

Postgraduate Admissions Statement for MSc by Research (MScR) in Neuroscience

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted 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 be considered by the Admissions Tutor 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.

Information/Documents Required

Named supervisors: Required

It is compulsory to indicate the names of one or two supervisors whose research interests you, and to contact these Supervisors by email in advance of making your application. You can find their details on the page [Bristol Neuroscience – Profiles — University of Bristol](#). Applicants must select only supervisors belonging to the School of Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience.

References: Required

We require two academic references. We accept references from personal tutors and lead supervisors of significant research experience, for example from final year projects or a year in industry. References should comply with our standard requirements outlined on [our guidance pages](#).

Degree certificate(s) and academic transcripts: Required

Full and official degree certificates and transcripts from all completed degrees. Interim transcripts are required if your degree is not yet completed. Degree certificates and transcripts should comply with our standard requirements outlined on [our guidance pages](#).

Curriculum Vitae (CV): Required

CVs should include full details of academic credentials and can include details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application.

Personal statement: Required

Personal statements should not exceed one A4 page and highlight the motivation for applying for the MScR project, and any relevant experience and/or skills. Please note that a research statement is not required, unless the application is for a specific scholarship that requires it; a blank word document can be uploaded instead.

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](#)

Research Statement: Optional

Completed after consultation with the proposed supervisor.

The primary requirement for the research statement is to define and situate your research within an academic/disciplinary context. You should remember that people in the academic community are the primary audience/readership for postgraduate research. This means that you will need to identify:

- The research questions or problems that you intend to address;
- The research context for your project/programme of work;
- The methods you think you will use to pursue the key questions.

Please note: In some cases a research statement is not required, in which case you may need to upload a Word document with the header “No research statement required” for the application to be submitted correctly.

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
- English language proficiency (where applicable)
- Academic references
- Personal statement
- Skills training and prior research experience
- Availability of appropriate supervision

Interviews

Interviews 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 or PhD/MSc by Research

project, and whether the programme/project is appropriate to the applicant's interests and aspirations. Interviewees may be asked to make a short presentation on a piece of research they have conducted. This will form the basis of subsequent discussions. Interviewees based overseas are normally interviewed by appropriate teleconferencing app. All interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's Equality and Diversity Policy.

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, 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.

Deferrals

Deferrals are not permitted for this programme. Applicants are encouraged to re-submit their application for consideration the following 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)

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. More information is available on the page [Student visa | Directory of Professional Services | University of Bristol](#)

Fees and Deposits

Fees

Annual tuition fees are available on the relevant [prospectus entry](#) for this programme. Bench fees may apply and will vary according to the individual project.

Funding

Applicants should indicate on their application if they are applying for a funded studentship/scholarship, will be self-funded, or if they have secured funding elsewhere.

Offer letters for programmes do not represent any intention to fund. The offer of admission is separate to any offer of funding.

Deposits

Deposits are not required for this programme.

Sponsored Students

Sponsored students will need to upload a copy of their sponsorship letter to the online application.