

Application Procedure for the Master of Social Sciences (Research) and Doctor of Philosophy Programmes

Applications for admission to the Master of Social Sciences (Research) and PhD programmes in Political Science must be submitted through the NUS online application system by the 1 November deadline.

In addition to completing the standard online application form and personal particulars section, applicants should provide the following materials:

1. Academic CV
2. Research proposal
3. Writing sample
4. Academic records
5. Referee nominations
6. Test scores (if appropriate)

Please submit only the materials listed above. Materials exceeding the stated limits may not be reviewed.

All application materials must be submitted in English. Transcripts, degree certificates, and other official documents issued in another language must be accompanied by a certified English translation. Materials submitted without the required English translation will not be reviewed.

Further details on each component are provided below.

1. Academic CV

Submit a CV of no more than two A4 pages detailing your relevant academic history. It should include, where applicable:

- educational qualifications;
- previous research or thesis experience;
- relevant employment or research assistance;
- publications and conference presentations;
- academic awards;
- methodological, technical, and language skills.

Supporting certificates for awards, publications, and other achievements should not be uploaded unless specifically requested.

2. Research Proposal

The research proposal is a central component of the application. It must not exceed two A4 pages, including notes and references. The proposal should address the following:

- **Research question and proposed project**
State the central question or problem that you wish to investigate and explain the proposed scope of the project.
- **Background, significance, and contribution**
Briefly situate the project in relation to the most relevant existing scholarship. Explain why the question matters and what the proposed research might contribute.
- **Approach and feasibility**
Describe how you propose to investigate the question. Depending on the nature of the project, this may include its conceptual or theoretical framework, research methods, cases, texts, sources, or data. Briefly indicate any relevant preparation and explain why the project is feasible at the degree level for which you are applying.
- **Fit with the Department**
Identify up to two members of the Department whose research expertise is relevant to the proposed project and explain why the Department would provide an appropriate intellectual setting for your work. Identifying a potential supervisor does not constitute a commitment by that faculty member or guarantee a particular supervisory arrangement.

The proposal is understood to be preliminary. Applicants are not expected to have finalized every aspect of their project, and research plans may develop after admission. The proposal will be assessed for its clarity and focus, intellectual significance, engagement with relevant scholarship, appropriateness of the proposed approach, feasibility, and fit with the Department. PhD proposals should also demonstrate the potential to make a substantial original contribution to the field.

3. Writing Sample

Submit one sole-authored academic writing sample in English of no more than 3,000 words, including notes but excluding the bibliography. The sample should demonstrate

your ability to formulate and sustain an argument, engage with relevant scholarship, and communicate clearly in academic prose.

A recent assessed university paper is preferred. The sample need not address exactly the same subject as the proposed research, but it should preferably be drawn from political science or a related discipline.

An extract from a longer essay, thesis, or publication is acceptable. If submitting an extract, include a brief prefatory note of no more than 150 words identifying the original document and explaining the place of the extract within it. Do not submit the complete longer document.

4. Academic Records

Upload transcripts and degree certificates in accordance with the application portal instructions. Transcripts should include the institution's grading scheme. Documents not issued in English must be accompanied by the required English translation.

5. Referee Reports

Applicants must nominate two academic referees through the online application system. Referee reports are submitted directly by the referees.

6. Test Scores (If Appropriate)

Applicants should submit evidence of English-language proficiency and any other test scores where required by the University or Department.