



University of
BRISTOL **Postgraduate Admissions Statement for**

PhD in Accounting and Finance

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 are unable to accept non-standard applications for this programme. Applicants must meet the entry requirements.

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

References: Required

We require two academic references. References should comply with our standard requirements outlined on [our guidance pages](#).

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](#).

Personal statement: Required

Personal statements should highlight the motivation for applying for the PhD programme at Bristol, and any relevant experience and/or skills. You should describe the reasons for your choice of postgraduate programme and why it is important to you. Please also explain why, specifically, you are applying to University of Bristol, why you think you are a suitable candidate for your chosen programme of study, and how it fits with your future career plans. We will not accept 'generic' applications that fail to engage with the specific nature of the University of Bristol and its Business School.

In cases where the postgraduate degree does not contain a social sciences-orientated dissertation and research methodology modules, applicants are encouraged to articulate how their background has equipped them with the necessary research skills for doctoral level research in the social sciences, e.g. by indicating any academic publications, research-related professional experience, or research methods courses undertaken that may be indicative of their research potential. Aptitude test results such as GMAT and GRE can be submitted as evidence of PhD-level analytical and verbal abilities.

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](#)

Curriculum Vitae (CV): Optional

CVs might include details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application.

Research Statement: Required

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:

- 1.The research questions or problems that you intend to address and how your work will contribute to your field's knowledge;
- 2.The research context for your project/programme of work, including, but not limited to, literature review, hypotheses, and expected impact;
- 3.The methods you think you will use to pursue the key questions.
4. Two potential supervisors for your research – please refer to the staff profiles as listed by [Academic Groups - <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/business-school/about/academic-groups/>](#). It is advisable to contact at least one of these academics and to discuss whether they might, in principle, support your application, but we cannot guarantee their availability. If the supervisor you seek cannot offer supervision, try to identify alternative supervisors. If you have been in contact with potential supervisors and they have expressed support for your application, please clearly state this in your research statement, as applications with preliminary supervisor support will be processed more quickly in our admissions process.

You may also submit an application without identification of supervisors, and we will try our best to find a match, although we cannot guarantee supervision. In the unlikely event that the identified supervisors cannot take up the role of supervisor, and suitable alternatives cannot be found, we will have to withdraw any offer made.

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
- Research statement
- Academic references
- Personal statement
- English language ability (where applicable)
- GMAT or GRE test results (optional but encouraged)

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, and whether the programme is appropriate to the applicant's interests and aspirations.

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 academic requirements set out in the prospectus entry for the programme.

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 and by which date evidence must be provided.

Deferrals

Deferrals are not allowed. Applicants who wish to delay taking up a place will have to submit a new application for consideration.

Results deadline

Applicants who receive a conditional offer will be required to submit all final results to meet their offer conditions by the date specified by the admissions team. Offer holders who will be unable to provide their final results by this date should email Business School PGR Team Mailbox business-school-pgr@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)

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 fees are available on the relevant [prospectus entry](#) for this programme.

Deposits

Deposits are not required for this programme.

Sponsored Students

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