

# Postgraduate Admissions Statement for Population Health Sciences PhD, MD, MSc by research

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for 2026/27 entry. 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(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](#)

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 [Postgraduate research: Population Health Sciences | Bristol Medical School | University of Bristol](#). Please click on the potential supervisors tab on the right and search by keywords you are interested in.

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 write a research proposal that defines and situates 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 plan to 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: Required**

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 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 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 video conference.

**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 of this. Where academic or language requirements have not yet been fulfilled, applicants will receive a conditional offer outlining the requirements that must be met.

If an applicant is not selected to receive an offer for the course to which they have originally applied, we may offer the opportunity to be considered for an alternative programme in a related subject area. In such cases applicants will receive an email notification providing any alternative course options and asking whether they wish to be considered for these. It may be necessary for applicants to submit additional documentation for the application to be fully considered for an alternative programme. Details of the documentation required can be found in the admissions statement for the relevant programme.

## Deferrals

Deferrals are only permitted in exceptional circumstances but may be possible for self-funded students. Please contact [brms-pgradmin@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:brms-pgradmin@bristol.ac.uk) if you would like to discuss the possibility of deferring your start date.

## 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 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.