

MIT PoliSci Application Mentorship Program (PS AMP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: What is PS AMP?

A: PS AMP is a volunteer-based, graduate student-run program that provides assistance to MIT Political Science applicants from historically underrepresented groups. Graduate student mentors will be available to answer questions about the department, offer advice on structuring a research statement, and provide feedback on other application materials. PS AMP is supported by the MIT Political Science Graduate Student Council, and graduate student mentors receive some training from a faculty member on the admissions committee. PS AMP operates on a first-come, first-serve basis, meaning it will close if we run out of resources to assist participants. You will be notified if we cannot accommodate you.

Q: Who should sign up for PS AMP?

A: PS AMP is specifically intended for applicants from communities that have historically been underrepresented in higher education. This includes, but is not limited to: BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), non-cisgender individuals, members of the LGBTQIA+/queer community, individuals with disabilities, first-generation college students, and individuals from low-income backgrounds. If you think you fall into one of these groups but aren't sure, we still encourage you to sign up! Given space constraints, we will prioritize students who are planning to apply to PhD programs in the upcoming cycle (2021-2022). Applicants must be at least 18 years or older.

Q: Will signing up for PS AMP impact my admission?

A: No, PS AMP will not directly impact the graduate admissions process. Information about who is part of the program will not be shared with the admissions committee. PS AMP is run by current graduate students and plays no role in the admissions process. However, while PS AMP will not directly impact admissions, we expect that discussions between you and your mentor will provide a more nuanced picture of what you can expect from graduate school in general and MIT Political Science in particular. You are welcome to apply for PS AMP even if you ultimately do not decide to apply to our program.

Q: What kind of questions should I discuss with my PS AMP mentor?

A: Your PS AMP mentor can answer questions about MIT Political Science and MIT, provide general feedback on materials to create a stronger application, and guide applicants through the application process. As a current PhD student in the department, your PS AMP mentor is uniquely placed to answer questions about the department and student experience.

Q: What can I expect from my PS AMP mentor?

A: You can expect an hour-long meeting with your PS AMP mentor during which they can answer any questions you have about application materials, the department, and MIT more broadly. Your PS AMP mentor will not be able to edit your application, but can answer clarifying questions about the process and provide advice, as needed. Mentors are able to provide guidance based on their experience going through the application process for MIT Political Science.

Q: How will I be paired with a mentor?

A: We will pair mentors with applicants on a rolling basis. For this reason, your mentor may not be from the same subfield or background as you. We will try to make the best possible

match based on research interests, but we expect that talking with any student from the department will be helpful in preparing a strong application.

Q: How long does it take to be matched with a mentor?

A: We do matching in batches – we aim to do the first round of matching in mid-October. Your PS AMP mentor will reach out to you once you've been matched. We encourage you to sign up as soon as possible, as mentors will become increasingly less available as the semester progresses.

Q: Who should I contact with questions about the PS AMP program?

A: If you have any further questions, please email mit.ps.amp@gmail.com. Someone will get back to you within two business days.