

### Information for Candidates

Direct PhD Track – Program No. 205315-21-02

Head of the Graduate Studies Committee – Prof. Michael Gross

The Direct PhD Track in the School of Political Sciences is designed for outstanding students who, having attained their BA degree, desire to immediately begin their studies towards a PhD. As such, this track enables eligible students to pursue an MA and PhD degree in a compressed period of five years. The program provides students with scientific writing skills in an interactive, fulfilling and supportive environment, specialized courses, opportunities for group learning, and personalized supervision. The program offers personal scholarships and tuition scholarships for eligible candidates.

#### Admission Requirements for Direct PhD Track

1. The completion of a Bachelor's (BA) Degree in the field of political science from an accredited Israeli or international academic institution. Prospective candidates are required to have received a weighted grade average of at least 93;<sup>1</sup> or
2. Students who have completed the first year of their MA degree with a weighted average of at least 90.

Applications to the doctoral program must be submitted to the Head of the Graduate Studies Committee **by May 15**, along with the following documents:

1. A curriculum vitae (CV) in Hebrew **and** English.
2. Certificate of completion for BA / MA degrees, including grade transcripts.
3. Two letters of recommendation from faculty members that attest to the candidate's research abilities (one of the letters must be from the supervisor who oversaw the writing of the MA thesis).
4. A statement of intent (up to 350 words in English **and** up to 200 words in Hebrew). Statements must include the following elements:
  - a. A description of the research topic.
  - b. The central research question.
  - c. The method and technique through which the student intends to analyze the research question.
5. A letter from the prospective PhD supervisor who has committed to supervise the applicant. The letter shall include a paragraph on the importance of the proposed research, and a paragraph regarding their impression of the candidate's abilities.

The Graduate Studies Committee will assess each application on the basis of the statement of intent and letters of recommendation, and will make a decision on whether to accept or reject their applications. In the case of a rejected application, the committee will attach a written justification.

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<sup>1</sup> In the case of a double-degree, prospective candidates must have secured a minimum grade average of 93 in both study areas.

### **Study Framework for the Direct PhD Track**

1. Students will complete MA-level courses totaling 28 credit hours. Courses can be selected from the full range of MA courses offered in the School of Political Sciences. Courses must be completed with a minimum weighted grade average of 90 or higher.
2. As part of the above coursework, each student will be required to write two seminar papers and receive a minimum grade of 90 in each of them.
3. Each student on the Direct PhD Track is required to attend at least 80% of department seminars during the course of each academic year.
4. The student's doctoral research proposal is to be submitted to the School of Political Sciences' Graduate Studies Committee no later than the beginning of the fourth semester of their studies. The research proposal must be formally approved before the end of the fourth semester of study.
5. The duration of the first phase of the study program is two years.
6. Students in the Direct PhD Track will receive a university certificate immediately upon the approval of their doctoral research proposal attesting to their completion of the study requirements for the Direct PhD Track as stated herein.
7. After proceeding to the second phase of the track, students have a period of 3 years to complete their doctoral dissertation.
8. Students can, at any stage, withdraw from the Direct PhD Track in the event that they no longer wish to continue with their studies. In this case, students who have completed the minimal quota of coursework and other obligations will be eligible to receive their MA degree (whether in a research track or non-research track).
9. In the event that a student does not complete the requirements of the Direct PhD Track program within two years (completion of 28 credit hours, and the submission of two seminar papers), or does not receive approval for their research proposal, the student's status will be transferred to a regular MA study program. No extensions will be granted to Direct PhD Track students during the period of MA coursework.

### **Scholarships**

Doctoral scholarships are allocated by the Graduate Studies Authority in accordance with the school's recommendation. They include assistance in the following areas: advanced training scholarships for research students in Phase A, advanced training scholarships for research students in Phase B, funding to support research projects, grants following the publication of chapters / books / articles, grants to facilitate the participation in academic or professional conferences, special research grant to encourage the submission of research grant proposals to competitive external foundations, and more. In addition, the school will award scholarships to students who meet the required criteria and will endeavor to offer paid tutoring opportunities.

### **Admission Dates**

Doctoral students can only be accepted at the beginning of each academic year.



School of Political Sciences  
The Herta and Paul Amir  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
University of Haifa



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הפקולטה למדעי החברה  
ע"ש שמואל והרטה עמיר  
אוניברסיטת חיפה



ביה"ס למדעי המדינה  
School of Political Sciences  
المدرسة للعلوم السياسية

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