#) and [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy.](#) Once a complete application has been submitted with all required supporting documents, it is considered by the nominated supervisors and an internal admissions committee, which may comprise several members of staff. Decisions are made on the basis of all the available information, including the written application, references and interview performance if applicable.

Interviews

Candidates may be invited to attend an interview, or an informal discussion with your prospective supervisor to further discuss your research project. There is no set format for interviews, but they typically cover one or more of the following areas: the applicant's academic background, including training and experience that is of particular relevance to the programme or project and the applicant's motivation for applying, including specific research interests within the discipline and career aspirations. Candidates will also have the opportunity to ask questions 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, at least one of whom is trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques. All interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

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

Deferrals are not permitted for this programme. Applicants are encouraged to re-submit their application for consideration following year.

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 for 2020/21 if 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.