

Political Science – PhD Studies

Information for Applicants – Academic Year of 2024-2025

Head of the Graduate Studies Committee – Prof. Anabel Herzog

The purpose of the doctoral program is to train a new generation of world-class researchers in the political sciences and its sub-disciplines. The study framework teaches students to conduct independent research under the guidance of faculty supervisors, and to engage in collaborative research with other students in the School of Political Sciences, within the university, and in the world of Israeli academia.

PhD students specialize in one of the following areas: international relations, public administration and policy, or government and political theory. Students also have the opportunity to seek out co-supervisors belonging to disciplines outside of the political sciences. We encourage all students to meet with and learn from the diverse range of researchers within and outside of the School of Political Sciences.

The PhD program emphasizes the pursuit of excellence as its highest goal and strives to endow its graduates with the skills needed to succeed in the ever-changing and competitive global reality of the 21st century. The School of Political Sciences and the Graduate Studies Authority offer a range of scholarships for PhD students.

Our advantages:

- Methodological training and diverse enrichment courses - an academic writing course in English, an R course, preparatory workshops for the academic world, and more.
- Advising in development of an academic and post-doctoral career
- Guidance on building a publication portfolio during the doctorate, support in writing doctoral dissertations.
- ["Idit" program for outstanding doctoral students](#)

Admission Requirements – Phase A

Any person who has graduated with an MA Degree in Political Sciences from an accredited Israeli or international university – with a grade average 90 or above – is entitled to submit an application to enroll in the doctoral program at the School of Political Science.¹

MA graduates from other disciplines (apart from political science) - with a grade average of 90 or above¹ – will be required to undertake a year of supplementary coursework (Preliminary Research Track) before submitting an application to enroll

¹ This entails a weighted average of at least 90 in the thesis and coursework, as well as a minimum grade of 90 in the thesis grade.

in the doctoral program. As part of the preliminary research track, prospective applicants will complete relevant coursework and will be required to attain a weighted average of at least 85. Courses include: Theories and Approaches in Political Science, Research Methods (Research Seminar A), Research Seminar B (qualitative and quantitative), and additional courses depending on the division that the student intends to join (international relations, public administration and policy, or government and political theory). Once this supplementary coursework has been completed at the expected level, the students will be eligible to enroll in the doctoral program.

Note: Applying for the doctoral program does not guarantee admission to the program.

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

1. A curriculum vitae (CV) in accordance with the format of the Graduate Studies Authority (submitted in Hebrew and English).
2. Certificates of completion for BA and MA degrees, including grade transcripts.
3. Two letters of recommendation from faculty members that attest to the research abilities of the candidate (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, or up to 200 words in Hebrew). Statements that exceed these quotas will be returned to the student and will not be forwarded to the committee. The statement must include the following elements:
 - a. A description of the research topic.
 - b. A central research question.
 - c. The methods and techniques through which the student intends to analyze the research question.
 - d. The potential research contribution.
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.
6. **Evidence of research and publishing abilities.** The candidate shall submit one of the following two documents in support of their application:
 - a. A published academic article in a scientific journal or a copy of a research article that has been submitted for review at a scientific journal (and which was not desk rejected).

Articles may be in English or in Hebrew. The candidate can be a single writer or with co-writers, as long as the name of the candidate appears on the article. Permissible journals include any journal that is ranked by the Institute for Scientific Information or the Council of Higher Education. The details and ranking of journal in which the article is published (or at which it is under

review) is to be attached along with the letter of acceptance (or review confirmation) from the journal.

Or

- b. Publication of a chapter in an academic book (by an academic publisher). The candidate appears as a sole author or with partners, as first author.

Or

- c. Presentation of a research paper at an international conference. The candidate appears as a sole author or with partners, as the first author.

When registering, a link to the conference details must be attached and the committee will examine the academic level of the conference and decide accordingly.

7. The PhD Committee will consider the merits of all applications from candidates who meet the above criteria and will make a decision whether to accept or reject their applications.
8. Rejected applicants are permitted to re-apply during the following year with a new statement of intent relating to a different research topic.

Admission Dates

Doctoral students can submit candidacy for the fall semester or to the spring semester.

*Please note that some graduate authority scholarships are not relevant for students who begin studies in the spring semester.

The Doctoral Program

1. The duration of PhD studies is limited to four years, and is divided into two phases: Research Phase A and Research Phase B.
2. Research Phase A: The duration of research phase A shall not exceed two years from the beginning of the first semester in which the student was accepted (including the semester semester). During this period, PhD students are required to complete their research proposal and meet all other requirements imposed by the school's PhD Committee.
3. During the first year of research phase A, students are required to take 3-4 courses (totaling 16 credit hours).
4. Research Phase B: The duration of research phase B shall not exceed 3 years from the date of approval of the research proposal. During this period, PhD students are required to complete writing their doctoral dissertation, and to submit the dissertation to the Graduate Studies Authority for evaluation (after it has been formally approved by their supervisor and the School's PhD Committee).
5. During each period of study, students are required to attain an 80% attendance rate at all departmental seminars during the academic year.

Contact Details:

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The Idit Program for Outstanding Doctoral Students

The Idit Program is a fellowship program for outstanding doctoral students in the Faculty of Social Sciences who possess the potential to make research breakthroughs in their respective areas of study. Students who are accepted to this fellowship program are guaranteed a generous scholarship. The program recruits doctoral students that demonstrate a curiosity and willingness to develop expertise in a diverse range of theoretical and methodological areas, and who are able to demonstrate the potential for groundbreaking research. Recipients are guaranteed a generous stipend, training in academic teaching, diverse methodological training, funding for participation in conferences, mentoring towards post-doctoral and academic careers, guidance in building a research portfolio, and more. For further details and inquiries [press here](#).