

## Postgraduate Admissions Statement

# PhD Cyber Security (Centre for Doctoral Training)

### Programmes covered

This Admissions Statement applies to the following programme(s):

- Cyber Security (PhD)

Applicants should also refer to the relevant prospectus entry for further programme details.

This Admissions Statement should be read in association with the [University Admissions Principles and Procedures for Postgraduate Taught and Research Programmes](#).

### Faculty

Faculty of Engineering

### Admissions team and contact details

Graduate Administration Manager

School of Computer Science, Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Engineering Mathematics (SCEEM)

University of Bristol

Merchant Venturers Building

Woodland Road

Clifton

Bristol BS8 1UB

Email: [sceem-pgr-admissions@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:sceem-pgr-admissions@bristol.ac.uk)

Telephone: +44 (0) 117 331 4753

Website <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/engineering/school-sceem/>

### Admissions cycle

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 1 September 2019 and 30 September 2020.

### Application deadline

Application deadlines can be found on the individual programme page within the [University course finder](#).

### Admissions criteria

#### Academic requirements

Applicants must hold/achieve a minimum of an upper-second class honours degree (or international equivalent) in a relevant discipline. Cyber security is an interdisciplinary challenge and the CDT focuses on both social and technical aspects of trust, identity, privacy and security in large-scale infrastructures. Applications are welcome from those with a range of disciplinary backgrounds including (but not limited to): computer science, psychology, management, electrical and electronics

engineering, civil engineering, criminology and social sciences. Candidates should be willing to work across disciplinary boundaries and inform their research from different disciplinary perspectives.

In exceptional circumstances, we may consider applicants with alternative qualifications.

For information on international equivalent qualifications, please refer to our [International Office website](#).

### English language requirements for non-native English speakers

Applicants whose first language is not English, and whose full undergraduate degree was not taught in an English-speaking country, must hold/achieve a minimum score in an approved English language test as specified in **Profile B** of the [University's English Language Requirements Policy](#).

You do not need to have reached the required level of English language before submitting an application, but an English language test must be submitted with the application for review. If necessary, English language will be included as a condition of offer.

There is an option to take one of the University's Pre-sessional English courses; details are available on the [Centre for English Language and Foundation Studies website](#).

## Application process

### Online application form

Applicants should complete the online application form, uploading all required documents directly. Guidance on uploading documents can be found in the [guidance for online applications](#). Paper documents received by post, or electronic documents received by email, are only considered in exceptional circumstances.

Before applying, make sure you choose the right programme by reading the prospectus entry and Admissions Statement fully. If you need clarification, please [contact the relevant admissions team](#).

Applications may not be considered until all required documents have been uploaded. If you have already submitted an application, you can upload additional documents into the 'Post-submission uploads' section of the application form.

### Documents to upload to online application form

Required documents for this programme are as follows:

- **Two academic references (minimum):** References should be submitted electronically by the referee, using the online reference form. Alternatively, scanned copies of the original reference document(s) can be uploaded by the applicant.

We do value academic references where possible but if you graduated more than two years ago, or if professional experience is relevant to the application, professional references will be accepted in lieu of one academic reference. If you graduated more than 4 years ago, professional references will be accepted in lieu of both academic references.

References must be written, signed and dated on official letter headed paper from the referee's organisation. They must include the referee's full contact details, i.e. postal address, telephone number and organisation email address. A [reference template](#) is available to show the required format.

References supplied with a personal contact email address will not be accepted unless under

exceptional circumstances, which must be explained within the reference. All references must be dated within the last two years.

The reference should comment on the applicant's relative ranking where available (e.g., in the top 10 percent of the cohort, in either a course subject or - preferably - degree programme). It should also comment on the applicant's potential for undertaking research.

- **Degree certificate(s)** from first and subsequent degrees. We require colour scans of original documents and certified translations of documents issued in any language other than English.
- **Academic transcripts** from first and any subsequent degrees. We require colour scans of original documents and certified translations of documents issued in any language other than English. Transcripts must list all subjects taken and grades achieved to date, with the grade scale clearly displayed in the transcript. Applicants must clearly state their current average grade in the online application form.
- **Personal statement:** A half-page personal statement that explains the applicant's motivation for applying for the course and any relevant experience and/or skills.
- **Case study:** The applicant should provide up to 1 A4 page of text on a cyber security issue that interests them, discuss why the problem is challenging from both a social and technical perspective and what methods or techniques would be appropriate to develop a deeper understanding of the issue.
- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** A CV is required. It should include details of other relevant qualifications and any relevant work or research experience to support the application. Please do not include any school (pre-university) certificates, unless otherwise specified above.
- **English language certificates** are required from applicants for whom English is not the native language and whose full undergraduate degree was not taught in an English-speaking country (please see the [English Language Requirements](#) for a list of English-speaking countries)

#### Optional documents for this programme are:

- **Additional References:** Applicants are welcome to upload additional references to further support an application. Professional references from work experience in a related field and/or industrial placements can help an application.
- **Research Training Statement:** A Research Training Statement is not required, but applicants are welcome to provide details of any training requirements to support their postgraduate studies. If there are no training requirements this section can be left blank.

#### Correspondence with applicants

We will correspond with you via the email address used to set up your application form account. Please keep this address up-to-date.

#### Selection process

##### Assessment of applications

All applicants are considered on an equal basis in line with the [University's Equality and Diversity Policy](#).

Equality, diversity and inclusion are embedded into the ethos of the CDT; we believe a diverse cohort leads to creativity, exciting research, and increased impact. For the Cybersecurity CDT, diversity is not solely achieved by recruiting a diverse student cohort but developed from an inclusive and supportive

culture which makes everyone feel welcome. This is integral to the expectation we have that our cohort will not only support each other, but learn from each other and respect differences. The CDT, alongside both the Universities of Bristol and Bath, are actively promoting real change in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion, and will actively monitor and support the CDT reaching its equality, diversity and inclusivity goals.

Once a complete application has been submitted with all required supporting documents, it is considered for shortlisting for the recruitment workshop by two members of staff using the following criteria:

- Academic achievement (50%)
- Motivation, case study and fit to cohort (30%)
- References (20%)

Applicants are considered holistically on their own merit and in competition with the rest of the applicant cohort during that academic cycle.

### **Recruitment Workshop**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a recruitment workshop with members of the CDT management and supervisory team as well as industry partners. The recruitment workshop is a fundamental part of the selection process and only candidates shortlisted following the application will be invited. Shortlisted candidates based overseas will normally be interviewed by telephone or Skype.

The recruitment workshop will involve: (1) a group task developed in collaboration with industry partners to assess the applicant's ability to problem-solve and work with others from different backgrounds and perspectives (2) an individual interview with a panel from academic and industry representatives to further explore motivation, passion for the subject and ability to engage in interdisciplinary thinking. During their visit, applicants will have the opportunity to meet with current CDT students and will be taken on a tour of the offices and labs by a student or postdoctoral researcher.

All interviews are conducted by members of staff, who will have been trained in equality, diversity and inclusion with respect to recruitment techniques. All interviews are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities. Industry members of the panel will be provided with the CDT's equality, diversity and inclusion statement and will be expected to commit to it prior to the interview.

## **Decisions**

### **Notification of 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. Decision letters include any deadline by which applicants must accept an offer.

### **Offers**

Offers are typically made in line with the academic requirements set out above.

Offers may be conditional or unconditional. Unconditional offers are made to successful applicants who have met the admissions requirements. Successful applicants who have not yet fulfilled the

academic or language requirements will receive a conditional offer outlining the outstanding requirements.

Unsuccessful applicants may be considered for an alternative programme in a related subject area. In such cases, applicants will receive an email with details of the alternative options. You may have to submit additional documentation in order to be considered for an alternative programme. Please check the relevant [admissions statement](#) for details.

### **Deferrals**

Deferred entry is only considered in exceptional circumstances. Please contact the admissions team 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 in light of your circumstances.

### **Deposits**

There is no deposit required for this programme.

### **Visa**

International students coming to the UK to study full-time must apply for a student visa. [Tier 4 student visa guidance notes](#) are available on the University website.

### **ATAS**

If you are not a UK national an ATAS certificate may be required for this programme. The JACS code is "B9 – Others in Subjects allied to Medicine".

### **Sponsored students**

Sponsored students must upload a copy of their sponsorship letter in the 'Post-submission uploads' section of the online application, and must also complete and upload the [sponsorship authorisation form](#).