



**Sciences Po**

**PhD Partnership in Political Science  
Between Columbia University and Sciences Po**

**YEAR 2020-2021**

***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
FOR SCIENCES PO STUDENTS***

The PhD partnership program allows Sciences Po students to spend two years at Columbia University, 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 open only to 1<sup>st</sup> year doctoral students in Political Science who are currently registered at Sciences Po.
- Before beginning their residency at Columbia University, Sciences Po students must be admitted to the doctoral cycle of Sciences Po's Graduate School and meet all requirements that Sciences Po deems necessary for its degree except for the dissertation.
- Students should indicate in their letter of statement the name(s) of faculty member(s) they wish to work with. Should they need further information about potential faculty advisors, they are welcome to contact:

At Columbia: Gregory Wawro (email: [gjw10@columbia.edu](mailto:gjw10@columbia.edu))

At Sciences Po: Imola Strehö (email : [imola.strehö@sciencespo.fr](mailto:imola.strehö@sciencespo.fr))

- Sciences Po students must have a Sciences Po faculty sponsor, who will normally be expected to serve as the student's dissertation advisor. The faculty sponsor must have both research interests and English fluency appropriate for interacting with Columbia faculty.
- Students can specialize in any Political Science subfield that matches the research interests of Columbia faculty.



### **Admission to the dual degree program**

- Sciences Po students apply to the program in their first year of studies.
- For the 2020-2021 year, applications will be filed by **January, 13<sup>th</sup> 2020**. Results will be announced by February 2020. Students will enter Columbia University in the fall 2020.
- The committee at Sciences Po overseeing the program will rank applications and forward them to Columbia University, 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:
- No more than one student from each institution is expected to be accepted into this program each year.
- For entrance to Columbia, Sciences Po students must achieve a minimum TOEFL score of 250 (or 600 or 100, depending on the version of the test).
- 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 the full fellowships whether the fellowships are provided by Sciences Po and/or by external entities.
- Research travel grants provided by Sciences Po may be applied to the costs of relocating to Columbia, contingent on approval of the relevant authorities at each institution.

### **Housing**

- Students from Sciences Po will be given the same rights to Columbia housing as Columbia PhD students during their stay.

### **Status, Progress, and Curriculum**

- Students formally enter the Graduate School of Columbia 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.



- At Columbia, students will be required to submit annual progress reports, to both GSAS (Graduate School of Arts and Sciences) and to the department, which will be reviewed by the department's fellowship committee.
- During the two-year stay at Columbia, the student pursues a course of study and research. The student and the advisor at Columbia 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 Columbia. The courses taken at Columbia must complement and not duplicate courses taken at Sciences Po.
- 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.
- The Sciences Po student will enter the Columbia graduate program in the same status as regular second-year Columbia University PhD students. The Graduate School will grant up to four semesters of residency credit toward the fulfillment of the required amount of residency units and will waive the requirement for continuous residency. The 4 courses taken and passed at Columbia 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**

- Sciences Po students are required to pass the major (but not the minor) component of the comprehensive examination at Columbia.
- They are allowed to take the exams twice (in case they do not pass on the first attempt), at the standard times when the exams are administered (in August before their second year at Columbia and in January of their second year).
- Upon passage of the comprehensive exams and completion of coursework and teaching requirements (see below), Sciences Po students will be awarded the Columbia MPhil degree.

### **Dissertation Defense**

- In order to complete the thesis requirement for the PhD partnership, there will be a single dissertation defense that will take place at the home institution. Procedures for distribution and defense of the dissertation will meet those required at the home institution: the Sciences Po student defends at Sciences Po according to Sciences Po procedures.
- The composition of the defense committee follows the requirements of Sciences Po with the addition of the student's advisor at Columbia, who will attend the defense.



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