

Postgraduate Admissions Statement for Social Work MSc



This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 13 September 2025 and 11 September 2026.

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 require an up-to-date CV/resume and 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.

Required and optional documents

Degree certificate(s) and academic transcripts: Required

From first and subsequent degrees. Degree certificates and transcripts should comply with our standard requirements outlined on our [guidance pages](#).

Reference: Required

One professional reference from a social care related job or voluntary experience will be required. References should comply with our standard requirements outlined on [our guidance pages](#).

Personal Statement: Required. The Personal Statement is a MANDATORY document

Personal Statement must be uploaded (maximum 750 words) demonstrating evidence of interest in social work as a professional qualification and evidence of commitment and motivation to work as a social worker. Relevant work and life experience and understanding of social care, social work and commitment to the values and ethics of social work.

English language certificates/other evidence: Required

Evidence of meeting the English language profile as stated on the [Postgraduate Prospectus](#) and specified by the [University English Language Requirements Policy](#).

GCSE qualifications (equivalence): Required

Evidence of meeting programme specific English and Mathematics criteria (GCSE grade 4 (C) or international equivalence) should be supplied (High School Leaving Certificates should be uploaded)

Curriculum Vitae (CV): Required. The CV is a MANDATORY document

CV must be uploaded and include details of relevant work or voluntary experience, qualifications and achievements to support 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:

- Performance in undergraduate degree
- English language ability (where applicable)
- Reference
- Personal Statement (maximum 750 words) as per above requirements
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- If applicants are shortlisted, they will be invited to complete a written test. This will be reviewed by the Admissions Tutor and applicants will be advised if they will be invited to interview

For further information about the selection process, please follow this link:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/study/postgraduate/social-work/>

Interviews

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by the School and invited for interview.

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. All interviews will be conducted online.

Declaration of Suitability for Social Work

Social Work England requires that the admissions processes assess the suitability of applicants to train as social workers, including their conduct, health, and character. This process is referred to as a 'declaration of suitability for social work' and will need to be completed by all applicants shortlisted for 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

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

Results deadline

Applicants who receive a conditional offer will be required to submit all final results to meet their offer conditions by the date noted in their offer letter. Offer holders who are unable to provide their final results by this date should email choosebristol-pg@bristol.ac.uk to notify the team as soon as possible.

Deferrals

Requests to defer the year of entry must be submitted via the applicant portal. Requests to defer should be submitted at the earliest opportunity so that it can be reviewed by the admissions team. We cannot guarantee that requests will be granted. Refer to <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/after-you-apply/offer/> for more information on deferrals.

Disclosure and Barring Service

A satisfactory criminal records disclosure will be required. Some programmes also require a check of the DBS Barred Lists prior to registration. Students from overseas or those who have lived overseas for a substantial period of time should provide a certificate of good standing or [appropriate alternative documentation](#) to meet this requirement.

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)

An ATAS certificate is not required for this programme.

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.

Deposits

International self-funded applicants who are made an offer for a taught postgraduate programme will be required to pay a deposit to secure their place. In most cases, the deposit amount will be £2,000.

For applicants from certain regions, the University applies increased deposit requirements to help demonstrate financial credibility and to ensure compliance with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) regulations. In such cases, the deposit amount will typically be £15,000 or 50% of the applicant's first-year tuition fees.

The specific deposit amount required in each case will be clearly stated in the applicant's official offer letter. Information on [how to pay the deposit](#) is available on the University's website. Deposits are non-transferable and non-refundable, except in accordance with the terms outlined in the [International Deposits Refund Policy](#).

Sponsored Students

Fully sponsored students are not required to pay the deposit but will need to upload a copy of their sponsorship letter to the online application.