

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.

Q: What kind of help does PS AMP provide?

A: Graduate student mentors will be available to answer questions about the department, give advice on structuring a research statement, and provide feedback on other application materials.

Q: Who runs PS AMP?

A: The program is supported by the MIT Political Science Graduate Student Council, and mentors receive some training from a faculty member on the admissions committee.

Q: How does PS AMP operate?

A: The program runs on a first-come, first-serve basis. If resources run out, sign-ups will close, and you will be notified if we cannot accommodate you.

Q: Who should sign up for PS AMP?

A: The program is intended for applicants who plan to apply to PhD programs in the upcoming cycle (2025–2026).

Q: Is there an age requirement?

A: Yes, applicants must be at least 18 years old.

Q: Does signing up for PS AMP affect admissions decisions?

A: No. Information about participants is not shared with the admissions committee. PS AMP is run by current graduate students and plays no role in the admissions process.

Q: If PS AMP doesn't affect admissions, why join?

A: Mentors can give you a clearer picture of graduate school and the MIT Political Science department in particular, which can help you prepare stronger applications.

Q: Can I join PS AMP even if I don't apply to MIT?

A: Yes, you are welcome to participate even if you later choose not to apply to our program.

Q: What questions can I ask my mentor?

A: You can ask about MIT Political Science, the department culture, and the graduate school experience in general.

Q: Can mentors help with my application?

A: They can provide general feedback on materials and advice on the application process, but they will not edit applications directly.

Q: How much time will I get with a mentor?

A: You can expect about one hour for your meeting.

Q: What will happen during the meeting?

A: Your mentor will answer your questions about application materials, the department, and MIT more broadly, drawing on their own experience.

Q: How are mentors assigned?

A: Matches are made on a rolling basis.

Q: Will my mentor always be in my research area?

A: Not necessarily. We try to match by research interests, but any student in the department can provide helpful guidance.

Q: When will I hear from my mentor?

A: Matching is done in batches, with the first round in mid-October. Your mentor will reach out once assigned.

Q: Why should I sign up early?

A: Mentor availability decreases as the semester progresses, so earlier sign-ups are more likely to be matched.

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

A: Email mit.ps.amp@gmail.com. Someone will respond within two business days.