

PhD Partnership in Political Science between Columbia University and Sciences Po

YEAR 2009-2010

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The dual degree program allows Columbia students to spend two years at Sciences Po, during which students take courses, conduct research, write a dissertation under the direction of a joint Columbia-Sciences Po dissertation committee, and become eligible for the PhD degrees of both institutions.

Eligibility

- The program is opened only to doctoral students in Political Science who are currently registered at Columbia University.
- Before beginning their residency at Sciences Po, students must have completed at least four semesters of residency (i.e. four RUs) and all the other requirements for admission to PhD candidacy, including the dissertation proposal defense, which should be completed no later than the end of September of their third year.
- During their residency at Columbia, students are required to complete 10 out of the 12 courses normally required in their first four semesters for the MPhil. They are then required to take 4 additional courses at Sciences Po. They will receive the MPhil from Columbia after completing 2 out of the 4 additional courses at Sciences Po.
- Students must have a Columbia faculty sponsor, who will normally be expected to serve as the student's dissertation advisor.
- Students can specialize in any Political Science subfield that matches the research interests of Sciences Po faculty.

Admission to the dual degree program

- Columbia students apply to the program in their third year of studies.

- For the 2009-2010 year, applications will be filed by April 15, 2009. Results will be announced by May 2009. Students will enter Sciences Po in the fall 2009.
- No more than one student from each institution is expected to be accepted into this program each year.
- The committee at Columbia University, overseeing the program, will rank applications and forward them to Sciences Po, which will make its selection based on the quality of the applications and the compatibility of the applicants with its faculty's research interests.
- For a list of required application materials, please refer to all required documents in the separate application form available online at: www.columbia.edu/cu/alliance/Phd-Program-Application.pdf
- For entrance to Sciences Po, Columbia students must pass the DALF proficiency tests. The French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) is the official exam center in New York: www.fiaf.org
- Neither institution will be required to accept any student who would not be admitted into its normal PhD programs.

Funding/Financing

- There is no graduate student funding attached specifically to this program.
- Students will maintain their full fellowships, whether the fellowships are provided by Columbia University and/or by external entities.
- Research travel grants provided by Columbia University may be applied to the costs of relocating to Sciences Po, contingent on approval of the relevant authorities at each institution.

Housing

- Although there is no Sciences Po housing, students from Columbia will receive logistical help in their housing search from The American Center at Sciences Po, prior to their arrival.

Status, Progress, and Curriculum

- Students formally enter the Doctoral School of Sciences Po and will be treated in the same manner as students in the single-degree programs with respect to rights, privileges, responsibilities and registration status.
- Progress of students through the program will be monitored in the same way that progress is monitored with single degree students.
- During the two-year stay at Sciences Po, the student pursues a course of study and research. The student and the advisor at Sciences Po design a course of study that advances the student's intellectual interests and that must be formally approved by both advisors before the student begins residency at Sciences Po. The courses taken at Sciences Po must complement and not duplicate courses taken at Columbia.

- The course of study will consist of 4 graduate-level courses taken for a letter grade during the first year abroad. At least one of the courses should be a methodological course and at least one of the courses should be a field survey or a course equivalent to a field survey.
- Columbia students will enter the Sciences Po graduate program in the same status as regular Sciences Po PhD students. For Columbia students, two of the courses taken and passed at Sciences Po will count for the remaining course requirements for the Columbia MPhil. The 4 courses taken and passed at Sciences Po constitute the remaining course requirement for the dual PhD degree.
- The faculty sponsors at the home and host institutions will keep each other informed of the progress of their students in the dual degree program, especially regarding progress toward completion of the dissertation.

Qualifying Exams

- Columbia students are required to pass their four courses at Sciences Po with honors (i.e., with scores of 15/20 for each of the course, equivalent to A or A+). They are allowed to take each course twice, in case they do not pass with the appropriate grade on the first attempt (in June at the end of their first academic year at Sciences Po and in the following September). Upon

Teaching

- Students will be required to have taught at least two courses at Columbia before their residency begins at Sciences Po. Visiting students will be assigned as teaching assistants in advance and with appropriate information, as part of the normal departmental process.
- Columbia students at Sciences Po will teach in either English or French, depending on which language is normally used in the courses to which they are assigned.
- Students will be required to teach at least two courses during their four semesters of residence. For Columbia students receiving funds from GSAS, this will count as four semesters of teaching with regard to the obligations incurred by accepting funding. This reduced teaching load maintains the essential and valuable training that teaching entails while acknowledging that teaching abroad will constitute a much heavier burden than teaching at the home institution. The exchange of teaching assistants will enable both institutions to meet their needs for teaching assistants..
- These teaching requirements do not apply to students who are prohibited from teaching under the terms of any external fellowships they may have received.

Dissertation Defense

- There will be a single defense of the dissertation for the dual degree, which will take place at the home institution. Procedures for distribution and defense of the dissertation will meet those required at the home institution: the Columbia student defends at Columbia according to Columbia procedures.
- The defense committee is formed and composed according to the requirements of Columbia University with the addition of the student's advisor at Sciences Po, who will attend the defense.

- Students are required to meet the filing/deposit procedures for both institutions. As part of the defense, Columbia students must submit to his or her committee a 100-page summary of his or her dissertation in French. Any bibliographies or lists of references are in addition to the 100 pages of summary.
- Upon successful defense of the dissertation at Columbia and filing/deposit of the dissertation (including the French/English summary) in keeping with Sciences Po's rules, the student will be granted the doctoral degrees of both institutions.

Failure to Complete Requirements

- Except as noted specifically, all requirements, procedures and deadlines for each university continue to apply to students in this dual program.
- A student who fails to meet the requirements of one university will not be eligible to receive a degree from that university.
- A student who fails to meet any of the aforementioned requirements will not be allowed to continue in the dual degree program and instead will be considered as having participated in a Sciences Po/Columbia exchange program.
- Any waivers granted as part of the program will cease to apply.
- A student who is dismissed from his or her home institution will not be allowed to continue studying, or to receive a degree from the host institution.