Thank you for your interest in the graduate program at the Department of Political Science of the University of Washington.

**We urge you to think carefully about the “fit” between your interests and our graduate program:**

- We seek applicants who intend to pursue that PhD and who will benefit from and contribute to our graduate program.
- Our focus at the graduate level is on preparation for academic research and teaching. We do not offer a terminal MA degree.
- We encourage applications from prospective students who have a wide diversity of personal backgrounds and intellectual experiences.
- As you can see from examining the materials on our website, graduate students have flexibility in constructing their degree emphases, have opportunities to gain teaching experience, and can be heavily involved in research and publishing with faculty mentors.
- I encourage you to look closely at our disciplinary strengths, the activities of the various research centers, and our graduate placement record.

**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 Statements of Purpose that explain 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, research experience, methodological skills, and initial plans for study in our graduate program.
- The committee is also interested in students who communicate their individual histories through a Personal Statement. Such a narrative statement can include family background and influences on your intellectual development, including exceptional educational opportunities you benefitted from or disadvantages you may have overcome.
- Our application process requires that you take responsibility for submission of all application materials. Applications must be completed on-line and required documents uploaded to the Graduate School admission website (URL above) no later than 5pm PST, 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 confirm that we have received your scores.
- Due to the volume of applications received, incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed.

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

Cordially,

Michael McCann, Interim Chair