

We're looking forward to meeting you!

Dear ,

All the research students here at Bath always look forward to welcoming new starters to our community. It's a great opportunity to hear new thinking, exchange experiences and make new friends.

It's not long until you start your own doctoral journey. I know how exciting this can be, but how it can also feel a little overwhelming too. My advice would be don't worry - here at the University you'll get enormous amounts of support if you need it. Just grab all the opportunities that you can when they arise and stay connected as much as possible. You'll get to meet lots of different doctoral students starting their journey with you, as well as those in other years who will share their knowledge and support you.

There is still some uncertainty about the coming months, but you can be reassured that we have taken steps to ensure your safety, and that you'll be welcomed to begin your studies in whichever way you choose.

We obviously can't cover everything here so you can find more information on [our Doctoral College website](#). Or contact the Doctoral College team at doctoralcollege@bath.ac.uk and we'll do our very best to help you.

If you've missed either of our previous emails about starting your studies, you can [read them online](#). And you can also [read our Doctoral College Handbook for 2020-21](#).

Best wishes for a smooth start.

Cathryn Mitchell
Doctoral College Academic Director



Getting to know your Programme Administrator



Until now your application will have been dealt with by a member of our Recruitment team; soon they will hand over to the relevant Programme Administrator for your programme. They will look after you for the duration of your doctorate - you may have already heard from them via email, as well as from your department, and you'll receive more specific details from your Administrator in the coming weeks.

Your Programme Administrator will help with any initial queries you may have, coordinate your progress and assessment arrangements, including any associated paperwork, and signpost you to support when you need it throughout your time here. They will also be there at the end of your degree to receive your thesis once you are ready to submit it.

[Contact your Programme Administrator](#) if you have any queries.

If you are affiliated with a doctoral training entity, then you may receive support from staff within these, either in addition to or replacing any programme support.

Getting settled

Whether you are going to be based mainly on campus or are living further away from the University, there are some essential things to do, and familiarise yourself with, in your first few days and weeks. There is a wealth of induction information available on the [Doctoral College website](#) and in [your Doctoral Handbook](#) to help get you started and to get to know our resources and facilities, including [Registering with the University](#), [Fees](#), current changes to document checking, and details of [Accessing your IT and computing facilities](#).

Registration

You will soon be invited to register; please do this as soon as possible so you can access our resources. Once registered you'll have access to email, MSTeams, Moodle and other resources that require you to log in to your University account.

Compulsory induction events

Doctoral researchers are required to complete both a local induction (departmental and DTE events) and a central induction.

When you arrive you should expect an induction from your Department and/or DTE. The induction will vary across departments but will involve finding out about key contacts, information related to local office space, and meeting your supervisory team to discuss your project in more depth. You will be given information about your local induction through your Doctoral Programmes Administrator before you arrive.

In addition, we have a number of central induction activities to help you settle into your new doctoral programme. The compulsory ones are:

Starting Your Doctorate

This is an online module on our Moodle site. It will give you all the information that you need to start your studies. We recommend starting this once you have registered as a student, and the course needs to be completed by 20 February 2021.

Doctoral Welcome Session

This short online session formally welcomes you to the University and the doctoral community. There are two sessions to choose from, so [book your place to attend](#) on either Thursday 21 January 2021, 15:30 – 17:00, or Tuesday 26 January 2021, 09:30 – 11:00.

Doctoral Information Webinar

In October we hosted a Doctoral Information Webinar for new students to find out more about our professional services within the University. [Watch the video](#) for an overview of the essential things you need to do, as well as the opportunity to meet other doctoral students.

Questions about help and support?

[Student Services](#) provides students with a wide range of support and guidance, including: wellbeing, counselling and mental health support, money management, disability advice and support, and international student advice.

[The Disability Service](#) provides support for students with disabilities and/or long-term health conditions, which can include but are not limited to: specific learning difficulties (eg dyslexia), Autistic Spectrum Conditions, mobility or sensory impairments, and mental health conditions.

If you did not disclose a disability and/or long term health condition on your application form but would like further information, in confidence, about possible support that may be available, please get in touch by emailing disabilityadvice@bath.ac.uk.

Peer Mentoring

As a new Doctoral student, in most programmes you will be eligible for a Peer Mentor at the beginning of your studies. This is an informal way for you to get extra help and advice about studying in Bath from those who have experienced being a doctoral student. Due to distancing restrictions, the mentoring scheme has currently moved online.

If there's a Peer Mentoring scheme in your programme you'll be contacted by the peer mentoring coordinator in your Faculty or School prior to the start of your studies and will arrange to meet up with you during your first couple of weeks here.

If you are joining through a CDT programme they may organise a peer mentoring scheme. There are also some departments, research centres and groups offering informal peer support.

For more information visit our [Doctoral Peer Mentoring](#) page.

Professional development - get a head start

Professional development is a crucial element of doctoral study, not only in supporting your research, but also as part of your longer term career development. At Bath, we offer [year-round opportunities for specialist training, online resources and career support](#).

All our researcher development is aligned to a professional development framework called the [Researcher Development Framework \(RDF\)](#). This industry standard framework has been developed by Vitae in partnership with researchers, funders and employers. As well as enhancing the skills you need to complete your research and deliver your thesis, many students here also get involved in activities outside of their research, such as speaking at conferences, volunteering or teaching. They expand their expertise and develop an impressive set of transferable skills that sees them through their doctorate and beyond.

"Reflecting on my PhD experience, I am very happy to say that I didn't get 'just a PhD'. Over the three-four years for my doctorate, I got involved with a wide range of exciting, enriching and incredibly useful opportunities." [Read Jon Chouler's experience of professional development](#).

Pure Genius

Before you arrive, don't forget to look at [Pure, the University's research portal](#). Pure holds information about all of the research carried out at Bath, along with profiles of researchers, our organisational units, collaborations, projects and outputs. Find out who else is doing research in your area and see how it fits in with other projects across the university.

When you arrive you will automatically be set up with your own Pure account, which you can add to throughout your time here.

Your Doctoral College

Your [Doctoral College Team](#) provides you with a single point of access to professional advice and support throughout your degree. We manage administration, offer professional skills development, point you towards help and support and organise interdisciplinary events to keep you connected. [Take a look at our website](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#) and [on Instagram](#) to find out what's going on and see what some of our current students are up to.

Questions about your offer or the admissions process?

If you have any questions about your offer or about the admissions process, please email our [Doctoral Recruitment Team](#).



