

Postgraduate Admissions Statement for Computer Science PhD / MSc by Research

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 the [International Office website](#).

Non-standard applications

We welcome applications from those with non-standard qualifications, such as relevant and extensive industrial experience

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

Required Documents:

Supervisor Suitability Form: Required

We require a completed [Supervisor Suitability Form](#) to be submitted with your application. This form should be completed in collaboration with a University of Bristol supervisor. We will not be able to proceed with your application until we have received a completed copy of this document.

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 course, and any relevant experience and/or skills.

Research Proposal: 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;
- 2.The research context for your project/programme of work;
- 3.The methods you think you will use to pursue the key questions.

You are required to discuss your research statement with your proposed supervisor(s) prior to making an application, in order to complete the mandatory Supervisor Suitability Form.

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): Required

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

Optional Documents:**Research Training Statement: Optional**

Applicants are welcome to provide details of any relevant qualifications or training required to assist with their 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 and postgraduate degrees
- Research statement
- English language ability (where applicable)
- References
- Personal statement

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 research 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 video call.

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 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.

Deferrals

This programme does not normally allow deferrals unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please contact admissions-engpgr@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 **the date on their offer letter**. Offer holders who will be unable to provide their final results by this date should email admissions-engpgr@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 fees are available on the relevant [prospectus entry](#) for this programme.

Funding

Applicants will indicate on their Supervisor Suitability Form 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.