

Postgraduate Admissions Statement for

MSc by research Global Environmental Challenges

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

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

Admissions criteria

Academic and English language requirements

The academic and English language requirements for this programme are displayed on the [Postgraduate Prospectus](#).

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

Non-standard applications

We welcome applications from those with non-standard qualifications who can demonstrate knowledge, experience and skills developed in the workplace, or elsewhere, relevant to the programme of study. Please use your personal statement to provide further details.

Non-standard applications will be considered by the Admissions Tutor(s) for the programme on a case by case basis.

Application process

Online application form

Applicants should complete the online application form, uploading all required documents directly. Further information is available on our [guidance for online applications page](#). Before submitting the online application form, it is necessary to gain approval for the proposed project from a project supervisor

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

Required and optional documents

References: Required

We require two academic references. References should comply with our standard requirements outlined on [our guidance pages](#). Employment references will be considered for non-standard applicants. Please contact cabot-pgr@bristol.ac.uk if this applies to you.

Degree certificate(s) and academic transcripts: Required

From first and subsequent degrees. Degree certificates and transcripts should comply with our standard requirements outlined on [our guidance pages](#).

Personal statement: Required

Personal statements should highlight the motivation for applying for the course, and any relevant experience and/or skills.

English language certificates/other evidence: Required

Evidence of meeting the English language profile as stated on the [Postgraduate Prospectus](#) and specified by the [University English Language Requirements Policy](#)

Research Statement: Required

There are three routes of application into the Master's by Research in Global Environmental Challenges:

- 1) apply for a pre-designed project;
- 2) apply for a pre-designed challenge area; or
- 3) propose your own research project.

[Pre-designed projects and challenge areas can be found on the website](#). Options 2 and 3 above require a research statement. You should use the research statement to define and situate your research within an academic context. With due regard for the primary audience/readership for postgraduate research (that is, the academic community), you should identify the following:

- 1) the specific research question you are interested in posing;
- 2) why you feel this is important;
- 3) what research has been done in this field to date;
- 4) what is novel about the research you are proposing;
- 5) what methods/ approaches you would employ to answer the research question and why you have chosen this method;
- 6) a plan to outline how you would complete the project within the one year programme;
- 7) if and how you would plan to disseminate the outcomes of your research. [Please use the template on our website to upload the research statement](#). Applicants should contact cabot-pgr@bristol.ac.uk if clarification is required.

Optional Documents

Additional References: Applicants are welcome to upload additional references to further support an application. Professional references from work experience in a related field and/or industrial placements can help an application.

Selection process

Assessment of applications

All applicants are considered in line with the University's [Admissions Principles and Procedures Policy](#). Once a complete application has been submitted with all required supporting documents, it is considered by at least two members of staff using the following criteria:

- Performance in undergraduate degree
- English language ability (where applicable)
- References
- Personal statement

Interviews

Candidates may be invited to attend an interview, or an informal discussion with your prospective supervisor to further discuss your research project. There is no set format for interviews, but they typically cover one or more of the following areas: the applicant's academic background, including training and experience that is of

particular relevance to the programme or project and the applicant's motivation for applying, including specific research interests within the discipline and career aspirations. Candidates will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

The purpose of the interview is to assess whether the applicant currently has the necessary skills and capabilities to pursue the chosen postgraduate programme, and whether the programme is appropriate to the applicant's interests and aspirations.

If required, interviewees based overseas will normally be interviewed by telephone or Skype.

Decisions

Applicants will be notified by email when a decision has been made and decision letters will be available to view and print by logging into the application. If there is a deadline by which applicants must accept an offer of admission or pay a deposit, this will be stated in the offer letter.

Offers

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

Offers made may be conditional or unconditional. An unconditional offer will be made to applicants who have already met the conditions and provided evidence that conditions have been met. Where academic or language requirements have not yet been fulfilled, applicants will receive a conditional offer outlining the requirements that must be met.

Deferrals

Deferred entry may be available for this programme, subject to agreement by the relevant Admissions Team. Please contact cabot-pgr@bristol.ac.uk to make a formal request.

Additional information

Extenuating circumstances

If your education has been significantly disrupted through health or personal problems, disability or specific difficulties within your studies, you can submit an [extenuating circumstances](#) form as part of your application.

The information provided will be treated confidentially and will help us to assess your academic performance fairly considering your circumstances.

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

International students and researchers (apart from exempt nationalities) who are subject to UK immigration control will be required to apply for an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate to study this programme. For further details see www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme

Visa

International students coming to the UK to study full-time may need to apply for a student visa. Guidance is available on the [University website](#).

Fees and Deposits

Fees

Annual tuition fees are available on the relevant [prospectus entry](#) for this programme.

Deposits

Deposits are not required for this programme.

Sponsored Students

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