



WOODROW WILSON DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS

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Dear prospective student:

Thank you for your interest in the Department's graduate programs. This letter contains information about the Graduate School, its admissions process, our programs, financial aid opportunities, and the nature of the department, in that order.

General information about the Graduate School is available at

<http://artsandsciences.virginia.edu/grad/index.php>. Application materials are available at

<http://artsandsciences.virginia.edu/grad/admission/>. The university (and the department) *strongly* encourage on-line application, which assures a timely and more accurate assessment of your file.

Please note that this single application is used to determine admission as well as Departmental financial aid decisions. The University's Financial Aid office (434-924-3725) is your source of information for additional funding possibilities. Currently (2004-2005), in-state tuition and fees are \$9,200; out of state tuition and fees are \$20,200. We expect tuition to rise by about \$500 per year for the next few years.

The application deadline is December 2, 2005 for Fall 2006 admission for both domestic and international students. You may expedite the process by requesting your supporting documents prior to sending the application form. Supporting documents consist of two academic letters of recommendation, official GRE scores, and transcripts of all completed work. Foreign students must also submit TOEFL scores. Confidential copies of these documents should be sent under separate cover to:

**GSAS Admissions Office**  
**P.O. Box 400775**  
University of Virginia  
**Charlottesville, Virginia 22904-4775**

*International students* now face substantially tighter immigration / visa requirements and slower processing. Please see the list of requirements here: <http://www.virginia.edu/iso/issp/>. And the more general information here: <http://www.virginia.edu/intlstudents.html>. Do not delay in seeking the appropriate visa.

It is very important that you be aware of four aspects of Departmental policy as you prepare your application.

First, we do not look favorably upon applicants whose overall GPA is less than 3.20 or who have a combined verbal and quantitative GRE score of less than 1200. Most applications with GPA < 3.0 and GREs < 1100 will be rejected. Foreign applicants whose native language is not English must take the TOEFL and attain a score of 600 (paper) or 250 (computer), unless they have an undergraduate degree from a US institution. We also prefer foreign students to have a TWE over 5.0.

Second, on the application form it is essential that you enter the appropriate degree program in which you wish to enroll. If you do **not** plan to continue on toward a Ph.D. in our Department, please enter “M.A.” or the appropriate code number for “M.A.-Foreign Affairs” or “M.A.-Government.” Note that “Foreign Affairs” covers the fields of Comparative Politics and International Relations, while “Government” covers the fields of American Politics and Political Theory. If you plan to go on for the Ph.D. please enter “Ph.D.” or the appropriate code number for “Ph.D.-Foreign Affairs” or “Ph.D. Government.” Note that if you do not already have an M.A. in political science, you must obtain an M.A. in our Department, after which you will be evaluated to determine your suitability for further work at the Ph.D. level. In general students who do apply with an MA in political science can be admitted directly into the PhD program; however in some cases these students will be asked to fulfill part of the UVa MA requirements. *If you wrote an MA thesis for your prior MA please be sure to send the department a copy at the time you apply for entry into the PhD program, as this is often the critical determinant for admission directly to the PhD.*

Third, merit-based financial aid is not available for students whose intended terminal degree is the M.A. We are able to offer financial aid for the first year to approximately 70% of the Ph.D. students who are accepted into the program; in years 2 through 4 all students in good standing are funded via Teaching and Research Assistantships or Departmental Fellowships; in subsequent years approximately 85-90% of Ph.D. students are funded through a wide variety of sources. Financial aid awards are made each year in late March. The minimum package provides approximately \$9500 in cash in hand, tuition, and a health insurance voucher that obtains the basic student insurance package in return for 6 sections of TA work (3 each semester, 20 students per section). Some students will have access to fellowship aid without a TA requirement and many packages are larger than this minimum.

You can obtain considerable information about the Politics department on the web. The department’s graduate information, including rules, graduate student publications, and placement outcomes, can be found at: [http://www.virginia.edu/politics/grad\\_program/index.html](http://www.virginia.edu/politics/grad_program/index.html).

General information about the department can be found at <http://www.virginia.edu/politics>. This will also provide you with a link to a listing of faculty, about 1/3 of whom have personal web pages with important information about their interests – this will give you a general sense of whether or not your interests will mesh with ours. I also attach a statement of department philosophy and a mapping of department intellectual interests – you will note that these don’t necessarily line up with traditional political science categories. Finally, both the Miller Center for Public Affairs <http://millercenter.virginia.edu/>, and especially its American Political Development program <http://millercenter.virginia.edu/programs/apd/index.html>, and the Center for Politics <http://www.centerforpolitics.org/> provide important non-departmental intellectual and financial resources for Politics graduate students.

Information about Charlottesville, which has secured top 25 rankings (and some #1 rankings) in numerous quality of life surveys, can be found at <http://avenue.org>.

Please read this information and then if you have questions feel free to email me or Cassandra Thomas ([cdw@virginia.edu](mailto:cdw@virginia.edu), 434-924-3603), who is the graduate secretary, with your questions.

Yours,



Herman Schwartz

Next 4 pages: Financial aid information / Placement summary / Rules & Suggested timetable / What we are about / Department intellectual map

### Financial aid at the University of Virginia Department of Politics:

There are two kinds of financial aid:

1. fellowship money, which requires no work
2. non-fellowship money, which requires work, and which is further divided into:
  1. RA wages: research assistantship, currently paying \$9.50 per hour.
  2. Graders: currently paying between \$900-\$1200 per course graded.
  3. TAs: teaching assistantship: a full time TA, defined as 3 sections of 20 students each per semester, times 2 semesters – gets \$7650 in direct wages, a health insurance voucher, automatic tuition remission for the equivalent of in-state Virginia tuition (currently \$9,800), and the possibility of a tuition differential (the difference between out of state and in-state tuition, currently \$10,600), plus a fellowship top-up.

*Who gets what:* From year 2 to year 4 of the graduate program, all PhD bound graduate students (including MA-PhDs) in good standing receive financial aid, generally as a TAship. TAships are sometimes topped up with fellowship money. In year 5 there is sometimes the possibility of a TAship, and we also nominate students for internal departmental and university wide dissertation fellowships. Internal fellowships provide \$10,000 and fees to allow students to write up their dissertations without the distraction of other work. University fellowships vary.

*Incoming students:* Aid can range from zero to a “presidential” fellowship package worth \$15,000 in direct cash, a health insurance voucher, and tuition (in-state or out of state as the case may be), which runs for 3 years (with TA work in years 2-3). Roughly 3 presidential fellowships are awarded annually out of a typical entering PhD bound class of about 15. Another 7-9 students typically get some form of aid. Incoming students with an MA are often offered a TAship.

*Students who are MA only (terminal MA) cannot receive fellowships or TAships.*

All figures above are subject to change from year to year, and all aid is conditioned on continued acceptable performance in the program, even when students are given multiyear guarantees.

**Placement Summary** (see also: [http://www.virginia.edu/politics/alumni/where\\_grads.html](http://www.virginia.edu/politics/alumni/where_grads.html))

From 1994/5 through 2003/4 there were 76 permanent placements of PhDs, of which 52 were academic and 24 were non-academic. Typical placements 2000/01-2004/05 are:

Sonia Cardenas, Trinity College (Hartford)	John Dinan, Wake Forest University
Joshua Dunn, U of Colo., Colorado Springs	Lori Fritz, Government Accounting Office
Xuezhi Guo, Guilford University	Mark Haas, Duquesne University
Aida Hozic, University of Florida	Robert Hume, Fordham Univ
Stan Humphries, Holy Cross (declined)	Bonnie Jenkins, Ford Foundation
Dale Lawton, State Department	Rick Mayes, University of Richmond
Patrick McGuinn, Drew University	Jean McSween, Govt. Accounting Office
Spencer Meredith, Rochester Institute of Tech.	Alison Millett, Towson University
Agniescka Paczynska, George Mason Univ.	Patrick Roberts, Virginia Tech
Larry Schack, Microsoft	Ranjit Singh, University of Mary Washington
Gregory Smith, Pew Foundation	William Walldorf, Gordon College, Mass.

A detailed breakdown of *known* MA placements and all PhD placements is available– email me @ schwartz@virginia.edu.

**Politics Department, University of Virginia**

**Summary M.A./Ph.D Program Rules and Timing  
Effective AY1999/01, as amended through July 2002**

**1. Requirements**

*1. M.A.*

- A. 24 credits (8 courses) including  
PLAD709 Research Methods or PLPT501 Nature of Political Inquiry
- B. Research Methods/Statistics (PLAD709 and PLAD710) *or* Language
- C. Masters Thesis
- D. May take 2 595 (directed readings) + 2 grad level courses outside Dept

*2. Ph.D.*

- A. 30 additional credits (10 courses, including 2 supervised research courses).  
PLAD709 or PLPT501 required; 775 and 875 optional.
- B. 2 Comprehensive Exams (American, Comparative, International, Theory)
- C. Research Methods/Statistics (PLAD709 and PLAD710) *and* Language  
*or* 2 Languages
- D. Ph.D. Dissertation
- E. 18 Hours of Non-Topical Research (no work, filler hours for full time status)
- F. May take 2 more 595 (directed readings) + 2 more grad courses outside Dept

**II. Timetable**

Year 1: Course Work (8 courses possible) (if MA only: complete Thesis during summer)

Year 2: Finish MA course work, MA thesis, begin Ph.D. course work  
Go through evaluation process to proceed to Ph.D. level (EPPP)

Year 3: Finish Ph.D. course work and comprehensive examinations

Years 4-5: Finish all requirements including Ph.D. dissertation

*Enter with MA:*

Year 1: Course Work (6-8 courses possible as 3+3 or 4+4)

Year 2: Finish Course Work (4+0); comprehensive exams; write proposal

Year 3-4: Dissertation

**III. Funding** All Merit Based, Decided in March each year

Year 1: Optional RA work in addition to funding packages from Spring recruitment

Year 2: Teaching Assistantship each semester (3 discussion sections/semester)  
RA work

Year 3: Teaching Assistantship each semester (3 discussion sections/semester)  
RA work; possibly fellowship in place of TA

Year 4: Teaching Assistantship each semester (3 discussion sections/semester)  
RA work; possibly fellowship in place of TA

Year 5: Possible support from Graduate Budget, possible support from  
Department through teaching own classes, possible teaching at area  
colleges and Universities, possible support through outside grants and  
fellowships

### **What we think we are doing:**

UVa's Politics department stresses the long-term development of political and economic institutions, and the way that organized or potentially organized groups try to create or maintain positions of power through those institutions. The department is thus much more historically oriented than the typical department, much more comparatively oriented (in the sense that it is willing and able to contrast American phenomena with phenomena elsewhere), and much more concerned with understanding actors' ethical motivations in both a normative sense and in the classic Weberian sense. The department has this orientation because most of its faculty believe that this is best way to understand the long term evolution of the political structures that shape the range of acceptable political behaviors and policies, the typical kinds of conflicts that arise over public goods and redistributive issues, and the patterns, if any, in the way that those conflicts play out. However it is clear that neither the typical approach nor ours is perfect, and that neither possesses any exclusive claim to truth. The department is thus committed to broad training in all methodologies, and to matching the appropriate methodology to the question at hand. Graduate training in the department is not hampered by divisions between traditional sub-disciplinary fields, and we strongly encourage work with faculty in other UVa departments.

The chart on the next page lays out particular departmental strengths, organized around issue areas, and grouped by the relative proximity of the issues.

# University of Virginia POLITICS Dept: Core Intellectual Interests

