

Admission Criteria

Criteria common to all disciplinary and interdisciplinary programmes:

Academic excellence (based on academic record, reputation of the institution, overall GPA, grades in relevant courses, master's thesis grade (only applicable to candidates to PhD programme)).

Knowledge of the Institute and understanding of its distinguishing features as well as that of the programme and its epistemological project.

Letters of recommendation from academic as well as non-academic referees (quality and level of detail, as well as consistency amongst letters).

Indication of a strong motivation to study in the department/programme, at the Institute and in Geneva.

Sensibility, creativity, critical thinking and intellectual maturity.

International experience (i.e. student mobility programme).

Evidence of extra-curricular activities and/or professional experience related to the studies.

The overall presentation and coherence of the dossier.

Disciplinary master's programmes specific criteria:

Sufficient background in the discipline acquired in previous programme of study.

An interest in interdisciplinarity and/or a background/interest in international affairs, development studies or social sciences is also valued.

Evidence of analytical and writing skills.

Interdisciplinary programmes specific criteria:

Applicants from a variety of backgrounds are encouraged to apply. A background in one or more disciplines of the Graduate Institute is an asset.

Applicants without a background in international affairs and/or development must demonstrate a clear motivation and rationale for pursuing the programme.

PhD programmes specific criteria:

Relevance, originality and coherence of the dissertation proposal.

Evidence of research, analytical and writing skills.

Convergence of the subject with the expertise of the faculty who work in the programme.



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Knowledge of the literature in the specific field of interest.

Quality of the submitted piece (master's thesis or research paper(s)).

Prior publications.

Professional experience in research-oriented positions (such as TAs or RAs).

Approved by the Academic Committee on 9 March 2022.