Postgraduate Admissions Statement

PhD Functional Nanomaterials (EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training)

Programmes covered

This admissions statement applies to the following programmes: Bristol Centre for Functional Nanomaterials (four-year PhD)

Applicants should also refer to the relevant prospectus entry for further programme details.

This admissions statement should be read in association with the University Admissions Principles and Procedures for Postgraduate Research/Taught Programmes.

Faculty

Faculty of Science

Admissions team and contact details

BCFN Manager
HH Wills Physics Laboratory
University of Bristol
Tyndall Avenue
Bristol BS8 1TL

Email: bcfn-info@bristol.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 0117 394 0018

Admissions cycle

2017

Application process

Online application

Applicants should complete the online application form, uploading all required documents directly into the application form. Guidance on uploading documents can be found in the How to Apply FAQs.

Applicants should make every effort to choose the correct programme in the application form by reading the prospectus entry and admissions statements fully. Applicants should contact the relevant Admissions Team if clarification is required.

When complete the online application form, applicants should select 'Bristol Centre for Functional Nanomaterials' as the course choice. Applications for EPSRC funding (UK nationals) are shortlisted in January, but international students with their own funding or scholarship may apply later. There may be later deadlines for industry-funded studentships. Please see the BCFN website for more details. https://www.bcfn.bris.ac.uk/

Application Deadline

There is an application deadline for this programme, which is displayed on the individual programme page within the University course finder.

Required documents

All documents must be translated into English. Degree certificates and transcripts should be certified copies and list subjects taken and grades/degrees achieved. If your degree is not yet complete, please provide transcripts of subjects
taken and marks achieved to date. All documents must be uploaded into the online application form unless otherwise noted. Applicants who have already submitted an application can upload additional documents into the ‘Post-submission uploads’ section. You can find information about how to upload documents to your application form in our How to Apply FAQs.

**Required documents for this programme are:**

- Two academic references, one of which should be from your undergraduate project supervisor. These may follow the initial application; we will begin processing the application without them.
- Degree certificate(s) from first and subsequent degrees
- Academic transcript(s) from your first and subsequent degrees
- Personal statement
- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- English language certificates if English is not your native language and your undergraduate degree was not in an English-speaking country (please see the English Language Requirements for a list of English-speaking countries. These may follow the initial application; we will begin processing the application without them.

You can include details of other relevant qualifications to assist with your application.

**Interviews**

Candidates who are shortlisted for interview will be invited to visit the centre, view the facilities and meet current students and staff. For international applicants who are unable to come to Bristol for interview, BCFN academics will interview shortlisted candidates by telephone or via Skype.

**Correspondence with applicants**

Applicants will normally receive communication via email to the email address used to set up their application form account. Applicants should ensure that this profile email address is kept up-to-date.

Applicants will be advised by email if their application is considered to be incomplete and will be asked to provide any missing information or documentation.

**Admissions criteria**

**Academic entry requirements**

An upper second-class honours degree (or international equivalent) in physics, chemistry, materials science or a related subject. Applicants with a lower second-class honours BSc degree may be considered if they can demonstrate very good potential for research.

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

**English language criteria for non-native English speakers**

For applicants whose first language is not English, it is necessary to achieve a minimum score in an approved English language test specified in Profile F of the [University's English Language Requirements Policy](#).

You can find information about the University of Bristol's Pre-Sessional English courses at the [Centre for English Language and Foundation Studies website](#).

**Reference criteria**

References should either be submitted directly by the referee using the online reference form, or submitted directly by the applicant.

References should be on headed paper, with clear contact details and signed by the person who wrote it.

Confidential references uploaded by referees are strongly preferred. Referees should address an applicant’s suitability for the course. While there is no set format, references typically address several of the following: academic achievement and potential; motivation; intellectual maturity and independence; relevant experience; potential for
benefiting from and contributing to the course; written and spoken communication skills; ways in which an applicant’s performance does not reflect their ability, including special circumstances.

**Personal statement criteria**
Applicants should explain why they are interested in this programme and any relevant research they have carried out, particularly their undergraduate research project supervisor.

**Research statement and research training statement criteria**
Research statements and research training statements are not required for this programme.

**Interview criteria**
Interviews last 30-40 minutes and are conducted by two members of academic staff. Applicants will be asked about their previous research experience and reasons for choosing this programme. Students will be assessed for their suitability for this interdisciplinary, cohort-based programme.

**Additional requirements**
There are no additional requirements for this programme.

**Selection process and offers**

**Selection process**
All applications are considered in accordance with the University’s policy on equality and diversity. The University of Bristol upholds the principles of equality and diversity, respect and dignity. Candidates are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion or belief, disability, health or age.

Applications are considered by the BCFN management team. Decisions are made on the basis of all the available information, including the written application and references, and the performance at interview.

**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 their application.

Candidates are expected to accept or decline an offer within 40 days of receipt, unless otherwise stated in the offer letter. For International students who may require more time to arrange scholarship applications, this deadline can be extended. Offers and acceptances can be conditional (ie subject to the candidate meeting all the conditions set out in the offer letter prior to registration).

**Deferrals**
It may be possible to defer entry to the following year, depending on funding regulations.

**Deposits**
There is no deposit required for this programme.

**ATAS**
Applicants who will require a visa to study in the UK will also be required to gain clearance through the Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS). Please see the ATAS page on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website for further information.

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