

OPPORTUNITY BRISTOL 2022

Applicant Guidance

A call to support entry into Postgraduate Research programmes for UK applicants from Black backgrounds

Opportunity Bristol (OB) is part of the Black Bristol Scholarship Programme and provides financial support for UK (home fee) applicants from Black backgrounds with ambitions to pursue doctoral study. The scheme funds students to undertake a research-related Masters, so they can experience a research environment. This is a valuable opportunity to lay the groundwork for doctoral-level research.

Up to 6 studentships are available to support students starting on eligible research-related, Masters level programmes in Academic Year 2022-23.

Completed applications must be received on or before Monday 25th April, 2022.

Eligibility

To be eligible for an Opportunity Bristol 2022 studentship, applicants must:

- i) Have submitted an application for admission to a 2022-23 research-related Masters level programme (see note on eligible programmes, below) **and** completed the additional Opportunity Bristol Application form, on or before Monday 25th April, 2022;*
- ii) Demonstrate, through statements given in the additional Opportunity Bristol Application Form, a strong interest and aptitude to pursue a Doctoral Research degree;
- iii) Be a UK national with [Home fee status](#) who self-identifies as having one of the following categories of ethnicity:
 - Black African
 - Black Caribbean
 - Black Other
 - Mixed – White and Black Caribbean
 - Mixed – White and Black African
 - Other mixed background (to include Black African, Black Caribbean or Black Other)

The funding is intended to support those without a postgraduate qualification. If you already have a postgraduate qualification, you will need to make a strong case as to why an additional Masters is required.

* No applicant will be able to take up an award unless they are also offered a place on an eligible Masters programme.

Eligible programmes

Programmes that are eligible for this funding include:

i) MRes, MPhil, and MScR programmes:

Master of Research (MRes)

Most taught Masters courses focus on developing in-depth subject knowledge. An MRes award places more emphasis on research expertise. You will still complete some taught units, but these will ordinarily focus on practical topics such as research techniques and methodological principles.

Please note that the Advanced Quantitative Methods MRes programme is not eligible under this scheme.

Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

The research and study experience of an MPhil is similar to that of a PhD, but the project is more tightly defined to allow it to be undertaken in a shorter period of full-time study. Instead of completing taught units and assessments, an MPhil consists entirely of your own independent project, assessed through the completion of a dissertation.

Master of Science by Research (MScR)

An MScR award puts independent research right at the heart of your Masters level degree. It is a great option if you are considering doing a science-based PhD, but would like a taste of a research-led degree before embarking upon doctoral level study. In some cases, MScR degrees can be upgraded to a PhD after one year, depending on subject, funding and performance.

ii) MSc programmes in the following areas:

Faculty of Social Sciences & Law (FSSL)

1. MSc – Accounting and Finance
2. MSc – Banking Regulation and Financial Stability
3. MSc – Human Geography: Society and Space
4. MSc – Socio-Legal Studies

Faculty of Science (SCIF)

1. MSc – Climate Change & Policy
2. MSc – Environmental Policy Management
3. MSc – Environmental Modelling and Data Analysis
4. MSc – Geographical Data Science and Spatial Analytics
5. MSc – Global Development and Environment
6. MSc – Paleobiology
7. MSc – Volcanology

Part time modes of study will also be considered.

What support is provided?

Each studentship will include:

- i) Tuition fee for research-based one-year Masters programme.
- ii) Student Stipend (currently £15,609); and
- iii) A contribution to research, travel and conference costs (£1000).

How to apply

STEP 1: SUBMIT A FORMAL APPLICATION FOR YOUR PROGRAMME

To apply for this opportunity you must first complete the standard online application for entry to an eligible programme at: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/apply/>

You must have your offer of a place confirmed in order to be eligible for this award.

More information and detailed guidance on the application process for each Masters programme is available at: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/search/>

STEP 2: COMPLETE THE OPPORTUNITY BRISTOL 2022 APPLICATION

Once you have completed the formal application for your chosen Masters programme, you will need to complete the separate [Opportunity Bristol 2022 Application form](#).

The information you provide here will form the basis of the selection process, along with your academic transcript.

In this form, you will be asked to confirm your eligibility and provide short (maximum 200 words) responses to the following questions:

- Why are you applying for the Opportunity Bristol scheme? What makes this an attractive opportunity for you and how will it support your academic career ambitions?
- How do your academic abilities and personal attributes make you a strong candidate for the Opportunity Bristol scheme?
- How will your chosen programme of study equip you for applying to undertake doctoral research?
- Please outline your plans for doctoral research and your career going forward?

You will also have the opportunity to provide any additional comments you wish to make in support of your application (maximum 100 words).

Selection process

The process for considering applications will be overseen by a panel chaired by the Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor for Postgraduate Research and including senior faculty representatives. Applicants will be notified of the panel's decisions by 31 May 2022.

Successful applicants will only be able to take up their Opportunity Bristol 2022 studentship when all entry requirements have been met and a place on their chosen, eligible, Masters programme has been confirmed.

Data Protection

The collection of personal information from applicants for University programmes must comply with UK legislative controls, and ethnicity – because it is defined as [special category data](#) – is subject to the strictest conditions of processing.

This data is requested by the University, as it is required by government to monitor participation and diversity, but, as a characteristic that is self-identified, candidates are not obliged to give a response.

These studentships are promoted as a funding opportunity for UK (Home fee) applicants who choose to identify as having a Black background, as specified above.

If you are successful, we will use your details to communicate with you as an Opportunity Bristol student and a list of award holders, with names and programmes of study, will also be listed on the University's and others' website.

Contact Details

If you have any queries regarding the scheme or application process please contact patrick.ashby@bristol.ac.uk.