

Postgraduate Admissions Statement for PhD Oral and Dental Sciences

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme for 2026/27

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

Application process

Initial contact with prospective supervisor

Applicants who wish to study for a PhD in the Bristol Dental School, should first contact your prospective supervisor from the staff on our [website](#) by email with your CV and possible research project before completing the [online application form](#). The supervisor will interview you (usually via Skype) to carry out initial assessment of your suitability.

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, and interest in, postgraduate research in this area. Highlight details of any previous academic or professional experience related to your research area and any other information you feel is relevant.

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.

Research Statement: Required

You should use the research proposal to define and situate your research within an academic/disciplinary context. With due regard for the primary audience/readership for postgraduate research (that is, the academic community), you should identify the following:

- 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.

Additional references: Required

You are welcome to upload additional references, such as professional references from work experience in a related field and/or industrial placements, to further support your application.

Research Training Statement : Optional

Applicants are welcome to provide details of any relevant qualifications or training required to assist with their application.

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.

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 the postgraduate team and the proposed supervisors or senior members of academic staff.

Shortlisted applicants are then invited for interview. We aim to reach a decision within three to four weeks of receiving complete applications.

Where we receive a large volume of high-quality applications for a small number of places, we shortlist applicants for interview based on their qualifications, and research and personal statements.

Interviews

Interviews form part of the selection process unless the applicant has already secured a nationally competitive studentship.

Interviews are typically conducted by members of the postgraduate team and potential supervisors, at least one of whom is trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques. Interviews are used to assess applicants' academic and professional potential and to provide feedback on the proposed research. Interviews may include an oral research presentation.

Interviewees based overseas will normally be interviewed by telephone or Video Conference 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 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

Deferred entry is available for this programme, subject to agreement by the relevant Admissions Team. Please contact fohs-pgadmissions@bristol.ac.uk to make a formal request.

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: [student visa guidance notes](#) are 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 using the 'Post Submission Uploads' section of the online application.