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Doctoral College



Thank you for choosing Bath

Dear student,

Choosing to do your doctorate at Bath is a decision well made. You will join academics and researchers of international reputation, known for the originality and significance of their work. You will have a host of opportunities for intellectual stimulation, to nurture your love of discovery. And you will have the help you need to equip you with the skills to succeed in your chosen career path.

During the current pandemic and time of uncertainty you may have some questions about how you can begin your research work. We are doing everything we can to make sure that your start at Bath is as welcoming as possible, using online alternatives if we're unable to run our welcome and training events in person. We will continue to update you as soon as we can, based on the latest UK Government guidance on returning to work and opening the campus.

We're preparing for a number of scenarios so you can access the research environment and support you need. We're working to create a University experience that's as close as possible to your expectations when you applied, and to ensure the quality of your research experience is maintained. We're keen to offer as much in-person interaction as we can safely deliver, while maintaining the safety of all of our students and staff.

We intend to be open for the next academic year with students on campus. As a post-graduate researcher, you will have your own unique start date and you should contact your supervisor by email to discuss plans for starting your PhD, and how you will work together as the situation evolves.

We also recognise that you may be unable to come to Bath in the September due to health reasons or travel restrictions, so you can start your programme remotely if required. If you are unable to come to Bath, please speak to your supervisor so that you can discuss how this might be planned. We hope these arrangements will make life a little easier for you, so you can enrol in our high quality programmes without having to worry about whether you will be able to come to Bath in person at the start of term.

Whether you have received an unconditional offer from us or still have some conditions to meet before we can confirm your offer of a place, we hope you find this information useful.

I look forward to welcoming you to Bath.

With every best wish,

Cathryn Mitchell

Professor and Academic Director, Doctoral College



Your Doctoral College

When you join the University we welcome you into our wider doctoral community and we have a range of activities that will enable you to engage within us.

We'll support you through each step of your doctoral journey, with professional advice and support, from when you first talk to us about coming to Bath until your graduation. You'll have access to free DoctoralSkills training, funding to attend conferences, and resources to support your research. You can also get involved in events to share your studies, socialise and network with other students.

You can find out more about the Doctoral College and what we offer you through our website, [@DoctoralBath on Twitter](#) and in our student Facebook group.

How we have adapted to the Coronavirus pandemic

You can read our [latest information and guidance on Coronavirus for doctoral students on our website](#).

Access to labs and offices

Doctoral students and staff are now working from home wherever possible, while we test a pilot project of reopening some labs on campus. Once you're ready to begin your studies you should liaise with your supervisor on how to work remotely, until it is safe to return to campus.

Induction and training

We have a new online induction in place, which you can access once you have registered. We also recognise the importance of your professional development, so we have transferred the majority of our training courses to [interactive online sessions](#), as well as giving free access to additional online resources. These have already proved to be extremely successful, and so we will continue to develop provision into the new year.

Support and mental health

Once you are studying with us you will have access to [support for your wellbeing and mental health](#), including Student Services, the Students' Union, and our Doctoral Peer Support scheme.

English language requirements for international students

If you have any concerns about meeting your English language requirements, we are now accepting a number of additional English language tests for 2020 entry, including TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition and Password Skills Test for all doctoral degrees. Check the [full list of tests we accept](#).

Tier 4 visa holders

If you need a visa, you can read our latest [guidance from Student Immigration Services](#).

You can also find helpful information for international students from the [UK Council for International Student Affairs](#) and from [Universities UK](#).

Accommodation

You may already be planning the practicalities of coming to Bath. Here's [our full guide to the Induction process](#), including finding accommodation. Whether you're looking for long-term options or visiting the University for a short residential course, we have [various accommodation options available](#).

Getting to know the University

Social distancing arrangements

Our spacious, green campus provides us with a range of opportunities to put on activities with social distancing measures in a safe way and we are planning ways to offer a rich student experience beyond the formal curriculum. Our Sports Training Village has been one of the first venues to open up to enable certain elite athletes to resume training, under strict guidelines from Government and sporting bodies. This will give us an opportunity to pilot the one-way systems and cleaning regimes needed for a broader reopening of facilities when we are able.

Sports and fitness

Ranked #1 Sports University in the UK by The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018, our sports facilities, under the name [Team Bath](#), include a state-of-the-art Sports Training Village with Olympic sized swimming pool, gym, fitness classes indoor and outdoor tennis courts and athletics track.

Arts

[The Edge](#) is our arts and creativity hub informed by the context and research of the University of Bath. It encourages and nurtures arts and research collaborations and provides a place where artists, audiences, researchers and academics can showcase new thinking and ideas.

Postgraduate students can take part in arts classes and events and become part of the [Edge Arts Community \(EAC\)](#), which gives discounts as well as participatory and meet up opportunities.

Languages and culture

There are many [language learning opportunities](#) at the University, all of which you can access free of charge. If you are an international student, you will automatically become a member of the student led [International Students' Association](#), which connects cultures through socials, support and representation.



Bath

Bath is a beautiful city to live, work and study in. [Find out more about living in the city and the south west.](#) [Take a look at our Flickr album.](#)



Our Chancellor, His Royal Highness, The Earl of Wessex

[Watch our Chancellor](#) explain what makes The University of Bath such a special place to study.

Our research community: helping to solve the problems facing us all

Mental health in children, recycling bioplastics, PTSD and mapping marine environments... [take a look at some of the latest research going on here at Bath.](#) You can also find out more about [taking part in the 3MT@ competition.](#)



GW4 Alliance

The University of Bath is a member of the [GW4](#) Alliance, which brings together four of the most research-intensive and innovative universities in the UK, all based in the South West region.

[Find out about the benefits for doctoral students](#), including expert training opportunities and access to shared resources.

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](#).

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. The ATAS office has recently reopened and we believe it may take up to two months for an application to be processed; please apply for your certificate as soon as possible, in order to receive your clearance certificate in time for your visa application.

**"I looked at lots of universities,
but Bath was the first place where
I felt like home."**

"During my time at Bath, both the University and my Department have been extremely supportive of me personally and academically. As a doctoral student, you need to feel supported to make the right decisions, but also supported if you make a mistake. Knowing I've had that support behind me has

encouraged me to push the boundaries and take more risks.”

Tamsyn, PhD in Health Psychology

[Read more about what Tamsyn thinks makes Bath's research community so special.](#)

Visit the [Doctoral College website](#) to find out what other students say about their time here.



Doctoral College contacts

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



[Our research rankings](#) | [Our research community](#) | [Living in the city of Bath](#)



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