



Dear Applicant

Welcome week is drawing nearer! Staff and continuing PhD researchers are all looking forward to welcoming you to the School of Education, University of Bristol.

Let us know you are coming!

If you have not done so already, do contact our postgraduate administrations team (ed-phd@bristol.ac.uk) or your supervisor to let us know when you expect to arrive. If for any reason there is a change of plan and you will not be joining us in September, please also let us know.

Preparing for the start of term

There are simple ways that you can prepare for the PhD programme



*Dr. Angeline Barrett
Director of PhD Programme*

1. Find out about opportunities for networking

We have five thriving [research centres](#):

- [Comparative and International Research in Education \(CIRE\)](#)
- [Assessment and Evaluation Research in Education \(CAERe\)](#)
- [Researching Education Across Boundaries in theory and practice \(CREAB\)](#)
- [Knowledge, Culture and Society \(KCS\)](#)
- [Centre for Multilevel Modelling \(CMM\)](#)

Visit their websites and think about which Centre you might join. The centres list staff members, so you can see your supervisors' affiliation.

In addition, academics in our department coordinate a number of research networks:

- Artful Narrative Inquiry Network (ANI-NET)
- China Educational Research Network (CERN)
- Globalisation, Education and Social Futures (GESF)
- Inclusive and Special Education Network (ISEN)

There are also a number of interdisciplinary [Faculty wide research groups](#).

2. Find out about leadership opportunities

Sometime in the first term, we will ask the doctoral community in the School of Education to nominate their new student representatives. We have a small group of 4-5 representatives so the tasks are shared out. It is a great opportunity to find out more about how a university works and get involved in ensuring your expectations as a doctoral students are met by the university and arranging events and organisations with and for your colleagues on the doctoral programmes. See the Bristol Student Union article: [Why be a Postgrad rep?](#)

This year's reps have organised regular coffee mornings, the [doctoral conference](#), mock vivas amongst other events. They also take it in turns to sit on Doctoral Committee and Research Committee within the School as well as some Faculty committees.



3. Pack an umbrella and practice walking up hills

Bristol is one of the best universities in UK to be a student. It has a lively music scene, great diversity, plenty of green areas and different parts of the city are beautiful and stylish. It is a city built on hills, which makes for some fantastic views. It also rains quite a bit and can rain anytime of year. Despite this, it is sometimes dubbed the 'cycling capital' of England – which tells you something about Bristolians' determination.

Education Doctoral Conference 5-6 June

Navigating Uncertain Terrains

[Exploring methodologies, identities and knowledge domains in a changing world](#)

The [doctoral conference](#) on 5-6 June 2017 was a great event, chance to network and showcase our doctoral research. Browse through the [programme](#) to get an overview of the range of doctoral research in the School of Education.

Bristol Doctoral College and South West Doctoral Training Centre

The [Bristol Doctoral College](#) (BDC) provides a focal point for doctoral training activity and researcher development across the University and in collaboration with our partner institutions. Its website is an information hub for all stages of the doctoral progress, including ['getting here and getting started'](#).

We are also part of the [South West Doctoral Training Centre \(SWDTC\)](#) with access to world-leading research training opportunities for our PhD researchers.

Checklist of things to do before arriving

- **Apply for Accommodation** - The Accommodation Office is accepting [applications](#) from offer-holders who are commencing study in September 2017. University accommodation is very popular and the deadline of the end of this month (**31 July 2017**) is fast approaching.
- **Accept your offer** - The earlier we know the more preparation we can do for your arrival. If you have not already done so please [respond](#) to your offer of study.
- **Apply for a Visa (*International Students only*)** - If you are an international applicant now is the time to apply for your Tier 4 visa. Unconditional offer holders can request a Certificate of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) number. The University of Bristol has an excellent [International Office](#) and our colleagues there have vast experience in offering applicants advice and support. Contact details are available on the link above and we would recommend making use of their expertise.
- **Meet Any Conditions of Offer** - We appreciate that conditional offer-holders will meet their conditions at different points throughout the application cycle. Please ensure that as soon as you have the documents to satisfy a condition of offer that you get in touch [with us](#). We will then update your application accordingly.

As you can see, there are many exciting opportunities available to you while completing a PhD at Bristol. Your decision to undertake a PhD at Bristol is a great choice, and we are confident that you will not only enjoy the academic challenges but also the personal ones. If you have any questions about the PhD programme, please do email me and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

I look forward to meeting you.

With best wishes,

Dr Angeline Barrett
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