Postgraduate Admissions Statement for NERC GW4+ Doctoral Landscape Training Partnership PhD

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted between September 2026 and August 2027.

It should be read in association with:

- The University Admissions Principles and Procedures for postgraduate programmes
- The prospectus
- The application guidance including the How to Apply guide and the Personal Statement template.

Admissions criteria

Academic and English language requirements

The academic and English language requirements for this programme are displayed on the 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 Tutors 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.

Specific instructions for applying for the NERC GW4+ DLTP are available to download from the prospectus and you must follow these. Applications will not be considered until **all** required documents have been uploaded.

Please note that applicants to the NERC GW4+ DLTP can only apply for **one project across all partner institutions**.

Required 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

Applicants must complete the bespoke personal statement form, available to download from the prospectus, and upload this to the Personal Statement section of the application form.

Please take the time to read the guidance and draft your answers. The DLTP team suggests that it will take at least a day to draft, so applicants are advised to factor this in when planning their application.

English language certificates / other evidence: Required

Evidence of meeting the English language profile as stated on the 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

Applicants are asked to upload the **Project Advert** that they are applying to as the Research Statement, which can be found on each School's website as follows:

- Anthropology and Archaeology
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Earth Sciences
- Geographical Sciences

Selection process

Assessment of applications

All applicants are considered in line with the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures Policy. After a complete application has been submitted with all required supporting documents, it is usually considered by at least two members of staff.

Interviews

Interviews 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.

Selected applicants are invited to attend a formal DLTP interview, where they will be asked to present a piece of research they have undertaken. Interviews will be in person by default but online interviews using Teams are possible at the applicant's request. They are conducted by a panel of staff, at least one of whom is trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques. Applicants will be advised of the details when invited for interview.

Following interview, all studentship offers will be made by mid-March.

Please note that although you may be successful in being nominated by a supervisor for a particular project, you are not guaranteed a studentship until you have been made an offer following the interview.

Interviewees based overseas will normally be interviewed by Teams.

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.

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 in order 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.

Results deadline

Applicants who receive a conditional offer will be required to submit all final results to meet their offer conditions by the date advised in their offer correspondence. Offer holders who will be unable to provide their final results by this date should email bristol-nercgw4plusdtp-admin@bristol.ac.uk to notify the admissions team as soon as possible.

Deferrals

This programme does not normally allow deferrals unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please contact bristol-nercgw4plusdtp-admin@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. Student visa guidance notes are available on the University website.

Encouraging Diversity

We value a diverse research environment. If you have circumstances that you feel we should be aware of that have affected your educational attainment, then please feel free to tell us about it in your application form. The best way to do this is a short paragraph at the end of your personal statement.

Fees and Deposits

Fees

Annual tuition fees are available on the prospectus for this programme.

Deposits

Deposits are not required for this programme.

Sponsored Students

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