



Dear Applicant

Staff and continuing PhD researchers are all looking forward to welcoming you to the School of Education, University of Bristol.

Let us know you are coming!

If you have not done so already, do contact our postgraduate administration team (ed-phd@bristol.ac.uk) and your supervisor to let us know when you expect to arrive.

If for any reason there is a change of plan and you will not be joining us in September, please also let us know.

What to expect when you arrive in Bristol



Director of PhD Programme

1. Expect to be part of lively academic community

In our view, being part of lively intellectual community is an essential part of a PhD and we value the contribution that PGRs make to our community immensely.

Through our Bristol Conversations in Education seminar series and other events, such as Research Soirées, we are always talking to each other and sharing ideas across our School about research, methodology, theory, practice and policy. You can see the events that have been held this year [here](#).

2. Expect to join a research centre and may be a network

Research Centres are at the heart of the School of Education. They are smaller groupings of staff and PGRs, who share common research interests. Through them, researchers can share their work in progress and receive constructive and supportive feedback. Research Centres also support the development of research proposals and

We have five thriving [research centres](#):

- [Comparative and International Research in Education \(CIRE\)](#)
- [Assessment and Evaluation Research in Education \(CAERe\)](#)
- [Researching Education Across Boundaries in theory and practice \(CREAB\)](#)
- [Knowledge, Culture and Society \(KCS\)](#)
- [Centre for Multilevel Modelling \(CMM\)](#)

Are PGRs (i.e. doctoral researchers) are encouraged to play an active role in at least one research centre and may be affiliated with other research centres. Visit the Centre websites and think about where you might feel at home. The centres list staff members, so you can see your supervisors' affiliation. You will have opportunities to find out more about Centres and their activities when you arrive, including a new Centre to be launched next term focused on **Psychology Studies in Education**.

In addition, academics in our department coordinate a number of research networks:

- [Artful Narrative Inquiry Network \(ANI-NET\)](#)
- [China Educational Research Network \(CERN\)](#)
- [Globalisation, Education and Social Futures \(GESF\)](#)
- [Inclusive and Special Education Network \(ISEN\)](#)

A new network, created by and for doctoral researchers and early career researchers, will also launch soon. Our doctoral community recently held its annual [doctoral conference](#), this year titled 'Imagine, Challenge, Transform'.

If your research is interdisciplinary, you may also wish to join one of a the [Faculty wide research groups](#).

3. Expect opportunities for interdisciplinary networking

As a doctoral researcher in the University of Bristol there are plenty of opportunities to meet doctoral researchers from across the university and find out about their work.

The [Bristol Doctoral College](#) (BDC) provides a focal point for doctoral researchers across the University. It shares information and offers training relevant to all stages of the PhD programme, including '[getting here and getting started](#)' webpages. Once a year BDC runs the '[Research without Borders](#)' festival, showcasing doctoral research from across the university, including the popular Three Minute Thesis competition.

The University of Bristol is a member of the [South West Doctoral Training Partnership](#) (SWDTP), a collaboration between neighbouring universities in the South West of England. Your first opportunity to meet doctoral researchers from across different disciplines will be the SWDTP conference, a student organised conference scheduled to be held in Bristol in November.

4. Expect leadership opportunities

Sometime in the first term, we will ask the doctoral community in the School of Education to nominate their new student representatives. We have a small group of 4-5 representatives so the tasks are shared out. It is a great opportunity to find out more about how a university works, give feedback on the PhD programme and become involved in organising events for doctoral researchers. See the Bristol Student Union article: [Why be a Postgrad rep?](#)

This year's reps have organised regular coffee mornings, the [doctoral conference](#), mock vivas amongst other events. They also represent the doctoral community on the Doctoral Committee and Research Committee within the School as well as some Faculty committees.

Checklist of things to do before arriving

- **Apply for Accommodation** - The Accommodation Office is accepting [applications](#) from offer-holders who are commencing study in September 2018. University accommodation is very popular and the deadline of the end of this month (**30 June 2018**) is fast approaching.
- **Accept your offer** - The earlier we know the more preparation we can do for your arrival. If you have not already done so please [respond](#) to your offer of study.
- **Apply for a Visa (*International Students only*)** - If you are an international applicant now is the time to apply for your Tier 4 visa. Unconditional offer holders can request a Certificate of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) number. The University of Bristol has an excellent [International Office](#) and our colleagues there have vast experience in offering applicants advice and support. Contact details are available on the link above and we would recommend making use of their expertise.
- **Meet Any Conditions of Offer** - We appreciate that conditional offer-holders will meet their conditions at different points throughout the application cycle. Please ensure that as soon as you have the documents to satisfy a condition of offer that you get in touch [with us](#). We will then update your application accordingly.

If you have any questions about the PhD programme, please do email me and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

I look forward to meeting you in Welcome Week.

With best wishes,

Dr Angeline Barrett
PhD Programme Director
School of Education
University of Bristol

If you are not already following us on [Twitter](#) we recommend you do so. This is a great way to start becoming part of the SoE community and we would love to hear from you on your reasons for applying, aspirations and preparations for arrival by using the [#MySOEBristol](#) and tagging us @SoEBristol.