Postgraduate Admissions Statement for PhD Cyber Security (TIPS at Scale)

University of BRISTOL

Award available: PhD

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.

Admissions Contact details	Website
School of Computer Science, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and Engineering Maths Merchant Venturers Building Woodland Road Clifton Bristol BS8 1UB	https://www.bristol.ac.uk/cdt/cyber-security/ http://www.bristol.ac.uk/engineering/postgraduate/ **Email** sceem-pgr-admissions@bristol.ac.uk **Telephone** +44 (0)117 331 4753 or +44 (0) 117 3315232

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 international equivalent) in a relevant discipline. Cyber security is an interdisciplinary challenge and the CDT focuses on both social and technical aspects of trust, identity, privacy and security in large-scale infrastructures. Applications are welcome from those with a range of disciplinary backgrounds including (but not limited to): computer science, psychology, management, electrical and electronics engineering, civil engineering, criminology and social sciences. Candidates should be willing to work across disciplinary boundaries and inform their research from different disciplinary perspectives. For information on international equivalent qualifications required for entry, please refer to our International Office website.
English language requirements	Profile B 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 documents	
Two academic letters of reference (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.
	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.
	References supplied with a personal contact email address will be accepted in exceptional circumstances, which must be explained within the reference.
	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 in the official language of the country they were issued from. For documents issued in any language other than English you must provide a certified translation to English.
Academic transcripts	From first and subsequent degrees. We require official transcripts for all completed degrees. Provisional transcripts may be provided for study currently undertaken.
	Provide colour scans of original documents in the official language of the country they were issued from. For documents issued in any language other than English you must provide a certified translation to 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
Case Study	The applicant should provide up to 1 A4 page of text on a cyber security issue that interests them, discuss why the problem is challenging from both a social and technical perspective and what methods or techniques would be appropriate to develop a deeper understanding of the issue.

Curriculum Vitae (CV)	CVs might include details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application.
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 and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy.

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

- Academic achievement (50%)
- Motivation, case study and fit to cohort (30%)
- References (20%)

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

Recruitment Workshop

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a recruitment workshop with members of the CDT management and supervisory team as well as industry partners. The recruitment workshop is a fundamental part of the selection process and only candidates shortlisted following the application will be invited. Shortlisted candidates based overseas will normally be interviewed by telephone or Skype.

The recruitment workshop will involve: (1) a group task developed in collaboration with industry partners to assess the applicant's ability to problem-solve and work with others from different backgrounds and perspectives (2) an individual interview with a panel from academic and industry representatives to further explore motivation, passion for the subject and ability to engage in interdisciplinary thinking. 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 or postdoctoral researcher.

All interviews are conducted by members of staff, who 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. Industry members of the panel will be provided with the CDT's equality, diversity and inclusion statement and will be expected to commit to it prior to the interview.

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 of Admission

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.

No funding is tied to an offer of admission. If you are eligible for or are awarded funding from the University of Bristol, if applicable we will provide information about this in a separate communication.

Results Deadline

Applicants who receive a conditional offer will be required to submit evidence that they have met their offer conditions before they can register for a programme. The expected start date will be stated in the offer letter.

Offer holders should email sceem-pgr-admissions@bristol.ac.uk about any delay in providing evidence for the offer.

International offer holders should meet their conditions allowing time to obtain an ATAS certificate and apply for a visa. Here's a link Gov.UK Visa processing times for an idea of how much time you will need to apply for your visa.

Deferrals

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

Due to the nature of postgraduate funding, however, applicants funded by the University of Bristol are not eligible for deferred entry. Any such applicants wishing to defer are encouraged to resubmit their application for consideration in the relevant 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.

Funding

This CDT programme has funds to support up to ten UK/EU students per year including fees, stipend, research and travel expenses. The programme has no internal funding for non-EU students, but any applications received from self-funded international students will be considered.