

# Postgraduate Admissions Statement for PhD South West Biosciences Doctoral Training Partnership (BBSRC)



Awards available; PhD

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

It should be read in association with the [University Admissions Principles and Procedures](#) for Postgraduate programmes and the relevant [prospectus entry](#) for this programme.

<b>Faculty</b> Faculty of Life Sciences,	
<b>Admissions team and contact details</b> 65 St Michael's Hill Bristol BS2 8DZ	<b>Website</b> <a href="http://www.swbio.ac.uk">www.swbio.ac.uk</a>
	<b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:fls-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk">fls-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk</a>
	<b>Telephone</b> +44 (0)117 331 1534

## Application deadline

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

## Admissions criteria

<b>Academic requirements</b>	Applicants must hold/achieve a minimum of; A first or upper second-class honours degree (or international equivalent) in a biomedical sciences discipline, or closely related subject (eg chemistry, earth sciences, biology, veterinary science). We may consider applicants with a lower second-class degree if also have a Masters or significant relevant non-academic experience. A minimum of a grade B in A-level Mathematics (or evidence of an equivalent qualification or experience, eg Physics A-level (grade B and Above) or undertaking units as part of your degree that have a significant mathematical component such as maths, statistics, bioinformatics) is required.
	For information on international equivalent qualifications, please refer to our <a href="#">International Office website</a> .
<b>English language requirements</b>	Profile C
	All applicants are required to have reached the required profile level of English language as specified by the <a href="#">University's English Language Requirements Policy</a> prior to registration on to this programme.
<b>Non-standard applications</b>	Unfortunately, we are unable to accept non-standard applications for this programme. Applicants must meet the entry requirements stated above.

## 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. If you have already submitted an application, you can upload additional documents into the 'Post-submission uploads' section of the application form. Paper documents received by post, or electronic documents received by email, are only considered in exceptional circumstances.

### Required and optional documents

✓	<b>Two academic references (minimum):</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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. At least one referee should be familiar with the applicant's academic work.</p> <p>References supplied with a personal contact email address will be accepted in exceptional circumstances, which must be explained within the reference.</p> <p>All 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 and must be dated within the last two years. A <a href="#">reference template</a> is available to show the required format. Neither referee should be part of the supervisory team for the intended project. If a reference is included by the PhD project supervisor, a third reference will need to be included.</p>
✓	<b>Degree certificate(s)</b>	From first and subsequent degrees. We require colour scans of original documents and certified translations of documents issued in any language other than English.
✓	<b>Academic transcripts</b>	<p>From first and subsequent degrees. We require colour scans of original documents and certified translations of documents issued in any language other than English.</p> <p>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.</p>
✓	<b>Personal statement:</b>	The personal statement should state the project they want to be considered for. The statement should summarise the suitability of the applicant for the intended project, including how their academic credentials match the programme requirements (including the required mathematical training).
✓	<b>English language certificates/other evidence</b>	All applicants are required to have reached the required profile level of English language as specified by the <a href="#">University's English Language Requirements Policy</a>
✓	<b>Curriculum Vitae (CV)</b>	CVs might include details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application. Please do not include any school

	(pre-university) certificates, unless otherwise specified above.
--	--

## Selection process

### Assessment of applications

All applicants are considered in line with the University's [Admissions Principles and Procedures Policy](#) and [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion 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
- English language ability (where applicable)
- Academic references
- personal statement
- Skills training, prior research experience and appropriateness for the project applied for

### Interviews

Interviews will be used as part of the selection process. Project supervisors may invite candidates for informal visits before nominating. Nominated candidates will then be reviewed by members of the institutional interview panel and shortlisted candidates will be invited to the advertised institutional interview day (interview candidates must attend this interview day to progress their application). During the interview, applicants will be asked to make a short research presentation; instructions will be provided in advance of the interview. Candidates can expect to be questioned by the interview panel on their research presentation, their background research interests and experience, and future career plans. In addition to the interview there will also be a task-based exercise to complete (instructions will be provided in advance). After the interviews, the selection panel will allocate the available studentships to the highest-ranked candidates. This means that although a student may be successful in being nominated by a supervisor for a particular project, they are not guaranteed a studentship until they have been successful at the institutional interview day. If required, interviewees based overseas will normally be interviewed by telephone or Skype. 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

Due to the nature of postgraduate funding, deferred entry is not permitted for funded applicants for this programme. Applicants are encouraged to re-submit their application for consideration in the following year.

## 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)**

Applicants who will require a visa to study in the UK will also be required to gain clearance through the [Academic Technology Approval Scheme](#) (ATAS). The Academic Technology Approval Scheme is a clearance process which affects overseas applicants (outside the EEA and Switzerland) for certain postgraduate science, technology, medical and engineering studies in the UK. Applicants to affected programmes are required to obtain an ATAS certificate before applying for a visa.

### **Visa**

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

## **Fees and Deposits**

### **Fees**

Annual tuition fee for 2020/21 if available on the relevant [prospectus entry](#) 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 using the 'Post Submission Uploads' section of the online application.