Postgraduate Admissions Statement

MSc Palaeobiology

Programmes covered:
This admissions statement applies to the following programmes: Palaeobiology (MSc)
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 Taught Programmes.

Faculty
Faculty of Science

Admissions team and contact details
Postgraduate Administrator
Postgraduate Admissions
School of Earth Sciences
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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 currently no application deadline for this programme.

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 the school and meet the supervisors.

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 Geology, Biological Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Archaeology, Anthropology, or a related discipline. Previous professional experience or qualifications can also be put forward for consideration as equivalent to the academic entry requirements given above. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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 E 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
Applicants should arrange for referees to provide electronic references, which can be submitted through the online application system. Non-electronic 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 will 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, together with any relevant experience that might enhance their application.
Interview Criteria
There is no set format for interviews, but they typically cover one or more of the following: the applicant's academic background, including training and experience of particular relevance to the programme or project; the applicant's motivation for applying, including specific research interests within the discipline and career aspirations; potential research projects; an opportunity for the applicant to ask questions.

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 individual graduate schools, usually by the programme co-ordinator and an internal admissions committee that may involve several members of staff. Decisions are generally made on the basis of all the available information, including the written application and references and the performance at interview, if candidates are interviewed. Performance in the first degree is generally the most important criterion, along with referees' statements regarding the individual's potential to do well and develop as a scientist.

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, i.e. subject to the candidate meeting all the conditions set out in the offer letter prior to registration.

Deferrals
It is generally possible for candidates to defer entry. However this may be restricted for certain types of funding. The candidate needs to be aware of their funders regulations in this regard.

Deposits
International self-funded students are required to pay a deposit of £1000. You can pay this deposit online at http://bris.ac.uk/online-payments/deposits using a credit or debit card. Alternatively you can pay through our PaytoStudy account at www.bristol.ac.uk/payostudy. PaytoStudy is an international payment solution which offers competitive exchange rates. Where PaytoStudy has a local bank account, all wire fee charges will be eliminated and you will be able to pay in your local currency to a local bank account.

The deposit is non-transferable and non-refundable except under the circumstances outlined in the International Deposits Refund Policy which is available at http://www.bris.ac.uk/academicregistry/office/policies/idrp.html. You may pay your deposit in advance of meeting the conditions of your offer. If you subsequently fail to meet the conditions attached to your offer and are therefore rejected from your course on academic grounds then a refund will be made to you. To make the payment you will need your student number which you will find in your offer letter.

ATAS
An ATAS certificate is not required.