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Doctoral College



## We look forward to welcoming you!

Dear

Thank you for choosing Bath for your doctoral study; it's an exciting time to be joining our research community.

You may have already accepted an unconditional offer from us, or may still have conditions to meet before we can confirm your place. Either way, we hope you find these emails useful.

As you know, studying for a doctorate at Bath has changed recently, and the coming months still hold some uncertainty. However, 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. In this email you will find information about the arrangements we have put in place for new doctoral students.

We obviously can't cover everything here, so if there is something you are unsure about, [visit our Doctoral College website](#) or contact the Doctoral College team at [doctoralcollege@bath.ac.uk](mailto:doctoralcollege@bath.ac.uk) and we'll do our very best to help you.

With best wishes,

**Prof Jeremy Bradshaw**

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International & Doctoral)



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## How the University has adapted this year

Our induction and registration processes have been transferred online; once you have registered you'll then have access to your University email account, Moodle (the University's Virtual Learning Environment) and can contact other students through Microsoft Teams. Through your email you'll receive our weekly Doctoral Digest with the latest news, and you can also chat to your Doctoral Peer Mentor if your department takes part in the mentoring scheme. Our doctoral activities are all taking place online at the moment, and you'll be invited to book on to a Doctoral Welcome session once you've started your studies.

We made some changes on the campus in Bath when students returned after the summer, and you can [watch this video](#) where members of staff and students talk about these. The University campus will remain open throughout the current lockdown in England (5 November to 2 December), with some extra restrictions in place.

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## Your College and your community

Bath's doctoral community includes students from around the world, studying across a range of programmes including PhDs and integrated PhDs, MPhils and professional doctorates. About a third are studying part-time, some combine research and a career, many are based on campus and others are in professional organisations.

The Doctoral College provides you all with a single point of access to professional advice and support throughout your degree. We manage the administration of your study, offer professional skills development, point you towards [help and support](#) and organise interdisciplinary events to keep you connected with other researchers.

On our [Doctoral Induction](#) page you'll find practical information on beginning your studies and settling in, finding accommodation (either University-owned or private), accessing our systems, and the support services on offer.

- [Take a look at our website](#)
  - [Follow us on Twitter and on Instagram](#)
  - Join our [Doctoral College Facebook group](#)
  - [Discover some of the latest research going on at Bath](#)
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## Preparing to begin your studies

You may already be in regular touch with your supervisor about your proposed research, and they're the best person to advise you on how to begin your studies in whichever way suits your needs.

You can also develop your thinking and ideas in advance and identify any questions so that you can hit the ground running when you arrive. You can check the contact information for your Programme Administrator [from our support contacts](#).

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## Pure Genius

If you haven't taken a look already, don't forget to have a browse through [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.

This list also gives a useful [overview of our research centres, institutes and groups](#).

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## Your doctorate

There are many different routes towards the final goal of submitting a thesis or portfolio and securing your doctorate. However you choose to study, there are several key milestones, or formal progression points, that you will go through:

Registration - Approval of candidature - Confirmation - Writing up - Notice of intention to submit thesis or portfolio - Submission of thesis or portfolio - Examination (Viva Voce) - Final submission of thesis or portfolio - Graduation

Whether you're studying full-time or part-time, the specific requirements and timing of these milestones will vary according to your particular research programme. Your department and supervisor will be able to give you these details.

[Read more about the milestones you will go through during your doctorate](#)



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### Questions about help and support?

Starting a new research degree is exciting but there are bound to be some unknowns too. Whatever your circumstance, you can be confident that we'll support you along the way by providing access to all the support you'll need.

[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 [Students' Union](#) offers advice on academic, housing and personal issues, from professional advisers. We have a dedicated postgraduate officer, plus support groups for diversity and equality.

Our [Disability Service](#) provides support for students with disabilities and/or long-term health conditions, which can include but is 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. +44 (0)1225 385538 or email [disabilityadvice@bath.ac.uk](mailto:disabilityadvice@bath.ac.uk)

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### ATAS certificates

Reminder: if you need a visa to study in the UK and your offer letter indicates that the programme you intend to study is covered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS), then you will need to apply for an ATAS certificate. We believe it may take up to two months for an application to be processed, so please do start your application as soon as possible in order to receive your clearance certificate in time for your visa application.

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## Doctoral College contacts

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



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Please note that this email is for information only. Changes and updates are on-going. It is not intended as a formal confirmation of the status of your application.  
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