

JSGS PhD in Public Policy (after Master's) Application Questions

The PhD is a research degree and is the highest degree awarded in Public Policy. It denotes an advanced level of competence in scholarly research and communication. Your personal statement offers you the opportunity to describe to the admissions committee your interests and to clearly detail your background and preparation, the ideas and methods that you bring to public policy, and to indicate the particular areas of interest in public policy. Please clearly address each of the following within 1,500 words.

1. Why do you want to pursue a PhD focusing on public policy?
2. What is your research background and preparation in policy-related research, including scholarly and practical experience?
3. Describe one or more general areas within public policy in which you would like to do research. Please provide some examples of specific topics you consider interesting and researchable within this area.
4. What type of theories and methods do you want to use or explore?
5. Please provide an example that demonstrates your ability to define a topic, apply theoretical concepts to it, cite existing key literature, and propose ways to create new scholarly knowledge on that topic. This example might relate to one of the sample topics you identified in (3) above.
6. Have you approached any of the faculty at our school regarding your application? If so, please provide their names and briefly describe the nature of your interactions.