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# 2020

Ranked 49 in the world

(QS World University Ranking 2020)

Sixth in the UK,  
47th globally

(QS Graduate Employability Ranking 2019)

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For up-to-date information visit  
**[bristol.ac.uk/pg-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/pg-study)**



This guide contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2020. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (July 2019). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website **[bristol.ac.uk/pg-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/pg-study)**, for the latest updates.

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# Welcome

As the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, I am delighted to introduce you to the postgraduate research community at the University of Bristol.

Our global reputation for research excellence, innovation and creativity is supported by a strong track record in industry collaboration and a research-rich culture, where we combine a rigorous approach to learning with an innovative edge.

Today's challenges are not confined by borders – geographical, disciplinary or otherwise. Globally, we face a range of complex issues: how to address diverse health needs, tackle climate change, confront social injustice, and harness the benefits of technological growth and innovation. At the University of Bristol, we seek creative approaches to such global problems through working collaboratively on frontier-expanding research.

Together, we can explore what possibilities exist when we ask profound questions rather than settle for quick fix answers; when we challenge ourselves to step out of the ordinary framework of day-to-day life and approach the world from new perspectives.

You will join a supportive environment that will challenge and stretch you, right in the heart of one of the most beautiful, vibrant and green cities in Europe. We continue to invest heavily in our campuses, upgrading and transforming facilities to build the best possible learning space for our students. At the centre of our main Clifton campus is our new PGR Hub, which is dedicated solely to researcher development and wellbeing.

As a research student in Bristol, you will automatically become a member of the Bristol Doctoral College, which works across the whole University to coordinate a central support framework for all research students. You will hear from them regularly with news of the Personal and Professional Development programme for research students, their Research without Borders festival of postgraduate research, and of regular activities in the PGR Hub. Our researcher inauguration event is a welcome ceremony and reception open only to our new postgraduate researchers and your supervisors.

The University of Bristol is consistently ranked within the top ten universities in the UK\*, and attracts some of the best and brightest students from the UK and overseas. Please look through this guide and see what interests you. I very much hope that I shall have the pleasure of welcoming you to the University of Bristol in the near future.

**Professor Nishan Canagarajah**  
Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise

\*QS World University Rankings 2020

# Our university

The University of Bristol is internationally renowned and is one of the very best higher education institutions in the UK, thanks to its outstanding staff, superb facilities and talented students.

The University has had a reputation for innovation since it was founded in 1909. It was the first institute of higher education in the country to admit women on an equal basis with men, and in 1946 established the UK's first university drama department. More recently, the University has influenced many aspects of society through cutting-edge research in areas as diverse as infection and immunity, human rights, climate change, and cryptography and information security.

As a world-class research institution, Bristol offers outstanding facilities, such as the Life Sciences Building, which features a five-storey laboratory wing, a state-of-the-art greenhouse and one of the largest teaching labs in the UK. The Faculty of Engineering has invested more than £19 million in new facilities to support hands-on learning, including a 500m<sup>2</sup> teaching lab, a propulsion lab, a satellite lab and ground station, and our creative workshop, Hackspace.

A programme of major redevelopment at our main Clifton campus began in 2018. Designed in consultation with students, the project will transform the centre of our campus into a vibrant hub for the University and city community. Work is also underway on the Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus, our new campus in the centre of the city, which will focus on teaching and research in digital technologies.

As a member of the Russell Group, Bristol is one of the UK's leading research universities. The University is rated in the top 10 in the UK<sup>1</sup> and is a top five UK university for research<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> QS World University Rankings 2020.

<sup>2</sup> *Times Higher Education* analysis of the latest Research Excellence Framework (2014).





# Why Bristol

Our outstanding research profile is underpinned by the contribution of our postgraduate researchers and the help they receive from the Bristol Doctoral College. This supportive environment will help you achieve your research ambitions.

## Our research environment

The University of Bristol is recognised globally for the excellence in research and the standard of its teaching. Our research students enjoy the opportunities to collaborate with world-class researchers and the benefits of living in a first-rate British city.

## Supporting researchers

Professional support, career development and funding opportunities are just some of the reasons why the University is one of the UK's best employers of researchers. We are a top five UK university for research (*Times Higher Education* analysis of REF 2014) and the second-most targeted UK university by leading employers (*The Graduate Market in 2019*, High Fliers).

## A vibrant community

The University and the Students' Union offer a wealth of opportunities for research students,

enhanced greatly by the social, cultural and sporting landscape offered by Bristol itself. The Bristol SU Postgraduate Network is open to all postgraduate students, both taught and research, and an important forum for representing the postgraduate voice.

The Bristol Doctoral College community (see pp18-19) builds opportunities for the more than 3000 postgraduate researchers across the University.

The PGR Hub is a physical space in the heart of campus dedicated to researcher development and wellbeing, and is open to postgraduate researchers from all disciplines.

There are also numerous representation positions within schools and faculties for postgraduate researchers to represent and champion the views of their sub-communities to the wider institution.

## Engaging with the public

Engaging with the public about our research and teaching is an integral and exciting part of academic life at Bristol. It ensures our work has impact and relevance beyond the University's walls and that society's values and opinions inform our research.

Research without Borders, the University's annual festival of postgraduate research, is a flagship festival that puts the work of our research student community into conversation with the wider city through formal presentations, artistic collaborations and interactive exhibitions. Its audience includes the general public, industry professionals and academic peers.

## GW4 Alliance

When you join the University of Bristol research community, you will become part of the GW4 Alliance, comprising four of the most research-intensive and innovative universities in the UK: the Universities of Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter. This network offers postgraduate research students access to a collaborative network, expert training opportunities and shared resources. To find out more, visit [www.gw4.ac.uk/doctoral-training](http://www.gw4.ac.uk/doctoral-training).

## Your development

The University encourages personal growth alongside the pursuit of academic excellence. We ensure that research students excel in their studies and emerge as both outstanding researchers and well-rounded, highly employable individuals.

## Personal and Professional Development (PPD) programme

Our externally evaluated and quality assured PPD programme is designed to ensure that all postgraduate research students have access to the training and resources needed to help get the most out of their time at Bristol, and acquire the knowledge and experience to succeed in whatever career path they may choose.

The central PPD programme for research students is organised by the Bristol Doctoral College and offers a wide range of training sessions, collaborative events, interactive workshops and engagement opportunities.

'This course has opened many doors for me to undertake research training and conduct my own research project under the supervision of highly qualified and internationally recognised academic researchers.'

**Daria** (PhD Psychology)



# Postgraduate research

As part of the Russell Group, Bristol is proud to be one of the UK's leading universities, with an established record of producing groundbreaking research that makes an impact on society at local, national and international levels.

We have an excellent international reputation in research and are a member of the Worldwide Universities Network, a group of 24 research-led institutions of international standing. For details, please visit [bristol.ac.uk/research/environment/alliances](https://bristol.ac.uk/research/environment/alliances).

The Research Excellence Framework is the system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. In the latest submission (REF 2014), our research was shown to be of high quality and to have a major impact on society and the economy.



## Our research degree pathways

There are a number of different types of postgraduate research degree on offer at Bristol. Besides the traditional PhD and research master's degrees, the University offers a growing number of professional and extended doctoral programmes. For more information, please visit [bristol.ac.uk/doctors-college/prospective-research-students/types](https://bristol.ac.uk/doctors-college/prospective-research-students/types).

## Master's degrees by research (MMus, MPhil or MScR)

A master's by research includes a structured research project allowing you to explore research themes through critical analysis and in-depth study. These programmes can be a valuable foundation for starting a PhD.

## Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

This is the most common qualification gained by a research student, normally representing three to four years of full-time study depending on the discipline. A PhD is awarded for the outcomes of advanced study, written up as an 80,000-word thesis, which demonstrates an original and significant contribution to knowledge in your chosen field.

## Professional doctorates (EdD, EngD, DEdPsych, MD, DDS)

These qualifications are typically suited to professional practitioners already qualified to an advanced level in their area of specialism, who wish to deepen and challenge their understanding. They include EngD programmes designed to suit industry needs, where research engineers spend about 75 per cent of their time working in a company on collaborative research projects.

## Funded cohort-based doctoral training

As a leading research-intensive university, Bristol receives funding for doctoral education from a wide range of sources and has one of the largest concentrations of funded doctoral training partnership and centres in the UK. These often offer full scholarships for three to four years. Many are run in collaboration with other universities or global companies, opening up access to a wealth of resources. For further information, see pp32-33.

## International research collaborations and cotutelle (dual award) PhD

Bristol offers a number of dual award PhD opportunities for doctoral students. A cotutelle (or dual award) PhD is one which leads to separate, but linked, awards from two partner institutions within a co-supervised research degree programme. These opportunities provide an enhanced training experience that gives access to a wide range of academic expertise, research facilities and international networks.

Candidates are registered at the two universities for the full period of their study, write one thesis that is examined independently by each institution, and spend approximately 50 per cent of their programme at each location.

Bristol partnerships include universities in Australia, South America, Europe and South Africa, and students are recruited to specific research projects. For more information, visit [bristol.ac.uk/doctors-college/partnerships](https://bristol.ac.uk/doctors-college/partnerships).

## Distance learning

Several of our schools offer the opportunity for you to complete your research degree via distance learning. Supervisors can be contacted by video link, telephone or email, while scheduled visits to the University provide opportunities for face-to-face contact.

Most of the library's electronic resources – including journal archives, e-books and library catalogues – are available to use both on site and remotely. Please check the Bristol Doctoral College website for a list of degree programmes available by distance learning.

## Graduate Teaching Assistant scholarship programme

The opportunity to complete your research degree as a Graduate Teaching Assistant is offered by several of our schools. This type of scholarship includes a well-structured and supported teaching component, meaning that you will be teaching undergraduate students as well as carrying out your own research. If you are interested, please contact the relevant school to explore your options.

## Self-funded research and supervisor search

If you are self-funding your research journey, one of the first stages is to identify the academic supervisor you want to work with on your research project. Our website gives you the opportunity to find a PhD programme by searching the research interests of your potential supervisor. Go to [bristol.ac.uk/pg-study](https://bristol.ac.uk/pg-study) to explore your options.



150+

150+ partner  
universities across  
the world

# Global perspectives

We welcome research students from all over the world, and Bristol's vibrant, multicultural community helps to create a friendly and safe environment in which to live and study.

Together with our international outlook and the worldwide impact of our research, this is what makes Bristol a truly global university.

## Our international community

Of the 3,000 postgraduate researchers who studied at Bristol in 2018/19, just under a quarter were international students. Our Students' Union societies will help you to meet other students and feel at home. Among them are more than 50 different cultural organisations that build links between students from countries across Asia, Europe, Africa and North and South America.

You will find Bristol to be a forward-looking, dynamic and innovative city. It has an international and diverse population, with 91 languages spoken and 187 countries of birth represented.

## A personal welcome

Our international recruitment team is here to help advise you on our range of programmes, entry requirements and access to funded scholarships. Throughout the year, our team

travels the world to meet prospective students and answer your queries. Details of where we are visiting can be found at [bristol.ac.uk/international/countries/visits.html](https://bristol.ac.uk/international/countries/visits.html).

During arrivals weekend, we provide a meet-and-greet service at Heathrow and Bristol Airports. On arrival at the University, the International Welcome Lounge is a place where you can relax and get to know your fellow students, and where advisers are on hand to answer your questions. The Student Visa Services team can support you from the moment you accept an offer of a place right through to graduation in securing and ensuring you comply with your UK student visa. For advice and information, please visit [bristol.ac.uk/directory/visas](https://bristol.ac.uk/directory/visas).

## English language requirements

If your first language is not English, you will need to reach a suitable standard in an approved English language test; visit [bristol.ac.uk/pg-language-requirements](https://bristol.ac.uk/pg-language-requirements). Our Centre for English Language and Foundation Studies offers intensive courses to help you improve your language skills, both in preparation for and during your studies.

## Working in partnership

Bristol benefits from research and teaching partnerships with universities across the world. We are part of the Russell Group of research-intensive UK universities, the Worldwide Universities Network, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, and the Coimbra group. We will continue to improve our strong



record of international collaboration across our teaching and research, including the development of dual PhD awards.

Moreover, our research has far-reaching global impact. For example, a three-year Cabot Institute project is developing effective low-cost solutions that will improve the earthquake resilience of buildings and infrastructure in East Africa.

Meanwhile, a landmark University of Bristol study into the eye disease uveitis, which affects thousands of children every year, has enabled worldwide access to new, sight-saving medication. This is an internationally important medical intervention and the results of the study were published in the world's highest-rated medical journal, the New England Journal of Medicine.

# Cutting-edge research

Our researchers share ideas and expertise to tackle global challenges, help solve practical problems and mentor future generations.

## How the zebra got its stripes

Many theories have been proposed for the origin of the zebra's two-tone coat, including avoiding predators, better heat regulation and a social function. Researchers from the University of Bristol have found evidence that the primary purpose of zebras' stripes is to avoid blood-sucking parasites. They observed that the pattern appeared to confuse horse flies when the flies came close to land on the zebra.

## Better biofuel production

Biofuels represent an innovative, renewable source of energy that could help provide a sustainable solution to global power needs and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Researchers at the Bristol BioDesign Institute have used synthetic biology to engineer the production and organisation of synthetic protein molecules within living bacterial cells to boost the cellular production of ethanol – an important biofuel – by over 200 per cent.

## Safer seas

Thanks to a maritime security toolkit developed at the University of Bristol and Cardiff University, international policy makers, coastguards, navies and shipping companies can now access comprehensive advice and guidance on making the world's oceans safe from piracy and smuggling. Focusing on the Western Indian Ocean as a case study, the toolkit was endorsed at its launch by the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for the Oceans.

## Smart insulins to beat diabetes

Approximately 382 million people worldwide have diabetes, a metabolic disorder that affects blood glucose levels. The condition must be carefully controlled, which in many cases is by using the hormone insulin. Years of research by scientists in the University of Bristol's School of Chemistry have brought us closer to the world's first synthetic glucose-responsive insulin, which could transform diabetes treatment by making it safer and easier for patients. Ziylo, the University spin-out company developing this technology, was recently bought by global healthcare company Novo Nordisk in a deal that could be worth around \$800 million.

## Disappearing glaciers and food security

Holding the third largest volume of fresh water on the planet, Himalayan glaciers are a vital source of water for irrigation, sanitation and drinking water across large parts of South Asia. Glaciers are under threat from climate warming, but we don't fully understand the potential impact on food production. The University of Bristol is contributing to a groundbreaking collaboration involving glaciologists, hydrologists, environmental historians and social and political scientists. They are studying rivers, communities, local water policies and responses to past floods and droughts in Nepal to identify the communities that are most at risk from water shortages and help them prepare for a future with less water.

## Research sheds new light on prehistory of Dravidian languages and their speakers

Linguistic analyses by researchers at the University of Bristol and the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History have shed new light on the prehistory of the Dravidian languages, which are spoken by 220 million people across South Asia. The research, which used advanced statistical methods to make a detailed investigation of the historical relationships of 20 Dravidian varieties, shows that these languages, of which there are around 80 varieties, date back to about 4,500 years ago.



Bristol is rated tenth among UK universities for the proportion of its research rated 'world-leading' in REF 2015 (BBC analysis of REF 2014)





# Research institutes

Our institutes position Bristol among the world's leading research-intensive universities.

## University research institutes

Four interdisciplinary research institutes connect researchers from different disciplines around key themes. Each institute works across faculties to meet both the challenges of leading-edge research and the external demands of government, business and society.

### Brigstow Institute

Brigstow brings together researchers from across Bristol and from different disciplines to experiment in new ways of living and being.

### Cabot Institute

Cabot Institute conducts world-leading research on the challenges that arise from the ways we live with, depend on and affect our planet. Its main themes are: global environmental change; food security; water; low-carbon energy; natural hazards; and future cities. The Cabot Institute also runs a one-year MScR in Global Environmental Challenges. Each research project is supported by an expert supervisor, while a bespoke training schedule is designed to enhance your career prospects and develop an interdisciplinary approach to the most complex environmental challenges of today.

### Elizabeth Blackwell Institute for Health Research

This institute brings together leading researchers from disparate fields to collaborate on solutions to the most pressing health problems of the 21st century. At the core of every project is a mission to produce tangible outcomes that can be translated into clinical practice.

### Jean Golding Institute

This institute is a central hub for data science and data-intensive research at the University, focusing on data-driven solutions to societal challenges and exploring ways to visualise and present information. The Jean Golding Institute also acts as the main point of contact between the university and The Alan Turing Institute, the UK's national institute for data science and artificial intelligence. This partnership started in 2018 and includes fellows across engineering, health sciences, mathematics, veterinary science, geographical sciences, computer science, arts and other disciplines.

### Specialist research institutes

Seven specialist research institutes have been established to complement the University's four cross-disciplinary institutes, each reflecting Bristol's strength and depth in a key specialism.

### Bristol BioDesign Institute

With wide-ranging applications, from health to food security, this institute combines pioneering synthetic biology approaches with an understanding of biomolecular systems.

### Bristol Composites Institute (ACCIS)

Advanced composite materials are critical to reducing weight, energy consumption and CO2 generation in transport applications. ACCIS takes a lead role in composites education and research, combining cutting-edge fundamental science with strong industrial links.

### Bristol Heart Institute

Bristol Heart Institute is a world-leading centre for translational cardiovascular research and one of the leading academic cardiac surgery centres in the UK.

### Bristol Institute for Migration and Mobility Studies

This institute looks at why people move from one place to another; the social, economic and cultural consequences of migration; and, importantly, the actual experience of migration.

### Bristol Population Health Science Institute

This institute takes a multidisciplinary approach to studying the health of populations, from molecules to communities.

### Bristol Poverty Institute

Drawing on 25 years' experience, the Bristol Poverty Institute focuses on practical solutions and policies designed to eradicate world poverty.

### Bristol Quantum Information Institute

This institute crystallises the University's research in all areas of quantum information science, from theory to technology. It provides superb teaching and training for the future generation of quantum scientists and engineers and the prototypes of tomorrow.



Bristol is associated with 13 Nobel Laureates, including our current Chancellor, Sir Paul Nurse





'I am currently studying the Internet of Things and machine learning in the context of energy. My passion is to build systems that mitigate the effects of climate change and protect mother nature.'

Huseyin Burak (PhD Computer Science)

Bristol is the second most targeted university by leading UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research, 2019).

# Careers

A postgraduate research degree from Bristol is the start of an exciting career journey. Our postgraduate researchers go on to become inspiring and influential leaders in a huge variety of fields.

Specialists from our Careers Service support postgraduates through expert knowledge, tailored events and strong links with leading employers. Postgraduates at Bristol have many opportunities to meet employers from industry, business, local start-ups and third sector organisations. The Careers Service runs discipline-specific careers fairs, which attract large multinational employers as well as small local firms. As a Bristol postgraduate you are strongly encouraged to build a professional network in your chosen career.

## Get ahead

We understand that as a postgraduate researcher, your career aspirations and ambitions may be different from those of an undergraduate. Specific postgraduate events, vacancies and resources will help you realise your ambitions, make well-informed career decisions, and learn how to articulate the skills you develop during your postgraduate degree. Creating an exceptional CV will be one of your starting points. Our expert Careers Service staff run talks for postgraduates on academic and non-academic CVs, as well as giving one-to-one CV and application feedback.

## Industry-endorsed skills award

Discovering the range of opportunities open to you as a postgraduate should be fun and inspiring. Whether you're attending a talk on options after your PhD or organising a conference, the Bristol PLUS Award offers a framework to help you structure your career planning and skills development. Visit [bristol.ac.uk/careers/employable-plus-award](http://bristol.ac.uk/careers/employable-plus-award) to find out more.

## Take some risks

Bristol postgraduate researchers are fantastic problem-solvers and we actively encourage the innovators and entrepreneurs of the future. Bristol has a reputation as a leading centre for creativity and technical innovation, and the Careers Service can support you to become part of this. We offer business masterclasses, workshops, start-up support, competitions and one-to-one enterprise consultations. We also provide access to the award-winning SETsquared partnership, which has links with a team of consultants and external business advisers: [bristol.ac.uk/careers/student-enterprise](http://bristol.ac.uk/careers/student-enterprise).

## Personal and professional development

Our Personal and Professional Development (PPD) programme, co-ordinated by the Bristol Doctoral College, is open to all postgraduate researchers and has been designed to support you during the different stages of your research degree. We offer workshops and resources to help you to become an effective researcher and develop the transferable skills that will be valuable for your research project and beyond.



‘Supervisors are very helpful in guiding us along the PhD path... Having done a master’s at Bristol, the PhD felt like coming back home.’

**Vijay** (PhD Civil Engineering)



# Bristol Doctoral College

The Bristol Doctoral College grows, develops and supports our community of postgraduate researchers across all research programmes at the University of Bristol.

We work with schools and faculties to ensure that the environment in which you carry out your research is supportive, that there are multiple opportunities for professional and personal development, and that you are well prepared for the next stage in your career.

To support our research community, we:

- co-ordinate a number of PhD scholarship schemes, such as the China Scholarship Council/University of Bristol joint scholarship scheme and the cotutelle (dual award) PhD research programme;
- work with our extensive network of doctoral training centres to attract the best research students to Bristol;
- develop a suite of PhD programmes with global partner universities that allow students to carry out research with both partner institutions;
- extend the opportunities for you to gain experience and conduct research in collaboration with external organisations;
- celebrate the achievements and contributions of our students in multidisciplinary research excellence;
- welcome new research students into our Bristol community at inauguration ceremonies.

## Enhancing a highly skilled community of researchers

Our team of dedicated staff supports a thriving and innovative interdisciplinary community of researchers. We provide a co-ordinated, University-wide approach to doctoral training and researcher development. Our comprehensive programme of personal and professional development activities helps ensure that doctoral researchers excel in their studies. This programme was commended by the UK Quality Assurance Audit for Higher Education in 2016.

## Supporting your research journey

### PGR Hub

The PGR Hub is a new space dedicated to researcher development and wellbeing. It helps you to connect with fellow research students from other parts of the University for training workshops, research collaboration or to meet socially.

### Events and activities

We organise a wide range of training sessions, collaborative events, interactive workshops and engagement opportunities, specifically designed for doctoral researchers. Our annual Research without Borders festival of postgraduate research enables doctoral students to showcase their research to the public, industry professionals and academic peers.

### Stay informed

The fortnightly BDC Bulletin keeps the postgraduate research community up to date with the latest news and opportunities across the University and beyond. For more information about Bristol Doctoral College, visit [bristol.ac.uk/doctoral-college](http://bristol.ac.uk/doctoral-college).

# Supporting you at university

We want you to get the most out of your time at the University of Bristol: to feel safe, supported and able to reach your full potential.

We make sure that our students, whether taught or research, have access to appropriate and practical support with a range of student services that are continuously reviewed and developed, making sure we offer the best support possible.

## Support for wellbeing

We can support you in learning to manage your own wellbeing as well as putting you in touch with support services when you need them.

- **Academic support** – Each postgraduate research student will have a main supervisor who is responsible for providing academic guidance. You will also have access to a wide range of online resources to support your studies: [bristol.ac.uk/students/study](https://bristol.ac.uk/students/study). Bristol Students' Union's Just Ask service is another source of academic support: [bristolsu.org.uk/justask](https://bristolsu.org.uk/justask).
- **Wellbeing Advisers** – These experienced staff work with academic schools and faculties to help you address any personal and emotional difficulties you may experience.

- **Residential Life** – For those who live in University accommodation, each of our Residential Villages has a pastoral team of full-time staff on hand to help. Our experienced Residential Life teams encourage community building, provide pastoral care and are equipped to identify and support vulnerable students.
- **Your health** – the Students' Health Service offers the full range of NHS GP services. It is run by a team of doctors, nurses and administrative staff with specific expertise in student issues.
- **Faith and spirituality** – the Multifaith Chaplaincy offers confidential pastoral and spiritual support, religious information and advice, regular events, and a welcoming space for people of all faiths and none.

## Support for mental health

Recognising the challenges faced by an increasing number of people today, we developed our Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy in partnership with our students. Their insight helps us provide the most useful student services during their time at University: [bristol.ac.uk/university/media/strategies/student-mental-health-wellbeing-strategy.pdf](https://bristol.ac.uk/university/media/strategies/student-mental-health-wellbeing-strategy.pdf).

Our University-wide approach means that a range of services, online and in person, are available, if and when you need them: [bristol.ac.uk/students/wellbeing](https://bristol.ac.uk/students/wellbeing).

Our Disability Services team provides specialist advice and study support for students with long-term health conditions including mental health difficulties, such as anxiety or depression: [bristol.ac.uk/disability-services](https://bristol.ac.uk/disability-services).

## Support for students with children

Our subsidised day nursery is located on the Clifton campus. It can accommodate children from three months to five years old and is open weekdays throughout the year.

## Welcoming international students

During arrivals weekend, we provide a meet-and-greet service at Heathrow and Bristol Airports. When you arrive at the University, you can relax and get to know your fellow students in the International Welcome Lounge, where advisers are on hand to answer questions.

## PGR Hub

The PGR Hub is a space dedicated solely to postgraduate researcher needs, focusing primarily on development and wellbeing. Located at the heart of campus, it hosts regular activities, groups, forums and workshops.

# Accommodation

Our Accommodation Office can advise you on both University and private accommodation throughout your time at Bristol.

We offer an advice service for students with specific housing needs, such as students with disabilities and those with young families. Details of all our services, including full details of our own postgraduate residences, can be found at [bristol.ac.uk/accommodation](https://bristol.ac.uk/accommodation).

## Accommodation options

### University-allocated accommodation

The University has around 2,300 self-catered postgraduate rooms available, located within walking distance of the University. If you are accompanied by a partner or family, you can apply for one of a small number of University-allocated couple and family flats. The application process starts in May and offers will be emailed from July; please check our website for further information.

### Private rented accommodation

The Accommodation Office provides information and guidance about renting privately and can point you to websites where landlords and students advertise for tenants. We also run a residential house search event in August, giving you the opportunity to meet other postgraduates and to look for private rented accommodation as an individual or with other students as a group.

### Accommodation guarantee

We guarantee to offer you University-allocated accommodation for one year provided that you:

- are paying fees at the overseas rate;
- apply by the given deadline;
- are unaccompanied;
- have accepted an offer of a place of study;
- are a new, full-time student in your first year of study at the University of Bristol;
- will be starting your studies in September and will be here for a full academic year.

Please be aware that the guarantee does not apply to students who pay fees at the UK/EU rate. However, you may still be able to apply for University-allocated accommodation even if you do not meet the criteria for a guaranteed offer.

From August, we will email all non-guaranteed applicants with updates on the availability of University accommodation and information about alternative housing options.

### Support you'll receive

All postgraduate students living in University-allocated accommodation have the support of pastoral staff, who are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The team is trained to provide a wide range of expert help, including advice and practical guidance on wellbeing; community-building and student development activities; and student support and mentoring. Building representatives are also on site in case there's an issue with damage to your room or flat or if something needs to be repaired. For more information on the support available, visit [bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/student-life/wellbeing](https://bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/student-life/wellbeing).



# Life in Bristol

Bristol has a distinctive blend of historic charm and dynamic, creative energy. It's a vibrant, family-friendly city with a diverse community and lots to offer.

## A place to call home

With its celebrated music and arts scenes, enticing places to eat and drink, fantastic range of shops and plenty of relaxing green spaces, Bristol is somewhere you will love to call home. Its maritime and industrial heritage combines with a forward-thinking creative and digital economy. Small enough to remain independent and friendly, large enough to be lively and cosmopolitan, Bristol is a beautiful and exciting city to explore.



## Family friendly

Whether it's a trip to the historic SS Great Britain, a tour around the interactive displays at We The Curious, petting goats at Windmill Hill City Farm, or a stroll through Ashton Court, there is something going on every day of the week to entertain young families of all interests. Bristol is an excellent city for children, with an abundance of community farms, bike paths, green spaces and theatres.

## Green city

In Bristol, offbeat street art, eclectic craft collectives and innovative games developers sit happily alongside celebrated art galleries and museums. As a UNESCO City of Film, Bristol is a hub for film studios, producers and documentarians creating ground-breaking work such as *Planet Earth*. It's also a popular filming location, with many memorable scenes from *Sherlock* to *Skins* shot on our streets. Bristol is also the birthplace of *Wallace and Gromit*, with Aardman reaching an international audience through stop-motion animation, apps and games.

## Festival fun for everyone

Indoors and out, Bristol's festivals celebrate everything from comedy to cinema and boats to balloons. In the summer, Bristol Harbour Festival and the International Balloon Fiesta are highlights, while the Simple Things festival brings adventurous new sounds every autumn.



Bristol is one of the UK's ten biggest cities by population





Approximate walking times from Tyndall Avenue on the Clifton campus.

#### Langford campus

**Bristol Veterinary School** is located on the edge of the Mendip Hills in the village of Langford, 14 miles south of Bristol.

The landmark **ss Great Britain** is a symbol of Bristol's maritime heritage. Nearby, **Wapping Wharf** offers one of the city's newest locations for independent shops and creative cuisine, housed in converted shipping containers.

30 minutes

Enjoy a stroll through the Georgian arcades and scenic squares of **Clifton Village**. A top spot for café culture, this neighbourhood is home to the world-famous **Clifton Suspension Bridge** and is on the edge of the wide green expanse known as **The Downs**.

20 minutes

Bristol's **Harbourside** bustles with lively bars, restaurants, museums and attractions, and is a focal point for festivals and markets all year round.

15 minutes

**Cabot Tower** sits at the summit of **Brandon Hill**. There are great views from the top overlooking this green haven.

10 minutes

The impressive **Wills Memorial Building** at the top of Park Street marks the entrance to our campus.

5 minutes

#### University of Bristol Clifton campus

Our main campus lines the leafy streets of Clifton and includes libraries and study spaces, our newly renovated **Indoor Sports Centre** and the award-winning **Royal Fort Gardens**.

#### Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus

Work is due to begin on our new **Temple Quarter campus** in 2019. The campus will help to transform a neglected area of the city within one of Europe's biggest urban regeneration programmes.



# Visit us

There are many ways you can meet us to talk about your interests and find out more about what Bristol can offer you.

## Visiting the University of Bristol

### Postgraduate open events

We hold our annual university-wide postgraduate open day in November and a range of smaller events in our schools and faculties throughout the year. Visit our website to find out more: [bristol.ac.uk/pg-visits](https://bristol.ac.uk/pg-visits).

### Postgraduate campus tours

We offer campus tours specifically for prospective postgraduate students. These are available on request and can be tailored to suit your interests. To request a tour, please email us: [postgraduate-recruitment@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:postgraduate-recruitment@bristol.ac.uk).

### Contact your department

If you've already applied for a programme, or you are keen to meet with a supervisor, you can contact the relevant department using the details found on our online prospectus. You may even be able to arrange a private visit to discuss your options. Find the contact details for the departments you're interested in: [bristol.ac.uk/pg-study](https://bristol.ac.uk/pg-study).

### Self-guided tour

If you're not able to arrange an official visit, you can still come and visit our campus. Our self-guided tour will highlight the key points of interest on our campus, and give you a taste of what it's like to be a student here: [bristol.ac.uk/pg-visits](https://bristol.ac.uk/pg-visits).

### Virtual events and visits

If you are unable to visit the University of Bristol in person, you can explore our exceptional facilities and services thanks to our virtual events. They are a great way to connect with Bristol staff and students. A live panel will discuss topics that are relevant to you and answer any questions you have.

## Attending a postgraduate fair near you

### In the UK

We attend a range of postgraduate fairs in the UK throughout the academic year. If you're not able to make it to Bristol, check our website to find out when we will next be in a location near you: [bristol.ac.uk/pg-visits](https://bristol.ac.uk/pg-visits).

### Overseas

If you're not based in the UK, you can still meet representatives from the University without travelling to us. Find out when our international recruitment advisers will be visiting your country: [bristol.ac.uk/international/visit](https://bristol.ac.uk/international/visit).





# Applying

## Choose your area of research

Browse this guide and our online programme finder to decide on an area of research that you are interested in.

1

We welcome applications from talented candidates of all backgrounds and we are committed to promoting equal opportunities.

2

## Visit Bristol

Come to our annual postgraduate open day in November or book a tour of our campus.

## Further details

### Your application

Begin your application at [bristol.ac.uk/pg-howtoapply](http://bristol.ac.uk/pg-howtoapply). Entry requirements can be found in the admissions statement for your chosen programme: [bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/admissions-statements](http://bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/admissions-statements).

### What you need to provide

Whichever programme you are applying for, there are standard documents that you must provide with your application. Some of these are listed below. Please see the admissions statement for specific programme requirements.

## Begin your application

For most programmes, you will need to apply using our online application system. Remember to check for funding application deadlines.

3

- We usually require references to support your application. These should be from someone who oversaw your degree studies.
- If you graduated more than two years ago, we may accept professional references to support your application. In this case it is advisable to include a CV with your application to show your employment history.
- You should submit interim official transcripts of marks, or final official degree certificates and final official transcripts of marks.
- You may need to meet our English language requirements and provide confirmation that you have reached the required level.

## Write a research proposal

Check the admissions statement for your chosen programme to see if you are required to submit a research proposal.

4

### Making a research proposal

If you are proposing your own area of research, you will need to submit a research proposal. You should find a suitable supervisor using by searching [bristol.ac.uk/pg-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/pg-study) and contact them to discuss your ideas before submitting your proposal.

A good research proposal includes information about the academic impact of your research, as well as the material or data you will need to access. Your proposal can be amended as you refine your study with us.

### Studentships, professional doctorates and Doctoral Training Centre applications

Many studentships (funding to cover research degree fees and/or living costs) are advertised on [www.jobs.ac.uk/jobs/studentships](http://www.jobs.ac.uk/jobs/studentships).

5

## Submit your application

You should read the programme admissions statement thoroughly to ensure you have included all required documents. Some programmes may require an application fee.

To apply for a studentship or professional doctorate, you should speak to the relevant supervisor or programme director before making your application online. To apply for one of the funded doctoral training programmes, please check [bristol.ac.uk/doctoral-college/centres](http://bristol.ac.uk/doctoral-college/centres) for further information.

### Visas for international applicants

If you are from outside the EU/EEA, you may need to apply for a Tier 4 visa with sponsorship from the University.

Some science and engineering programmes require an Academic Technology Approval Scheme certificate.

## Check your progress

We aim to get in touch with you within five days. You can check the progress of your application using the online application system.

6

### Assessing your application

You can use the online application system to keep track of your application. We aim to get in touch with you within five calendar days to confirm receipt of your application and to let you know when to expect a decision. Sometimes it can take longer to make a decision, especially around University closure periods. If we require further information from you, we will let you know.

For more information on our admissions policies, please visit [bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/after-you-apply/policies](http://bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/after-you-apply/policies).



# Fees and funding

If you are considering a postgraduate degree, it's a good idea to think about funding as soon as possible. We can provide advice about funding postgraduate study and details of the living expenses you will need to budget for while you're here.

## Postgraduate loans

Students living in England or Wales can take out a government loan to help pay for their PhD programme. As a guide, in 2019/20 students could borrow up to £25,700. For more details, please visit [bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/postgraduate](https://bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/postgraduate).

## University of Bristol alumni scholarship

If you are a University of Bristol student or graduate, you could benefit from a ten per cent reduction in your tuition fees for postgraduate research at Bristol. For full details and eligibility requirements, visit: [bristol.ac.uk/alumni-discount](https://bristol.ac.uk/alumni-discount).

## Studentships

Studentships are vacancies attached to specific research projects or fields and include opportunities for dual PhDs (with co-funding provided by world-class international universities) and industrial collaborations (supported by leading business partners). Our available studentships are typically advertised on faculty web pages or [www.jobs.ac.uk/employer/university-of-bristol/phd](https://www.jobs.ac.uk/employer/university-of-bristol/phd).

## Scholarships and bursaries

The University offers a number of scholarships and awards to postgraduate research students. Some funding is programme-specific; you could also contact your prospective department to find out if it offers any other awards. Visit [bristol.ac.uk/doctoral-college/prospective-research-students/funding](https://bristol.ac.uk/doctoral-college/prospective-research-students/funding).

## Trusts and charities

The Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding ([www.postgraduate-funding.com](https://www.postgraduate-funding.com)) provides contact information for a wide range of charities and organisations that offer small grants for postgraduate study. As a prospective student, you can access the guide for free. Email [careers-service@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:careers-service@bristol.ac.uk) to request your PIN.

## Cohort-based doctoral training

Bristol's research-intensive profile and reputation has helped us to secure funding for more than 20 cohort-based doctoral research and training centres from most of the UK's research councils as well as other funding bodies. PhD students within these cohorts gain a broad range of skills and knowledge that can be applied across a wide variety of careers within and outside of academia. See pp32-33 to find out more.

## Tuition fees

Tuition fees are reviewed each year and will depend on your programme of study and fee status. We classify all students as UK, EU, overseas or Channel Islands and Isle of Man for fees purposes. The amount you pay for tuition fees and the financial support on offer will depend on your classification. You can find further information and advice on fees classification at [bristol.ac.uk/fee-status](https://bristol.ac.uk/fee-status).

Fees apply for each year of your programme and are subject to annual review, so are liable to rise each year. Please budget for up to a five per cent increase per year. The tuition fee itself covers charges for tuition, examination and registration, and a contribution towards the cost of membership of the Students' Union.

Tuition fees can be paid in full at registration or in two instalments. Payment may be made online, by direct debit or by credit/debit card. For further details, email [student-fees@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:student-fees@bristol.ac.uk) or call the Student Fees Office on +44 (0)117 954 6372. For information on online payments please visit [bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/tuition-fees/payment](https://bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/tuition-fees/payment).

## Additional fees

Some programmes charge a bench fee in addition to tuition fees. Bench fees cover specific extra costs, usually associated with specialist laboratory or field work. If there is a bench fee for the programme you are interested in, this will be stated on the relevant page of our online programme finder: [bristol.ac.uk/pg-study](https://bristol.ac.uk/pg-study). Some postgraduate research programmes charge a fee related to submission of the final thesis or extension of the usual period of registration.

## Tuition fees for students from the European Union

EU students who start at the University during the 2020-21 academic year will pay the same fees as UK students for the duration of their degree. The latest information can be found on our website: [bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/tuition-fees/eu-referendum](https://bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/tuition-fees/eu-referendum).

## Cost of living

Living costs in Bristol are higher than in some other parts of the country, although less than in London. Currently, postgraduate students might need around £850-£950 per month in addition to tuition fees. You will need to think about accommodation, food, utilities, books, entertainment and other costs. For more information about living costs, please see [bristol.ac.uk/living-expenses](https://bristol.ac.uk/living-expenses).

# Funded cohort-based doctoral training

Bristol has one of the largest concentrations of funding, opportunities and support for doctoral research and training in the UK higher education sector.

There are more than 30 cohort-based doctoral training centres and partnerships, offering at least 250 PhD studentships each year across the whole spectrum of Bristol research.

This format of doctoral training provides a supportive and exciting environment for doctoral researchers, helping you create new working cultures and research networks, build relationships between teams in universities, and forge lasting links with industry or related organisations and professions.

Many of these studentships are nationally funded, with support from UK Research and Innovation and other major funders, including the Wellcome Trust and the British Heart Foundation, among others. This investment funding, coupled with our top-five position in the most recent UK-wide Research Excellence Framework\*, means we can offer numerous opportunities for funded, world-class PhD research.

The studentships will often cover tuition fees and living costs for successful candidates. Some doctoral programmes are delivered in collaboration with other universities and research organisations, or with regional and global

companies, giving doctoral students access to a wealth of resources and opportunities.

## Centres for Doctoral Training

In 2019, the University was awarded over £50 million by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for nine new centres for doctoral training (CDTs). In addition, Bristol is part of two collaborative CDTs, which are led by university partners.

These new centres for doctoral training focus on research in: artificial intelligence; aerosol science; computational statistics and data science; composites engineering and manufacturing; cyber security; future autonomous robotic systems; quantum engineering; technology enhanced chemical synthesis; and future innovations in non-destructive evaluation.

Each CDT draws on an academic community of more than 30 academic supervisors in Bristol, extensive links with international universities and a network of industrial relationships, with opportunities for sponsorship and enhanced experience for doctoral researchers.

## Doctoral Training Partnerships

Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) are funded by the other UK research councils and typically span several universities.

In 2016, the Medical Research Council awarded £4.6 million to launch the GW4 BioMed Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), bringing together the Universities of Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter to develop the next generation of biomedical researchers.

The South, West and Wales Doctoral Training Partnership is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. This DTP represents a collaboration with eight other universities and draws on the resources and expertise of non-academic partners such as Aardman Animations, Arts Council South West, Cornwall Museum Partnerships and Historic England.

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) funds the NERC Great Western Four+ Doctoral Training Partnership. This DTP is designed to train tomorrow's research leaders in earth and environmental sciences. It brings together the four GW4 universities (Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter) and six research organisations with 24 associate partner organisations representing the full range of employers of NERC science PhD graduates.

The South West Biosciences Doctoral Training Partnership is one of 12 DTPs funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council to provide PhD training across the UK in areas of strategic relevance. It provides training in two priority areas: Agriculture and Food Security, and World-class Underpinning Bioscience.

The South West Doctoral Training Partnership represents a collaboration between the Universities of Bristol, Exeter, Bath, Plymouth and the West of England, bringing together social science academic leaders across 17 disciplinary and interdisciplinary pathways.

More information about all these options and more can be found at [bristol.ac.uk/doctoral-college/prospective-research-students/funding](http://bristol.ac.uk/doctoral-college/prospective-research-students/funding).

\*Times Higher Education analysis of Research Excellence Framework 2014





# Faculty of Arts

The Faculty of Arts is internationally renowned for its research activity. The unique combination of individual disciplines and collaborations creates a vitality and vibrancy in the faculty's research structure.

## PhD Anthropology and Archaeology

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology has an international 'four-field' approach, combining archaeology with evolutionary, social and linguistic anthropology. Our key strengths lie in our integrated approaches to understanding cultural, biological and social change: the spread of peoples, their ideas and material artefacts. We focus particularly on adaptation, adversity and globalisation.

## PhD Classics and Ancient History

Members of the department carry out research across the whole range of classical studies: Greek and Latin literature, ancient history and historiography, visual culture, philosophy and reception. Our work is characterised by a particular focus on interdisciplinary approaches and theoretical questions, and by an interest in the globalisation of classics.

## PhD Creative Writing

This PhD consists of an original body of work – normally a novel, or a collection of poetry/short stories – with an accompanying critical element. The critical element will place the creative work in an informed and theorised analytical context. All PhD students are supervised by two academics, one of whom will normally be a creative writing academic and the other from English literature or a related discipline.

## English Literature

We are proud of our expertise in medieval and early-modern literature, in Romantic and Victorian literature, in modernism, and in contemporary writing in English. The department is notable for its breadth of research in English poetry across the periods, and our range of specialist interests includes literary theory, the history of book, literature and science, literature and medicine, literature and the environment, digital humanities, women's writing and gender studies, queer writing, postcolonial literature, Black British writing, 20th-century American literature, the Gothic tradition, and Welsh and Anglo-Welsh writing.

## PhD Film and Television

The Department of Film and Television offers supervisory expertise in a wide range of subject areas, including classical Hollywood cinema, British cinema, television drama, comedy, animation and documentary. The department has particular strengths in historical research, audience studies, film theory and aesthetics, and offers the opportunity for practice-based research as well as the traditional written dissertation.

## PhD French

The Department of French is committed to research innovation and excellence in major aspects of French studies. The department has strengths in the medieval, early modern period, visual-textual relations, 19th-, 20th- and 21st-century literature, screen and stage adaptations, cultural history and politics.

## PhD German

Staff and postgraduate students in the Department of German pursue research across a broad spectrum of German studies, covering many aspects of language and linguistics, literature, history and culture from the early modern period to the present day. We welcome applications from graduates wishing to pursue custom-designed research programmes. Interdisciplinary and cross-language research is particularly encouraged and well supported.

## PhD Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies

Global culture and history are fundamental to our work. We research how Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries shaped the world, across Europe, America, Africa and Asia. We ask how they fit into the wider globe. We explore new ways to express those relationships, including through digital humanities. We welcome applications from students wishing to pursue tailor-made research to master's (MPhil) or doctoral (PhD) level.

## PhD History

Members of the department publish and supervise research in a range of areas within the broad fields of cultural, social, economic and political history. We cover the medieval, early modern and modern periods, and offer expertise on specialist topics such as public history, global and transnational history, digital humanities, environmental history, imperial and colonial history, contemporary history and the history of medicine.

## PhD History of Art

Staff specialisms range from medieval altarpieces to Soviet public monuments, from pre-Renaissance sculpture to contemporary art of the diaspora. We are interested in thinking across historical periods and through a variety of critical approaches. We encourage you to participate in the stimulating intellectual and social life of the department, with regular research seminars and guest lectures, not to mention our thriving Art History in the Pub series of talks and discussions.

## PhD Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship comprises a group of academic staff with research interests in two related areas: design innovation and entrepreneurship, spanning both commercial and social sectors. We welcome and encourage students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Students may join directly from university studies or be experienced professionals.

## PhD Italian

The Department of Italian has a strong commitment to excellence in both teaching and research. We promote a vigorous research culture in a co-operative and positive atmosphere, which enables postgraduate research projects and the research of staff to thrive. The department pursues the study of Italian culture in an interdisciplinary context, which challenges traditional parameters of the discipline to advance knowledge in our areas of expertise.

## PhD Medieval Studies

The study of the Middle Ages at the University of Bristol includes looking at literature, art, history, language, religion, law and the thought of western European civilisation between c.500 and c.1500. Bristol's medievalists focus on medieval culture and the whole complex of ways in which a society functions, thinks about itself and expresses its identity.

## PhD Music

The Department of Music is a centre of research excellence in both composition and musicology. In composition, we are well known for a number of areas, including: acoustic music, ranging from solo to symphonic scale; electro-acoustic, including acousmatic composition; composition exploring the interface of Western and non-Western traditions. In musicology, research strengths include not only the Western art music tradition, but also screen media, non-Western and popular music.

## PhD Philosophy

The Department of Philosophy has a reputation for high-quality research across the subject. We are particularly well known for our strength in logic and the philosophy of science and mathematics, as well as expertise in ethics, formal epistemology, phenomenology and the philosophy of medicine. We have an active postgraduate community and internationally renowned staff who set the agenda and break new ground in their respective fields.

## PhD Religion and Theology

The department has a strong and innovative research culture, and includes leading researchers in the thought and practice of Buddhism, Christianity and Judaism. We use a wide range of linguistic, historical, philosophical and theological methods, and provide many opportunities for postgraduates to build a strong portfolio of skills and experiences in preparation for an academic career and professional life beyond university.

## PhD Russian and Czech

We can support postgraduate research in many areas within the following broad fields: Russian prose fiction from the 19th century to the present; 19th- and 20th-century Russian poetry; 19th- and early 20th-century Russian intellectual history; 20th-century Russian drama and theatre; Russian and Soviet cinema; Russian and Soviet history; Modern Russian cultural studies; Czech and Slovak literature from the 19th century to the present; Russian and comparative literature; Russian Orthodox culture.

## PhD Theatre and Performance

The Department of Theatre offers supervisory expertise in a wide range of subject areas, including early modern theatre and performance practices, 19th and 20th-century theatre and performance, contemporary British theatre, adaptation and translation of theatre and performance, contemporary performance practices, performance archives, dance histories and practices, the role of the body in performance, philosophy and performance.

## PhD Translation

The School of Modern Languages has particular research strengths in translation studies, including: audiovisual translation (especially subtitling and video game localization); translation technologies (especially machine translation and post-editing); translation history; literary translation, including poetry, drama, fiction, practice-oriented research; adaptation studies; censorship in translation. Languages include Catalan, Chinese, Czech, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

This doctoral programme is available via distance learning. See pp8-9 for more information.

# Faculty of Engineering

The Faculty of Engineering is applying world-leading research to tackle the world's grand challenges, from big data to green energy, digital health to composite materials.

## PhD Advanced Composites

Core engineering modules lay the foundations and stretch your understanding of core materials, manufacturing and computational analysis. An integrated transferable skills training programme is also included, covering communication, career development and translational research skills. Collaborating with industrial partners and world-leading international expertise produces an exciting integrated programme.

## PhD Aerospace Engineering

There is a wide range of research in the department, spanning experimental, numerical, theoretical and computational, and all is applied to aerospace-related problems, for example fixed-wing aircraft, rotorcraft, wind turbines and UAVs. All postgraduates would expect to publish in high-quality journals and present at international conferences. Hence, research programmes are aimed at independent and self-motivated applicants.

## PhD Civil Engineering

We are leaders in modelling and managing the impacts of extreme natural and human hazards, such as earthquakes, climate change, flooding, industrial processes, traffic and crowds. Our application studies range from complete national and regional systems (such as national hydrological models, water systems, electricity and transport networks) through individual artefacts (such as nuclear facilities, dams, long-span bridges and buildings), down to local scale buckling models of reinforcing bars in concrete.

## EngD Composites Manufacture

The Engineering Doctorate in Composites Manufacture is a four-year postgraduate research programme, which integrates an industry-based research project with research training in technical subjects, as well as business skills and transferable skills training. Each EngD research project is designed around the sponsor company's research priorities. Due to the nature of the funding, this programme is open to home/EU students only.

## PhD Computer Science

As a city, Bristol is known for its concentration of high-technology industry. Computers, communications and microelectronics are well represented, alongside digital media, computer games and electronic commerce. The University's Department of Computer Science has close relationships with many of these organisations via collaborative projects, staff secondments and visiting industrial staff.

## PhD Cyber Security (TIPS at Scale)

Within the next few years the number of devices connected to each other and the Internet will outnumber humans by almost 5:1. These connected devices will underpin everything from healthcare to transport. Alongside the benefits, we need to address the myriad trust, identity, privacy and security issues raised by such large, interconnected infrastructures. This centre for doctoral training tackles this issue by training a new generation of interdisciplinary research leaders.

## PhD Digital Health and Care

Working together as a diverse and multidisciplinary group in purpose-built new laboratories adjacent to Bristol Cathedral, students will work closely with the local NHS, experts in social care, charities and with the CDT's industry partners that range from start-ups to multi-billion-dollar corporations that are household names in computing and healthcare.

## PhD Electrical and Electronic Engineering

The Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering has an international reputation for research in areas such as mobile and wireless communication systems, microelectronics, electrical energy management, photonics and optical communications, artificial vision and image analysis, and high-performance networks. We collaborate with more than 30 industrial organisations and have attracted substantial research funding from diverse sources in the UK and beyond.

## PhD Engineering Mathematics

Members of the Department of Engineering Mathematics carry out cutting-edge research in areas where mathematics is being applied to future challenges in engineering, industry and the life sciences. The department also makes fundamental theoretical and computational advances. There is a strong tradition of interdisciplinary work, international collaboration and publication in leading research journals.

## EngD Future Innovation in Non-Destructive Evaluation

This centre for doctoral training has been created to provide PhD programmes in the vital field of non-destructive evaluation: an underpinning technology that encompasses a wide range of sensing, imaging and analysis techniques. We connect universities and industry, resulting in research that makes a difference.

## PhD Interactive Artificial Intelligence

Our goal is to train you to become an innovator and research leader in responsible, data-driven and knowledge-intensive human-in-the-loop AI systems. Our innovative, cohort-based training programme will deliver cohorts of highly trained PhD graduates with the skills to design and implement complex interactive AI pipelines that solve important societal problems in responsible ways.

## PhD Mechanical Engineering

Engineering research at Bristol is organised into a number of faculty-level research groups. The majority of staff in the Department of Mechanical Engineering are members of one of the following research groups: Dynamics and Control; Solid Mechanics; Engineering Systems and Design; Ultrasonics and Non-destructive Testing; Robotics; Fluid and Aerodynamics.

## PhD Robotics and Autonomous Systems

The vision of the programme is ubiquity – or robots everywhere – enabling students to think beyond a robot's technology and about its environment. Our four-year programme leads to the award of a joint PhD degree from both the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England. A PhD is a uniquely challenging and rewarding endeavour, especially in a cutting-edge field such as robotics and autonomous systems.



# Faculty of Health Sciences

Supported by a wide range of funders, such as the Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust and the NHS, our researchers have been at the forefront of many treatments, discoveries and healthcare programmes that are now in use around the globe.

## PhD Anatomy

The Centre for Applied Anatomy focuses on cancer biology, developmental biology and neuroendocrinology. Its excellent facilities include the Vesalius Centre, which houses a state-of-the-art clinical anatomy suite with opportunities to use unfixed human tissue for both research and training purposes. There is a wide range of opportunities for translational research (eg in the design and evaluation of medical implants or surgical procedures), strengthening links with the Bristol Medical School and School of Veterinary Sciences.

## PhD Molecular, Genetic and Lifecourse Epidemiology

For applicants with a background in science, maths or population science, this programme offers generous funding from the Wellcome Trust and a distinctive cross-disciplinary approach. The first year is designed to offer you

opportunities to investigate core subject areas, such as epidemiology and biostatistics, before you embark on your research study. You will have the opportunity to undertake research training tailored to your needs and will be supervised by highly regarded academics in a dynamic research environment.

## PhD Oral and Dental Sciences

Bristol Dental School combines laboratory-based and clinically-applied research and fosters a high level of collaboration between staff and students. The school hosts two overarching research groups: Lifecourse Epidemiology and Population Oral Health; and Microbiology and Materials. Each group comprises clinical and basic scientists to promote interdisciplinary and translational research.

## DDS Orthodontics (Doctorate in Dental Surgery)

This three-year, full-time programme aims to provide a higher degree in orthodontics for dental graduates and prepare students for the Membership in Orthodontics (MOrth) at one of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons. The Doctorate in Dental Surgery will develop your ability to design, undertake and apply appropriate research to relevant clinical problems.

## PhD Population Health Sciences

The Department of Population Health Sciences is part of Bristol Medical School. The department is multi-disciplinary and includes statisticians, epidemiologists, geneticists, sociologists, psychologists, anthropologists, health economists, public

health physicians, medical ethicists, data scientists, neuroscientists, and various community-based physicians and nurses. We are keen to attract graduates from all these disciplines to carry out postgraduate research.

## PhD Translational Health Sciences

The department undertakes laboratory-based, translational and applied research, fostering a high level of collaboration between staff and students. It comprises a mix of basic and medically trained scientists, enabling high-quality collaborative translational and healthcare research using a wide range of techniques – from molecular biology to epidemiology. Our work focuses on clinical research and a significant part of this has translated to clinical trials that are led by the school.

## PhD Veterinary Sciences

Postgraduate research in the Bristol Veterinary School is largely based at the Langford campus, which houses a large number of research groups along with Langford Veterinary Services and the University farm. Our research extends from the fundamental to the applied and we collaborate with other research groups in the faculty and beyond, building on a policy of integration of basic science with veterinary activities. Our postgraduate students are members of the Faculty of Health Sciences graduate school and benefit from the training opportunities this provides.

# Faculty of Life Sciences

Our research addresses a range of the important challenges in the life sciences. From tackling ecosystem and global change, to innovation in fundamental biosciences for better human, animal, plant and ocean health. From understanding animal and human behaviour and wellbeing, to developing future synthetic biotechnologies and so driving the UK's bioeconomy.

## PhD Biochemistry

We take great pride in the standard of our postgraduate provision and offer both three- and four-year PhD programmes. It is also possible to pursue a MD degree, or a one-year master's by research. You will receive extensive research training that covers methodology, critical interpretation and problem-solving, as well as transferable skills training in communication, presentation, teamwork, time management and teaching. You will also be encouraged to participate in personal development planning,

which is considered a valuable adjunct of your professional development.

## PhD Biological Sciences

Researchers in the School of Biological Sciences conduct cutting-edge research across a broad range of biological disciplines, including genomics, biotechnology, cell biology, sensory biology, animal behaviour and evolution, population biology, host-disease interactions and ecosystem services. The school is based in the £54 million state-of-the-art Life Sciences building. Our laboratory facilities are among the best in the world with critical '-omics' technologies and associated computing capacity (bioinformatics) a core component.

## PhD Cellular and Molecular Medicine

The School of Cellular and Molecular Medicine is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for the study of cancer biology, infection and immunology, and regenerative medicine. The school focuses on translational research, in other words turning basic scientific discoveries into something that is clinically useful. Key successes of this type include the development of novel drugs, therapies and diagnostic tests, and the implementation of changes to clinical practice. Several members of staff in the school are clinicians.

## PhD Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience

New students enter an exciting research environment in which we support and challenge our postgraduates to excel. All postgraduates receive extensive research and transferable

skills training. The school is well supported by programme and project grants, particularly from the Medical Research Council, BBSRC, Wellcome Trust, Cancer Research UK and British Heart Foundation. This has enabled the school to provide a vibrant environment for research; we have more than 100 PhD students at various stages in their research projects.

## PhD Psychology

Studying in the School of Psychological Science will give you the opportunity to be part of a vibrant postgraduate community and a world-class department. Our postgraduate students are a very important part of the departmental research culture and are a key component in maintaining our international research reputation. Research activity in the school is organised into research themes. Within each theme, there is a set of focused research groups. Across these thematic research groups, there are particular strengths in computational neuroscience and neuropsychology.

The following programmes will also run in 2020-21, subject to approval:

- BBSRC South West Biosciences Doctoral Training Partnership
- PhD Dynamic Molecular Cell Biology
- PhD Integrative Cardiovascular Science
- PhD Neural Dynamics

This doctoral programme is available via distance learning. See pp8-9 for more information.



# Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science comprises five schools whose teaching and research activities span mathematical, physical, and environmental sciences. Our ethos is shaped by our ambition for academic activity.

## PhD Aerosol Science

You will be based at the University of Bristol for the first seven months of your first year of this Centre for Doctoral Training. During this time, you will receive training in the underlying physical science governing the properties and transformation of aerosols. You will then undertake a research project for five months that could be in one of the partnering universities (Bath, Cambridge, Hertfordshire, Imperial, Leeds, Manchester), giving you an opportunity to gain an insight into aerosols in an area complementary to your eventual PhD research. During year two or year three, you will undertake a placement hosted by the industrial partner supporting your project.

## PhD Chemistry

The School of Chemistry is an internationally recognised centre of teaching and research. Currently there are over 250 postgraduate and post-doctoral researchers, from many different countries, working with more than 60 academic staff on a wide range of research themes. Extensive collaborations with science-based industries and leading international academic centres ensure that research in Bristol remains at the frontier of science.

## PhD Computational Statistics and Data Science (COMPASS)

COMPASS involves a specially designed taught first year that is delivered through lectures, workshops, laboratories and guided self-study, and includes peer-supported learning and group work. PhD projects and supervisors are matched to students during the first nine months and proposals are developed through the summer of the first year, before full-time research starts in October of your second year. PhD topics range from theory and methodology of statistics and data science, to collaborative inter-disciplinary projects with experimental scientists, government agencies or industry.

## PhD Earth Sciences

The School of Earth Sciences has strong international links and the presence of researchers from all over the world makes for an exciting and stimulating environment. Research involves the full breadth of the earth sciences and has benefited from major investment in new laboratories and equipment in the past few

years. Important initiatives include experimental and theoretical studies of physical, chemical and biological processes of the Earth.

## PhD Functional Nanomaterials (subject to approval)

Our four-year integrated PhD programme begins with a structured year of training, giving you all the foundation skills necessary to prosper in your PhD research and beyond. In the Bristol Centre for Functional Nanomaterials, not only will you be guided in developing your career as a research scientist, but you will also learn the skills and approaches necessary to translate your findings into technological innovations that impact the wider world. There is a strong emphasis on exploration and you are actively encouraged to experience different research disciplines and environments before beginning your core PhD research.

## PhD Geographical Sciences (Physical Geography)

The School of Geographical Sciences is a leading international centre for research. In the Times Higher Education analysis of the most recent Research Excellence Framework assessment, we were ranked the top geography department in the UK. The graduate school is integral to this success. We have a large and vibrant graduate community, with students following PhD, MSc by research and taught MSc programmes. The graduate community has a strong international and interdisciplinary flavour, and offers an exceptional academic environment for postgraduate research.

## MSc by Research Global Environmental Challenges

Our researchers include earth scientists, engineers, historians, chemists, geographers, psychologists, literary experts, biologists, vets, mathematicians, social scientists and international development experts. These different specialists are united by a single mission – protecting the environment and finding ways to live better on our changing planet. You will have the opportunity to focus on a 12-month research project that inspires and develops your specialism, while engaging in a training programme designed to enhance your career prospects.

## Great Western Four+ Doctoral Training Partnership

The partnership provides a multidisciplinary training environment for postgraduate students in NERC sciences. It offers studentships for 42 months within three research themes: Dynamic Earth, Living World and Changing Planet. As part of your PhD studies, you will be offered training that equips you with a range of skills for future employment in many different working environments. PhD projects are available in earth and environmental science topics within the Schools of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Geographical Sciences and Physics.

## PhD Mathematics

The success of our school is based on attracting not only the best available staff, but also by recruiting the best possible postgraduate students. The school offers cutting-edge PhD and taught master's programmes, and we welcome applications from national and international students all year round. Postgraduate students in Bristol enjoy a friendly and stimulating environment. During your programme you will have the opportunity to develop your mathematical skills, collaborate with leading researchers and apply your expertise across a range of academic disciplines.

## PhD Physics

Physics, with its concern for understanding the universe at a fundamental level, lies at the heart of scientific discovery. The School of Physics at Bristol has made major contributions to the field, including the discovery of the pi meson (Nobel Prize in Physics, 1950) and fundamental advances in quantum mechanics. Researchers within the school explore physics at all scales, from the cosmological to the sub-nuclear, including strong activities in nanoscience and condensed matter physics.

## PhD Quantum Engineering

This Centre for Doctoral Training offers a unique training and development experience for those wishing to pursue a career in the emerging quantum technologies industry. This cohort approach to learning – through peer-to-peer teaching, group lab projects and research challenges – creates an environment that is both stimulating and empowering. It supports the development of leadership skills and the creation of personal support networks, and offers a first-class foundation for developing and completing a PhD project.

## PhD Technology Enhanced Chemical Synthesis

Our alternative to the traditional PhD will enhance your research skills, enable you to choose your own PhD project, encourage you to explore areas outside your comfort zone, foster a teamwork ethos through cohort-driven research, and create links with industry while working on real-world problems. Our research activity is underpinned by the latest in synthetic chemistry technologies, such as automated reaction optimisation, AI for synthesis design, data-driven discovery and predictive methods.



# Faculty of Social Sciences and Law

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Law offers excellent support for research and research-related activities, and actively cultivates an inter-school, inter-disciplinary ethos.

## PhD Accounting and Finance

The most recent UK-wide research assessment, REF2014, rated 78 per cent of the school's research in business and management as 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'. The particular strengths of the department lie in applied financial econometrics, empirical finance, financial reporting and auditing, management accounting, public sector accounting and accounting for sustainability.

## PhD Advanced Quantitative Methods

This pathway is for social scientists who want to learn advanced quantitative methods for secondary data analysis and apply these methods appropriately to answer particular substantive questions from their disciplines. It is also for statistically trained researchers whose interests are more methodological. Projects may involve applying statistical methods used in other disciplines to social science problems, or developing novel statistical methods for analysing social science data.

## PhD Disability Studies

The Norah Fry Research Centre is a leading international centre specialising in research with and for disabled adults, children and their families. The centre is known for its work to include people with intellectual disabilities in the research process, as well as the development of accessible, easy-to-understand information and the dissemination of research findings in multiple formats to different audiences.

## PhD Economics

The Department of Economics has a distinctive focus and reputation, combining high-level advances in economic theory, structural modelling and econometrics with innovative research in public policy. Many of our PhD graduates pursue careers in research, in academia or elsewhere.

## PhD Education

We offer high-quality supervision by internationally recognised scholars in areas including educational psychology, education policy, higher education, teaching and learning in schools, professional development, learning in the city, non-formal education, lifelong learning and assessment. You will be part of a large, diverse doctoral community in an atmosphere that is exciting, creative and welcoming.

## EdD Education (Hong Kong)

This programme is taught by University of Bristol staff in Hong Kong, as part of a long partnership with the School of Continuing and Professional Education at City University of Hong Kong. We

explore different facets of the research process and contemporary educational debates, as well as developing skills in research methods, theory, argumentation and evaluation.

## EdD Education: Learning, Leadership and Policy

The EdD programme, which carries the same academic status as a PhD, is designed for mid-career education professionals in a range of settings, including schools, further education and higher education, whose work requires them to have a high level of research capability. You can study at your own pace (full- or part-time) with our modular programme of intensive two-and-a-half day units taught in Bristol.

## DEdPsy Educational Psychology

The Doctor of Educational Psychology (DEdPsy) is a research degree accredited by the British Psychological Society and the Health and Care Professions Council. The degree serves as the entry qualification for professional practice and employment in educational psychology. It has been designed to meet the professional training needs of educational psychologists and reflects a shift in orientation in professional training that is implicit in a research degree.

## PhD Exercise, Nutrition and Health

Our research focuses on physical activity and nutrition, and their associations with health across the lifespan. The primary areas of focus include biomedical, psychosocial and socio-environmental aspects of physical activity, sedentary behaviour and nutrition.

## PhD Geographical Sciences (Human Geography)

The graduate community has a strong international and interdisciplinary flavour, and offers an exceptional academic environment for postgraduate research. Research opportunities span a variety of subjects at the leading edge of geographical research. There is also a range of exciting possibilities for interdisciplinary research that cross research groups and departments.

## PhD Global Political Economy

This programme considers the dynamics of global transformation and its policy implications. You are encouraged to analyse the impact of economic globalisation, examine relationships between global governance and inequality, and understand that analysis and resolution of many of the key problems that confront humanity in the 21st century require new and interdisciplinary academic approaches, innovative methods and policy agendas.

## PhD Health and Wellbeing

The South West Doctoral Training Partnership Health and Wellbeing pathway enables students to cultivate the skills needed to develop and evaluate interventions and strategies to improve health behaviour. Your work will make a major impact on the social science underpinnings of avoidable health problems, and will build research capacity at the interface of biomedical and social sciences, both within and beyond academia.

## PhD Law

A wide variety of subject areas are covered in the Law School. This reflects a range of different approaches to legal research – doctrinal, socio-legal/interdisciplinary and theoretical. The school has a strong portfolio in human rights, housing, governance and regulation, criminal justice, the legal profession, and family law and practice. The school usually has 50 research postgraduates at any one time.

## PhD Management

The department encourages interdisciplinary research, drawing on a range of theories and methodologies. We welcome students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. We encourage applications from strong candidates from disciplines outside the social sciences, management and business studies who wish to convert, and from candidates with organisational or commercial experience.

## PhD Security, Conflict and Human Rights

This programme is one of five South West Doctoral Training Partnership interdisciplinary pathways delivered in partnership with the Universities of Bath and Exeter. It explicitly recognises that traditional approaches to security and conflict must encompass different disciplinary perspectives on issues of human (in) security to develop better strategies for resolving conflicts and protecting human rights. This PhD responds directly to these challenges and equips researchers with the interdisciplinary skills required to shape research, policy and practice.

## PhD Social Policy

Our research engages with and influences national and international policy. Our policy experts come from a wide variety of backgrounds in social policy research, social work, sociology, poverty, gender violence, disability studies, childhood studies, health and social care, urban studies history, human geography, economics, psychology, physical activity nutrition and health sciences, and family and child welfare, based within seven specialist research centres.

## PhD Social Work

Our research examines policy and social work areas that affect us all in day-to-day life, influences and challenges policies implemented by governments and institutions, and investigates the issues, factors and attitudes underlying the social concerns that make the headlines every day. Previous University of Bristol social work students have entered employment in higher education, policy-related

fields, local government, other public sector bodies and third sector organisations.

## PhD Sociology, Politics and International Studies


We are committed to rigorous conceptual and empirical research that is politically and socially relevant and problem-orientated. We aim to advance theory, knowledge and methods at the interface between sociology, politics and international relations. The questions addressed recognise that political structures are related in complex ways to the social conditions that underlie them; likewise, social conditions are affected in complex ways by political structures.

## South West Doctoral Training Partnership (ESRC)

The South West Doctoral Training Partnership comprises the Universities of Bristol, Bath, Exeter, Plymouth and UWE and is accredited by the Economic and Social Sciences Research Council. As well as developing tailored training programmes for our students and staff, the partnership also supports a wide variety of collaborative activities, including events and student placements in public, private and civic society organisations.

## PhD Sustainable Futures

Sustainability research asks how human wellbeing can be maintained and enhanced in the long term, given rising populations, limited natural resources and a fragile environment. The field, with its clear applied focus and strong strategic future-directed policy implications, has social sciences at its heart. It also requires a broad interdisciplinary approach and an understanding of economics, law, the politics and psychology of sustainability, and the geography and demographics of those affected.

 This doctoral programme is available via distance learning. See pp8-9 for more information.



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\*Please be aware that new students are recruited to this programme every three years. The next intake will start in autumn 2020.

Our location

Bristol is located in the south west of the United Kingdom, about 100 miles (160 kilometres) west of London, and has excellent road, rail and air links. The main University campus is at the heart of the city and is easily accessible by public and private transport.

By road

Bristol has excellent road links, enabling easy access to the city from all over the UK. The M4 and M5 motorways put London and Birmingham within a two-hour drive, while regular bus services link the Clifton campus with the city centre and Stoke Bishop halls of residence. You can find more detailed directions to the campus at [bristol.ac.uk/maps/directions](https://bristol.ac.uk/maps/directions).

By train

Bristol has two main railway stations – Bristol Temple Meads and Bristol Parkway; we advise you arrive at Temple Meads as it is much closer to the Clifton campus. Buses run from Temple Meads to the campus every 10-15 minutes at peak times, or you can walk in 30-40 minutes. The nearest local train station to the campus is Clifton Down.

By plane

Bristol Airport is 13 kilometres south of the city and operates scheduled flights between many UK and European cities. If you are arriving into London, there are direct coach services between Heathrow, Gatwick and Bristol. Alternatively, there are good rail connections from Heathrow and Gatwick Airports to London National Rail terminals. The train journey from London Paddington to Bristol Temple Meads takes just under two hours.

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