

Postgraduate Admissions Statement for PhD Digital Health and Care



This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2023.

It should be read in association with the [University Admissions Principles and Procedures](#) for Postgraduate programmes, the relevant [prospectus entry](#) and general [application guidance](#).

Admissions criteria

Academic and English language requirements	The academic and English language requirements for this programme are displayed on the Postgraduate Prospectus For information on international equivalent qualifications, please refer to our International Office website .
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. Please note you are **not** required to select a supervisor at application stage.

Required documents

✓	References	We require two academic references. References should comply with our standard requirements outlined on our guidance pages .
✓	Degree certificate(s) and academic transcripts	From first and subsequent degrees. Degree certificates and transcripts should comply with our standard requirements outlined on our guidance pages .
✓	Personal statement	Lengthwise, a personal statement should be at least one side of A4 and written in formal English. The statement will give the assessors an opportunity to find out more about you. You should think of it as an opportunity to tell us about yourself and to highlight your strengths. Explain your reasons for wanting to study this topic. What motivates you to do this research? Mention how your interest developed, what you have done to pursue it or how you've drawn inspiration from your current studies, or just demonstrate your enthusiasm for it. It should describe your academic interests and your purpose and objectives in undertaking graduate research. The following questions may help you plan your personal statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you want to undertake this topic? • How does the research fit your skill set? • How do you stand out from the crowd - e.g., work experience? • What are you aspiring to be/do in your future career? • How can your work contribute to the department/University/society?

✓	English language certificates/other evidence	Evidence of meeting the English language profile as stated on the Postgraduate Prospectus and specified by the University English Language Requirements Policy
✓	Curriculum Vitae (CV)	CVs might include details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application.
✓	Case Study (Research Proposal)	The applicant should provide up to 1 A4 page of text on an important health issue that interests them and give an example of a digital technology that has been proposed to address it. They should discuss critically, with references, if possible, the strengths and weaknesses of the technology approach. They should give at least one example of how and why they think the digital technology could be improved or used better. Please note this is referred to on the application form as 'Research Proposal'.

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](#)

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

- Academic achievement (50%)
- Response to questions at interview (20%)
- References (10%)
- Fit to cohort (20%)

We typically target a cohort of 50% with first degrees in engineering/computer science and 50% with first degrees in a health-related subject.

Interviews

Interviews may form part of the selection process.

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

Each applicant will be interviewed by two representatives of the CDT management and supervisory team. 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. The whole process (interviews and tour) usually takes no more than two hours.

Applicants will be assessed on their enthusiasm and knowledge of the programme and their ability to answer questions related to the programme. Applicants invited to interview may be required to provide a Case Study. It should consist of up to one A4 page of text on an important health issue that interests them and give an example of a digital technology that has been proposed to address it. They should discuss critically, with references, if possible, the strengths and weaknesses of the technology approach. They should give at least one example of how and why they think the digital technology could be improved or used better.

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

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 entry requirements set out on the prospectus page.

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 by the deadline noted in the offer.

Deferrals

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

Results deadline

Applicants who receive a conditional offer will be required to submit all final results to meet their offer conditions by 15 August for September 2023 entry. Offer holders who will be unable to provide their results by this date should email admin-dhcdt@bristol.ac.uk to notify the admissions team as soon as possible.

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)

International students and researchers (apart from exempt nationalities) who are subject to UK immigration control will be required to apply for an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate to study this programme. For further details see www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme.

Visa

International students coming to the UK to study full-time may need to apply for a student visa. Guidance is available on the [University website](#).

Fees and Deposits

Fees

Annual tuition fee is available on the relevant [prospectus entry](#) for this programme.

Funding

This Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) programme has Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) funds to support up to ten students per year. Studentships are open to both Home and International students. The funding award will include tuition fees, stipend, research and travel expenses. In the 2021/22 academic year, the stipend was set at £20,868 and we expect this to rise annually. Our stipend rate is an enhanced stipend based on the UKRI minimum stipend, plus a £3,200 uplift. Any applications received from self-funded or externally sponsored applicants will also be considered.

To be classed as a home student for EPSRC funding, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be a UK National (meeting [residence requirements](#)), or

- Have settled status or,
- Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements) or,
- Have indefinite leave to remain or enter

If a candidate does not meet the criteria above, they would be classed as an International student.

Sponsored Students

International offer holders who will be fully funded by an external funder must provide evidence of funding. Visit [International fee Students Sponsorship confirmation when registering](#) web page for guidance.

EU Offer holders who are successful in securing external funding sponsorship must provide evidence of funding following the guidance on the [Home fee students Sponsorship Confirmation Home/EU](#) web page.