

Note for potential applicants to SIPA or Econ PhD program
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I often receive emails from students who are interested in applying or have already applied to the sustainable development PhD in SIPA or the Economics PhD program. I receive too many such emails, in fact, to be able to respond individually to all of them. Since my advice is almost always the same, I am posting this note online, to eliminate the need for individual emails.

The advice I almost always give in such cases is: (1) go ahead and apply; (2) see if you get in; (3) if you get in, come visit. If you are at stage (3), then you can either just show up at my office hours or set up an appointment by email.

If you have questions about how best to prepare yourself for one of the above programs, you should talk to your teachers at your home institutions. My main general piece of advice for applicants to either of the PhD programs is not to underestimate the importance of preparation in mathematics. One of the main things the admissions committees will be looking for is evidence in our transcripts and recommendation letters that you can handle the technical material.

You should also know that sending me emails has zero effect on your chances of acceptance into either of the above programs.

Good luck.