

Tips For Applicants From Our Department Faculty:

- It's best to craft personal statements that include attention to your development as a budding scholar. What intellectual debates or conversations have influenced you and excited your passion for learning? It's also helpful to identify a couple of faculty members that you see as part of a future advising team.
- The people reading your application, particularly where you discuss your research idea, will have different disciplinary backgrounds so you should endeavor to write in ways that allows any specialist language you use to be understood by those who are not from your discipline(s).
- Be sure to specify a potential research project, clearly and succinctly, in summary form, which identifies questions (at least two, no more than four) you want to address/answer. Bear in mind this is different from simply specifying your research or intellectual interests.
- Explain how proposed research interests might be supported by specific members of the faculty. Ideal applicants will find their research interests relevant to the expertise of multiple faculty members.
- Provide a writing sample that demonstrates research skills and analytical engagement.
- A shorter, clear, and well-written writing sample is better than a long, meandering one.
- Discuss and share your application with your recommenders and be sure that they are able to write strong letters of support that are in conversation with your written materials.