

Thank you for your interest in the graduate program at the Department of Political Science of the University of Washington. We are a collegial department with a productive faculty that wins numerous awards for research, teaching, and graduate mentoring. Our department has a long record of both faculty and graduate student success conducting research that takes on important questions, challenges conventional wisdom, and/or cuts across conventional boundaries between sub-fields. Our program thus gives students an unusual degree of flexibility in designing their degree emphases. We also offer state-of-the-art training in a wide variety of quantitative and qualitative research methods. Students are heavily involved in research with faculty mentors, and quite often co-author publications with our faculty.

Perhaps the most important factor to consider when choosing a graduate school is the program's job placement record for its graduates. We have had outstanding success placing out graduates in tenure track positions over the past decade, compiling a much stronger [placement record](#) than many other programs with higher rankings.

We also offer very good quality of life. Our graduate student culture is very supportive because we structure our program so that students are not forced to compete against one another. Graduate students are active participants in the intellectual life of our department, and have voice in the department through service on all major departmental committees. We are also located in one of the most attractive and vibrant urban settings in the United States, Seattle, WA.

Our graduate program prepares students for academic research and teaching. We seek applicants who intend to pursue the PhD. We do not offer a terminal MA degree. The Department of Political Science is dedicated to building a culturally diverse and pluralistic faculty and student body. We strongly encourage applications from women and underrepresented minorities.

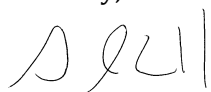
Our website includes additional information about our department and graduate program. I encourage you to look closely at our disciplinary strengths, the activities of our research centers, and at the research profiles of our current graduate students.

You will find important details about the application process within the graduate admission section of our website. Among other factors, our admissions committee places strong emphasis on personal statements and the fit of each applicant with our graduate program. I encourage you to use the required statement of purpose to provide us with information concerning your intellectual interests, prospective areas of specialized study, and research experience.

Applications must be completed on-line and required documents uploaded to the Graduate School admission website no later than 5pm Pacific Time, December 15th. Scores for the GRE, TOEFL or other English proficiency exams (if required) must be sent directly by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) or other testing agency to the University of Washington. It is your responsibility to ensure that we have received all the required application materials.

For further information or assistance with the completion of your application, contact Ms. Susanne Recordon, our Graduate Program Assistant, at (206) 543-1898 or via email at polsglad@u.washington.edu.

Cordially,



George Lovell
Professor and Chair, Political Science
Harry Bridges Endowed Chair in Labor Studies