

Admissions Statement for Social Work (MSc, PGDIP)

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programmes between 17 September 2026 and 15 September 2027.

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 these programmes 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](#).

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

Required and optional documents

Degree certificate(s) and academic transcript(s): Required

Degree certificates and academic transcripts from first and subsequent degrees must be provided. Degree certificates and transcripts should comply with our standard requirements outlined on our [guidance pages](#).

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](#).

Personal Statement: Required

Personal statements should demonstrate evidence of interest in social work as a professional qualification and evidence of commitment and motivation to work as a social worker. Relevant work and life experience and understanding of social care, social work and commitment to the values and ethics of social work should be included. Maximum 750 words.

Curriculum Vitae (CV): Required

CVs should include details of any relevant health or social care related work experience or voluntary experience. Please include start and end dates (Month/Year) to indicate the length of time in each role.

Reference: Required

One professional reference from a health or social care related job or voluntary experience is required. References should comply with our standard requirements outlined on [our guidance pages](#).

GCSE/Secondary School qualifications: Required

GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics certificates should be provided (or international equivalent qualifications). International applicants should provide evidence of their Secondary School/High School qualification(s).

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
- English language ability (where applicable)
- Personal Statement
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Reference
- Written test
- Interview

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to complete a written test. Applicants who successfully pass the written test will then be invited to attend an interview.

Interviews

Interviews will 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 programme and whether the programme is appropriate to the applicant's interests and aspirations. All interviews will be conducted online.

Declaration of Suitability for Social Work

Applicants who are shortlisted for interview will be required to complete a ['Declaration of Suitability for Social Work'](#) indicating their conduct, health and character.

For any other queries about the application process please contact: choosebristol-pg@bristol.ac.uk

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.

Results deadline

Applicants who receive a conditional offer will be required to submit all final results to meet their offer conditions by the date noted in their offer letter. Offer holders who are unable to provide their final results by this date should email choosebristol-pg@bristol.ac.uk to notify the team as soon as possible.

Deferrals

Requests to defer the year of entry must be submitted via the applicant portal. Requests to defer should be submitted at the earliest opportunity so that it can be reviewed by the admissions team. We cannot guarantee that requests will be granted. For more information on deferrals refer to our [guidance pages](#).

Additional information

Disclosure and Barring Service

Prior to registering on the programme, accepted applicants will be required to complete an Enhanced Declaration form for the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service). Students from overseas or those who have lived overseas for a substantial period of time should provide a 'Certificate of Good Standing' or [appropriate alternative documentation](#) to meet this requirement.

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 is available on the [University website](#).

Fees and Deposits

Fees

Annual tuition fee is available on the relevant [prospectus entry](#) for this programme.

Deposits

International self-funded applicants who are made an offer for a taught postgraduate programme will be required to pay a deposit to secure their place. In most cases, the deposit amount will be £2,000.

For applicants from certain regions, the University applies increased deposit requirements to help demonstrate financial credibility and to ensure compliance with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) regulations. In such cases, the deposit amount will typically be £15,000 or 50% of the applicant's first-year tuition fees.

The specific deposit amount required in each case will be clearly stated in the applicant's official offer letter. Information on [how to pay the deposit](#) is available on the University's website. Deposits are non-transferable and non-refundable, except in accordance with the terms outlined in the [International Deposits Refund Policy](#).

Sponsored Students

Fully sponsored students are not required to pay the deposit but will need to upload a copy of their sponsorship letter to the online application.