



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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Dear Prospective Graduate Student,

Thank you for your interest in the **Department of Political Science** at the **University of Notre Dame**. Our department seeks to recruit top applicants into our Ph.D. program, and we offer a vibrant and collegial academic community for faculty and graduate students alike, including:

Top notch faculty. Our department is home to more than 50 tenure-track or tenured faculty, including National Science Foundation principal investigators, Andrew Carnegie fellows, National Endowment for the Humanities awardees, and many internationally renowned scholars. Our faculty is substantively and methodologically diverse, with areas of exceptional strength in the politics of religion, international security, democracy and democratization, law and constitutional interpretation, the intersection of race, ethnicity and politics, and ancient to contemporary political thought. Detailed descriptions of our [faculty](#) and each of the five subfields can be found [here](#).

Abundant resources. We guarantee full tuition and stipend fellowships to all Ph.D. students for five years and a sixth-year postdoctoral fellowship for students who complete the Ph.D. within five years. Students also have opportunities to secure generous funding for annual conference travel, field research, specialized training and professional development as well as additional support from various centers on campus. In addition, each year a number of our admitted students are awarded one of the [Graduate School's Select Fellowships](#), which recognize outstanding undergraduate performance and exceptional promise in graduate studies and professional life.

Methodological & topical diversity. We can train students in virtually any approach—normative theory, comparative methods, new institutionalism, formal theory and quantitative analysis—and we cover most geographic and thematic areas in political science. Our students and faculty also belong to many institutes and interdisciplinary centers across campus, such as:

- Keough School of Global Affairs
- Kellogg Institute for International Studies
- Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies
- Nanovic Institute for European Studies
- Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies
- Institute for Latino Studies
- Notre Dame International Security Center
- Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy

Individualized attention. Although our faculty is large, we only enroll about 14 new students each year, which allows us to offer small courses, personalized mentoring, and low student/faculty ratio. Students and faculty meet regularly, collaborate on research projects, and publish articles and book chapters as co-authors.

Publication success. In recent years, our students have published articles, both individually and with faculty co-authors, in the *American Political Science Review*, *World Politics*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, *Politics and Religion*, and *Comparative Political Studies* as well as many other journals. Click [here](#) for a list of selected recent student publications.

Practical training. We emphasize practical training to ensure that our students are prepared for academic research careers in Political Science. Notre Dame offers training programs and courses in empirical and interpretive methods, grant writing, and the academic job market. Our department also provides students with independent teaching opportunities to prepare for their first faculty positions.

Grant success. Our students have also won grants or fellowships from the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), Javits, Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), U.S. Institute of Peace, Fulbright, National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation, Belfer Center at Harvard, the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

For additional information about the Ph.D. in Political Science, please visit our department's [website](#). For detailed information about the on-line application process, please visit the Graduate School [website](#).

Thank you for your interest, and I look forward to receiving your application by December 15.

Sincerely,



Karrie J. Koesel
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University of Notre Dame
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