Postgraduate Admissions Statement for

PhD Earth Sciences, MSc by Research

This Admissions Statement applies to applications submitted for entry to the programme between 18 September 2024 and 17 September 2025. 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 Earth Sciences 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.

Information required

1) If you are applying for a specific scheme, please follow any additional guidance for that scheme when filling in the application form.

2) Identify your proposed source of funding on the application form.

3) If possible, provide the names of your proposed PhD/MScR supervisors on the application form.

Required and optional documents

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

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
Personal statements should highlight the motivation for applying for the course, and 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](#)

Curriculum Vitae (CV): Required

CVs might include details of other relevant work experience and qualifications to support an application.

Optional

Research Statement:

- If you are applying for an advertised project then you can attach the project description as your research statement.
- If you are proposing your own project then you can outline your proposed research plan in the research statement.

Any supporting funding source documentation you would like to include (e.g. a confirmation letter from a scholarship scheme or industry funder).

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 usually considered by at least two members of staff using the following criteria:

- performance in undergraduate/postgraduate degree
- references
- personal statement

Interviews

Interviews may 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.

If required, interviewees based overseas will normally be interviewed remotely.

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

Please contact earth-postgrad@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. Guidance is available on the University website.

Note: Students applying to study in the UK may be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) as part of their visa application. Further information can be found on the International Students Health pages.

Fees and Deposits

Fees

Annual tuition fees are 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 to the online application.