

## Postgraduate Admissions Statement for Practice-Oriented Artificial Intelligence PhD

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 statement of purpose 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 must complete the online application form and upload all required documents directly to the application. Further information is available on our [guidance for online applications page](#).

Applications will not be considered until **all** required documents have been uploaded.

#### 1. References

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

#### 2. Degree certificate(s) and academic transcripts

From first and subsequent degrees. Degree certificates and transcripts should comply with our standard

#### 3. Statement of purpose

On a single A4 page, please highlight your motivation and suitability for the CDT, and how joining it will contribute to your career goals. The statement should clarify your interest in doing a PhD in this particular topic and what you wish to achieve through doctoral studies in the CDT. Give an indication of your current knowledge of and experience with AI techniques and frameworks. The ideal statement provides a sense of why you are excited about Practice-Oriented AI, where you think you could learn

and extend your knowledge and skills, and what you could contribute to your cohort of peers and to the wider CDT community.

#### **4. English language proficiency**

Evidence of meeting the relevant English language profile for the programme, as stated within the [Postgraduate programme finder](#). Details of acceptable evidence of English language proficiency can be found in the [University English Language Requirements for Study](#)

#### **5. Curriculum Vitae (CV)**

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

#### **6. Case Study**

On a single A4 page, please give an example of what a practice-oriented AI project in a selected area of interest might look like. Practice-oriented AI is about bridging the gap between complex problem domains such as those found in science and research, and AI algorithms and techniques that could be used to solve problems in those domains. A realistic project would therefore combine several AI techniques. Also pay attention to how you would evaluate possible solutions and measure success.

## **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
- Statement of purpose
- Case Study
- Academic references
- English language ability (where applicable)
- Interview

### **Interviews**

Interviews will form part of the selection process and will normally be conducted face-to-face in Bristol. International applicants may be offered the opportunity of an interview by video call.

The purpose of the interview is to assess whether you have the necessary skills, capabilities and motivation to pursue the chosen postgraduate programme, and whether the programme is appropriate to your interests and career goals.

In preparation for the interview, you will be asked to submit a more detailed written case study demonstrating your understanding of PhD research in general and research in practice-oriented AI in particular. Shortlisted candidates wishing to receive guidance on how to write the case study will be invited to request assistance.

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 portal. 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 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

## Deferrals

This programme does not normally allow deferrals unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please contact [admissions-engpgr@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:admissions-engpgr@bristol.ac.uk) if you would like to discuss the possibility of deferring your start date to the next academic year.

## 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](mailto: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](http://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 fee is available on the relevant [prospectus entry](#) for this programme.

## Funding

This Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) programme has Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) funds to support up to ten students per year. Studentships are open to both home and international students. EPSRC has provided some, limited, flexibility regarding the eligibility requirements for international students. This is to ensure we attract the best international students to train with leading research teams in the UK, to increase our global presence and influence. To be classed as a home student for EPSRC funding, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be a UK National ([meeting residence requirements](#)), or
- Have settled status or,
- Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements) or,
- Have indefinite leave to remain or enter

If a candidate does not meet the criteria above, you would be classed as an International student.

The funding award will include tuition fees, stipend, and research expenses. Applications received from self-funded or externally sponsored applicants will also be considered.

## Sponsored Students

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