

Postgraduate Admissions Statement for PhD and MSc by Research (MScR) in Psychology

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](#), in the “Entry Requirements” section, under “English language requirements”. 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](#). Applications will not be considered until **all** required documents have been uploaded.

Required and optional information/documents

Named supervisor(s): Required

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 details of the school’s research themes on our [research page](#). Details of the theme leads and/or members of staff that could serve as supervisors (listed as ‘group members’) are available on our three theme pages; [Health and Wellbeing](#), [Mind and Brain](#) and [Self and Society](#).

References: Required

We require two academic references. We accept references from personal tutors and lead supervisors of significant research experience, for example from final year projects or a year in industry. References should comply with our standard requirements outlined on [our guidance pages](#).

Degree certificate(s) and academic transcripts: Required

Full and official degree certificates and transcripts from all completed degrees. Interim transcripts are required if your degree is not yet completed. Degree certificates and transcripts should comply with our standard requirements outlined on [our guidance pages](#).

Curriculum Vitae (CV): Required

CVs should include full details of academic credentials and can include details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application.

Personal statement: Required

Personal statements should not exceed one A4 page and should highlight the motivation for applying for the PhD/MScR project, along with any relevant experience and/or skills.

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](#).

Research statement: Required

Completed after consultation with the proposed supervisor.

At the top of your research statement, state the research theme(s) most closely aligned with your research proposal. Choose from:

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Mind and Brain
3. Self and Society

You should use the research statement 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

Research training statement: Optional

If necessary, you should provide details of any training requirements to support your postgraduate studies.

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:

- Availability of appropriate supervision
- Academic references
- Academic achievement
- English language proficiency (where applicable)
- Personal statement
- Research statement
- Skills training and prior research experience

Interviews

Candidates may be invited to attend an interview. There is no set format for interviews, but they typically cover one or more of the following areas: the applicant's academic background, including training and experience that is of particular relevance to the programme or project; the applicant's motivation for applying, including specific research interests within the discipline and career aspirations; and potential research projects. Candidates will also have the opportunity to ask questions. Interviews are used to assess whether the applicant has the necessary skills and capabilities to pursue their chosen programme, and whether the programme is appropriate to their interests and aspirations. Interviewees based overseas are normally interviewed by telephone or online. Interviews are conducted by a minimum of two members of staff, at least one of whom is trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques. All interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's [Equality and Diversity Policy](#).

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

This programme does not normally allow deferrals unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please contact fls-pgenquiries@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 a month before the intended start date. Offer holders who will be unable to provide their final results by this date should email fls-pgenquiries@bristol.ac.uk to notify the admissions team as soon as possible.

Additional information

Exceptional 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 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.

Applicants should indicate on their application 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 PGR students.

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.