Postgraduate Admissions Statement

PhD Condensed Matter Physics (EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training)

Programmes covered
This admissions statement applies to the following programmes: Condensed Matter Physics CDT (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
Centre for Doctoral Training in Condensed Matter Physics
HH Wills Physics Laboratory
University of Bristol
Tyndall Avenue
Bristol BS8 1TL

Email: cdt-cmp@bristol.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 0117 331 7725

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.

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

There is a deadline for funding applications (ESRC and Bristol funding) for this programme. Please check for details 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 references (at least one academic)
- 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 may be invited for interview and to visit Bristol or Bath and meet members of the Condensed Matter Physics CDT team.

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 can expect to be communicated with via email primarily, or occasionally by phone if applicants are invited to interview. 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
Applicants are normally expected to hold at least an upper second-class honours MSci or MPhys degree in physics or a related subject (or international equivalent) for entry to the PhD programme.

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**

It is helpful for applicants to include their research areas of interest and information about why they would like to join the programme.

**Research statement and research training statement criteria**

A research proposal is not required for the initial application. However, some prospective supervisors may ask for a proposal at a later point in the admissions process.

A research training statement is not needed.

**Interview criteria**

Interviews usually last 30 minutes and assess the candidate's relevant knowledge, motivation for the PhD and evidence of relevant experience.

**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 will be considered by the programme director and an internal admissions committee that may involve several members of staff. Decisions are made on the basis of all the available information, including the written application, references and 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. 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**

Deferrals are not currently permitted for this programme.

**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.