



# PERSPECTIVES

Application and Student Life Resources

# HARVARD GRIFFIN GSAS

At Harvard Griffin GSAS, we're proud of our diverse community that represents many races, ethnicities, belief systems, nationalities, abilities, socioeconomic statuses, genders, and sexual orientations. We strive to create an inclusive environment where all students can thrive and grow academically and personally.

## **Acknowledgment of Land and People**

Harvard University is located on the traditional and ancestral land of the Massachusett, the original inhabitants of what is now known as Boston and Cambridge. We pay respect to the people of the Massachusett Tribe, past and present, and honor the land itself, which remains sacred to the Massachusett People.

Visit [gsas.harvard.edu/diversity](https://gsas.harvard.edu/diversity) for more information about the graduate experience at Harvard



## A Message from the Dean

I am delighted that you are considering graduate study at the Harvard Kenneth C. Griffin Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Harvard Griffin GSAS). Harvard Griffin GSAS is a community where you can form and test your own ideas, expand your scholarly horizons, and deepen your knowledge while accessing world-renowned research centers, scholarly collections, and museums. Whether working with science and engineering faculty to discover or apply new principles or technology, or creating their own intellectual space in the humanities and social sciences, Harvard Griffin GSAS students are central to the intellectual mission of the University.

Student body diversity—including ethnic and racial diversity—is essential for Harvard Griffin GSAS and for Harvard to achieve their shared pedagogical and institutional objectives, preparing students to assume leadership roles in the increasingly pluralistic society into which they will graduate.

Our offices of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging, Academic Programs, and Student Affairs work closely with multiple student groups to provide academic and social support through activities designed to enhance social and professional development experiences. We also promote opportunities for mentorship and career preparation and, through The Advising Project, partner with faculty, students, and staff to support effective advising relationships. In this brochure, you will read more about our degree programs, Harvard's commitment to diversity, and the application process. I welcome you to explore this remarkable institution as you consider the next step for your academic and professional life.

### **Emma Dench**

*Dean of the Harvard Kenneth C. Griffin Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
McLean Professor of Ancient and Modern History and of the Classics*

## A Commitment to Diversity

Harvard Griffin GSAS is a collaborative network across departments and other Harvard schools that provides a wide range of programs and resources. As a community of individuals from diverse backgrounds encompassing many abilities, belief systems, ethnicities, genders, races, sexual orientations, and other minority backgrounds, our mission is to foster the next generation of scholars and leaders who reflect this growing diversity of perspectives and life experiences represented in society today.

### Harvard Griffin GSAS at a Glance

- Degree candidates: **4,459** (4,510 PhD candidates; 345 master's candidates)
- Degree programs: **58**
- **50** percent of students are women
- **35** percent of students are international
- **15** percent of students are underrepresented minorities

## The Application Process

Admissions committees will weigh all your materials, not grades or test scores alone, paying special attention to your grades in your intended field of graduate study and/or closely related fields. Similarly, letters of recommendation from academicians in your field who can comment on your scholarly work will be given considerable weight. Equally important to the decision process is your statement of purpose. The statement of purpose—an intellectual discussion of your past work and the questions you wish to pursue—should reflect your qualifications, enthusiasm, and commitment to graduate study in your field of interest. You may also be asked to provide a writing sample or portfolio of your work.



# FINDING A HOME AT HARVARD

**LAVAUGHN HENRY, PHD '91**  
**ECONOMICS**

*Member of the Graduate School  
Alumni Association Council*

In the spring of 1984, as I walked across Harvard Yard for the very first time—a yard so often crossed by past and future presidents, captains of industry, and renowned artists—a recurring question crossed my mind: “Will I fit in here?”

I recall meeting the other members of my entering doctoral class in economics.

“Harvard,” “Yale,” “Stanford,” among many other well-known names, all seemed to recur as they introduced themselves. I was under no illusion that Rockhurst College, or the University of Missouri, places I had attended, would be among the ones they named. Although . . . guess what? The stories they told of how they got to Harvard, where they came from, and what they wanted to achieve did not seem for me to be that distant.

In class, when we formed study groups, or met for lunch or drinks, I came to understand that the presumed difference between myself and the other students, even the faculty whom I had come to know, was a presumption based on ignorance, not on fact. I started to ask myself another question: “Is it possible that I might belong here?”

Harvard University is a cornucopia of information, insight, and involvement. While on the Yard, I became president of the Graduate Student Council of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, a member of the Student Advisory Committee of the Institute of Politics at the Harvard Kennedy School, and an active participant in the Student Coalition against Apartheid in South Africa. These are just a few examples of the diversity of opportunities and opinion that the University offers to all, regardless of background, who pass through its gates. I ultimately came to ask myself one more question: “How much of a difference can I make while I am here, and after I leave Harvard?”

“How much of a difference can I make while I am here,  
and after I leave Harvard?”

—LAVAUGHN HENRY



## Crafting a Compelling Statement of Purpose

A statement of purpose is an opportunity for the admissions committee to hear directly from you why you are qualified for graduate study. Written as an essay, the statement should describe your research interests and the questions you are interested in pursuing, conveying this information in a scholarly manner. Some students find it best to present their research experiences as a series of intellectual turning points; others focus on a single culminating project—often the undergraduate thesis. These experiences can be used to show why you wish to continue exploring a certain theme or why you wish to take a new direction. In either case, the discussion should provide a vivid picture of your intellectual profile: how you formulate research topics, how you pursue them, and how you articulate any interesting findings. You should also discuss why you wish to study in a particular department or with a particular faculty member.

The statement of purpose is not an autobiography, nor should it be a recitation of your resume or transcript, though you can include brief personal information as it pertains to your scholarly goals. You want the faculty committee to know you on an academic and intellectual level and understand that you are prepared for the rigors of a competitive graduate program.

Writing a competitive statement of purpose is a lengthy process, so give yourself adequate time to write a tightly organized and polished piece of work.

This will require obtaining feedback from past or current mentors and others regarding content and structure. When you are done, ask someone to proofread your final draft for typographical and grammatical errors.

## Crafting an Impactful Personal Statement

The goal of the personal statement is to provide applicants with an opportunity to discuss experiences that have shaped their pursuit of graduate studies, providing further context to understand their overall academic and educational journey and trajectory.

The prompt is as follows: Please describe the personal experiences that led you to pursue graduate education, and how these experiences will contribute to the academic environment and/or community in your program or Harvard Griffin GSAS. These may include social and cultural experiences, leadership positions, community engagement, equity and inclusion efforts, other opportunities, or challenges.

Please note that there is no expectation to share detailed sensitive information and you should refrain from including anything that you would not feel at ease sharing. Please also note that the Personal Statement should complement rather than duplicate the content provided in the Statement of Purpose.



For more information about the Statement of Purpose and the Personal Statement, please visit the admissions website.



## About the GRE

The Graduate Record Examination general test scores must be no more than five years old, if required by your program. Educational Testing Service ([www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)) provides information about GRE registration, fee waivers, and free preparation assistance. Be sure to review Harvard Griffin GSAS's degree programs ([gsas.harvard.edu/programs-study](http://gsas.harvard.edu/programs-study)) for your department of interest to determine if the GRE General Test or subject test are required, recommended, or optional; if the subject test is recommended, only take the exam if you feel well prepared. No single factor determines admissions success at Harvard Griffin GSAS, and no minimum test score will ensure admission to the program of your choice. If you have questions about your score and want advice about retaking the test, consult with professors or other advisors who are familiar with the graduate admissions process. You can also contact the graduate department to which you are applying.

## Application at a Glance

- Application Fee
- GRE, if applicable
- Letters of Recommendation
- Statement of Purpose
- Transcripts
- Writing Sample (if applicable)
- Personal Statement (if applicable)



# PROGRAMS OFFERED IN 2024–2025

Harvard Griffin GSAS offers the master of arts (AM), master of science (SM), master of engineering (ME), and the doctor of philosophy (PhD) in 58 programs across multiple areas of study, including interfaculty programs that partner with Harvard’s world-renowned professional Schools.

Harvard Griffin GSAS enables PhD students to coordinate their studies for an additional advanced degree, including the MD/PhD, SM/MBA degrees in engineering and in life sciences, and the JD/PhD.

To participate, prospective students must apply to each School and be separately admitted.

Visit [gsas.harvard.edu/joint-degrees](https://gsas.harvard.edu/joint-degrees) for more information.

| PROGRAMS OF STUDY                            | FIELDS OF STUDY INCLUDE   | DEGREE(S) OFFERED |
|--|---|-------------------|
| <b>Natural Sciences</b>                      |   |                   |
| Astronomy                                    |   | PhD               |
| Biological Sciences in Public Health (HILS*) |   | PhD               |
| Biophysics (HILS*)                           |   | PhD               |
| Biostatistics                                | Bioinformatics; Biostatistics   | PhD               |
| Chemical Biology (HILS*)                     |   | PhD               |
| Chemistry and Chemical Biology (HILS*)       | Chemical Biology<br>Chemical Physics**<br>Inorganic<br>Organic<br>Physical<br>Theory<br><i>**Candidates will be admitted to the Committee on Chemical Physics</i>   | PhD               |
| Chemical Physics                             | All applicants to Chemical Physics must apply through Chemistry and Chemical Biology.   | PhD               |
| Division of Medical Sciences (HILS*)         | Students study in one of six programs: Biomedical Informatics; Biological and Biomedical Sciences; Immunology; Neuroscience; Speech and Hearing Bioscience Technology; Virology   | PhD               |
| Earth and Planetary Sciences                 |   | PhD               |
| Engineering and Applied Sciences             | Applied Mathematics (PhD); Applied Physics (PhD); Computer Science (PhD); Computational Science and Engineering (SM, ME); Data Science (SM) Engineering Sciences, Bioengineering (PhD); Engineering Sciences, Electrical Engineering (PhD); Engineering Sciences, Environmental Science and Engineering (PhD); Engineering Sciences, Materials Science and Mechanical Engineering (PhD) | PhD<br>SM, ME     |
| Mathematics                                  |   | PhD               |
| Molecular and Cellular Biology (HILS*)       | Molecules, Cells and Organisms  | PhD               |



|  |  |     |
|--|--|-----|
| Organismic and Evolutionary Biology (HILS*)          |  | PhD |
| Physics  | Experimental Astrophysics; Engineering and Physical Biology; Experimental Physics; Theoretical Astrophysics; Theoretical Physics   | PhD |
| Population Health Sciences                           | Environmental Health; Epidemiology; Global Health and Population; Nutrition; Social and Behavioral Sciences  | PhD |
| Quantum Science and Engineering                      | Applied Physics; Computer Science; Electrical Engineering; Experimental Physics; Physical Chemistry; Materials Science and Engineering; Theoretical Chemistry; Theoretical Physics | PhD |
| Statistics   |  | PhD |
| Systems, Synthetic, and Quantitative Biology (HILS*) |  | PhD |

*\* Part of the Harvard Integrated Life Sciences*

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### **Social Sciences**

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|                         |  |         |
|-------------------------|--|---------|
| American Studies        |  | PhD     |
| Anthropology            | Archaeology (PhD only); Medical Anthropology (AM only); Social Anthropology (PhD only)   | PhD; AM |
| Business Administration | Accounting and Management; Marketing; Strategy; Technology and Operations Management   | PhD     |
| Business Economics      | Behavioral Economics; Development; Econometrics, Economics of Organizations; Economic Theory; Entrepreneurship; Finance; Industrial Organization; International Economics; Labor Economics; Macroeconomics   | PhD     |
| Economics               |  | PhD     |
| Education               | Culture, Institutions, and Society; Education Policy and Program Evaluation; Human Development, Learning, and Teaching   | PhD     |
| Government              | American Government; Comparative Politics; International Relations; Political Thought and Its History; Quantitative Methods/Formal Theory  | PhD     |
| Health Policy           | Decision Sciences; Economics; Management; Methods for Policy Research; Political Analysis  | PhD     |
| History                 | African History; Ancient History; Byzantine History; Early Modern European History; East Asian History; Environmental History; International and Global History; Latin American History; Medieval History; Middle Eastern History; Modern European History; Russian and Eastern European History; South Asian History; United States History | PhD     |
| History of Science      | Ancient/Medieval; Early Modern; Human/Behavioral Sciences; Life Sciences; Medicine; Physical Sciences  | PhD; AM |

# PROGRAMS OFFERED IN 2024–2025

| PROGRAMS OF STUDY   | FIELDS OF STUDY INCLUDE  | DEGREE(S) OFFERED |
|---|--|-------------------|
| Human Evolutionary Biology                                |  | PhD               |
| Middle Eastern Studies                                    | Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies (PhD); History of Art and Architecture and Middle Eastern Studies (PhD); History and Middle Eastern Studies (PhD); Regional Studies: Middle East (AM)  | PhD; AM           |
| Organizational Behavior                                   | Micro-organizational Track; Sociology Track  | PhD               |
| Psychology  | Cognition, Brain, and Behavior; Developmental; Experimental Psychopathy and Clinical; Social Psychology  | PhD               |
| Public Policy   | Economics, Judgment and Decision Making; Politics and Institutions; Science and Technology Policy.   | PhD               |
| Regional Studies–East Asia                                | China, Japan, Korea, Multi-Country   | AM                |
| Regional Studies–Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia |  | AM                |
| Social Policy   | Social Policy and Government; Social Policy and Sociology  | PhD               |
| Sociology   |  | PhD               |
| <b>Humanities</b>   |  |                   |
| African and African American Studies                      | Anthropology; Comparative Literature; Economics; English; Government; History; History of Art and Architecture; Linguistics; Music; Philosophy; Psychology; Religion; Romance Languages and Literatures; Sociology   | PhD               |
| Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Planning  |  | PhD               |
| Celtic Languages and Literatures                          |  | PhD; AM           |
| Classics  | Ancient History; Byzantine Greek; Classical Archaeology; Classical Philology; Classical Philosophy; Medieval Latin; Modern Greek   | PhD               |
| Comparative Literature                                    |  | PhD               |
| East Asian Languages and Civilizations                    | Chinese History; Chinese Literature; East Asian Arts/Film/Cultural Studies; History and East Asian Languages; Inner Asian; Japanese History; Japanese Literature; Korean History; Korean Literature; Religion/Philosophy; Tibetan  | PhD               |
| English   | 18th Century/Enlightenment; 19th Century British/Romantics/Victorian; 20th Century British; 20th Century American; Criticism and Theory; African American Literature; Drama; Early American (to 1900); Medieval; Poetry; Renaissance/Early Modern; The English Language; Transnational Anglophone/Postcolonial | PhD               |

|   |  |         |
|---|--|---------|
| Film and Visual Studies                 |  | PhD     |
| Germanic Languages and Literatures      | German Literature; Other Germanic  | PhD     |
| History of Art and Architecture         | 17th Century; Architecture (19th and 20th Century); Architecture (Renaissance); Africa (historic, diaspora, contemporary); African American; American; Ancient; Chinese; Contemporary; Early Christian and Byzantine; Islamic; Japanese; Latin American; Medieval; Modern (18th and 19th Century); Modern (20th Century); Northern Baroque; Northern Renaissance; Photography; South Asian and Indian; Southern Baroque; Southern Renaissance  | PhD     |
| Inner Asian and Altaic Studies          |  | PhD     |
| Linguistics                             | Historical Linguistics; Linguistic Theory  | PhD     |
| Music                                   | Composition (PhD only); Creative Practice and Critical Inquiry (PhD only); Ethnomusicology (PhD only); Music Theory (PhD only); Musicology (PhD only); Performance Practice (AM only)  | PhD; AM |
| Near Eastern Language and Civilizations | History and Cultures of Muslim Societies   | PhD; AM |
| Philosophy                              | Philosophy; Classical Philosophy; Indian Philosophy  | PhD     |
| Religion                                | <b>I. Traditions:</b> Buddhist Studies; Christianity; Comparative Studies; Hebrew Bible; Hindu Studies; Islamic Studies; Jewish Studies; New Testament and Early Christianity<br><br><b>Geographical Complexes:</b> African Religions; East Asian Religions; Europe (Medieval and Modern); Latin American and Caribbean Religions; North American Religions; Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean; South Asian Religions<br><br><b>II. Methodologies or Approaches:</b> Archaeology; Critical Theory; Ethics; Gender and Sexuality Studies; History; Literary Studies and the Arts | PhD     |
| Romance Languages and Literatures       | French; Italian; Portuguese; Spanish   | PhD     |
| Slavic Languages and Literatures        | Linguistics; Literature  | PhD     |
| South Asian Studies                     |  | PhD; AM |

The fields of study noted do not necessarily reflect all areas of study available in a given program.

## Letters of Recommendation

As part of the application, you will need to provide the names and email addresses of three individuals who will write letters of recommendation in your behalf. These letters should provide an informative and well-documented evaluation of your potential for graduate study in your field of interest, focusing on your academic qualifications, research accomplishments, and potential as a scholar, and furnishing detailed information that grades alone cannot reveal.

At least two months prior to the application deadline, contact three individuals who know your work best and who have been most positive about and supportive of your work. These should be professors in your field or closely related fields who can discuss your critical-thinking skills and ability to conduct original research. For those in the workforce, recommendations may come from managers or others who can comment on your academic potential for graduate work. Whenever possible, make your request for a recommendation in person, by appointment, or during office hours. Bring along any materials that could help a recommender produce a well-documented evaluation of your qualifications: a resume or curriculum vitae, a paper or an exam that you wrote for a course, a transcript of your grades, and, if you are at the application stage, a copy of your statement of purpose. You should also be prepared to explain your career goals and why you want to do graduate work. Be sure to confirm that the recommender has no reservations about writing a letter for you. If you are also applying for national fellowships, request those letters at the same time, keeping in mind that fellowship deadlines may be earlier than admissions deadlines.

Be sure to send your recommenders a thank-you note to let them know the outcome.

If you have recently graduated from college and are not yet ready to apply to graduate school, be sure to stay in touch with former course professors and research mentors who are supportive of your work. Keep them informed of your activities in the field and your interest in doing graduate study at some point. When the time comes to apply, choose those professors who have shown the strongest interest and most sustained support for your future goals as a graduate student.

### Waiving Your Right to See the Letters

During the application process, you will be asked whether or not you waive your right to see the letters of recommendation.

In academia, many feel that confidential letters have greater credibility than non-confidential letters.

If you are not comfortable waiving your right, you may wish to consider asking another individual to provide a letter. Visit

**[gsas.harvard.edu/apply/applying-degree-programs/completing-your-application/letters-recommendation/right-inspect](https://gsas.harvard.edu/apply/applying-degree-programs/completing-your-application/letters-recommendation/right-inspect)** to learn more.



# The Application Timeline

## Summer/Early Fall

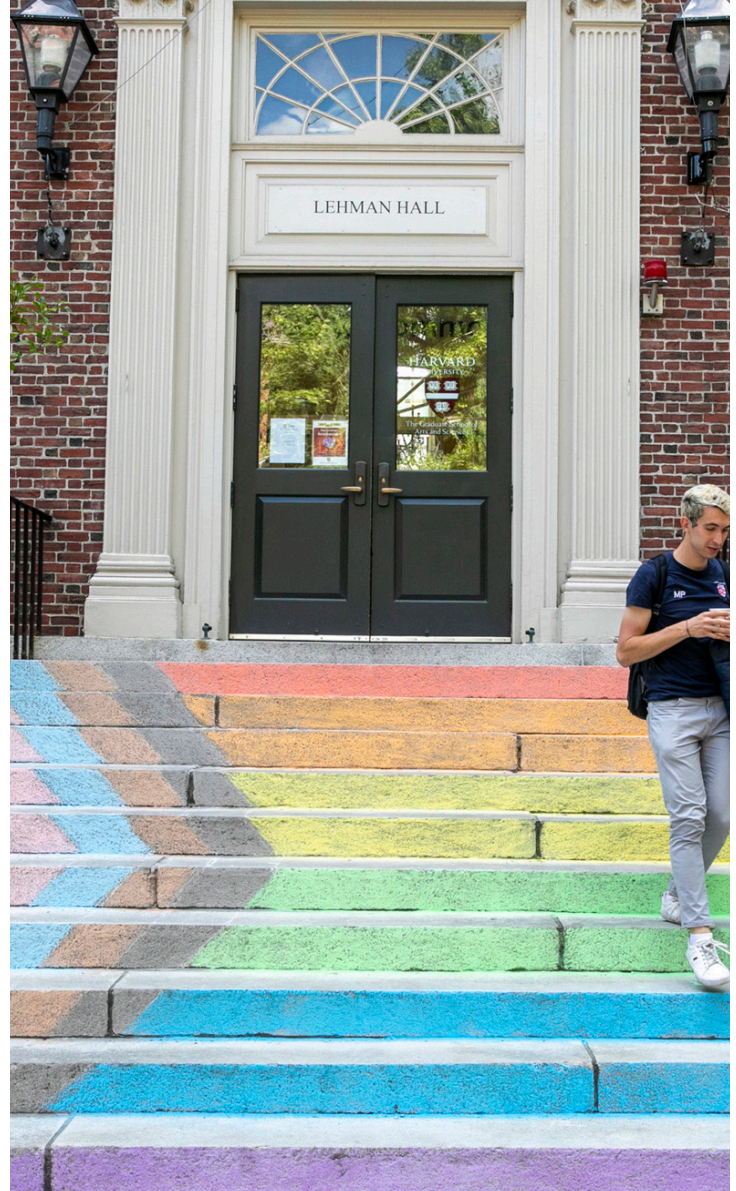
- Gather application materials and review application requirements.
- Visit or contact Harvard Griffin GSAS with questions.
- Take the GRE general test and the subject test, if required.
- Begin drafting statement of purpose.
- If you haven't already done so, identify and ask individuals if they are willing to write strong letters of recommendation.
- Request official transcripts.
- Consider applying for national fellowships, as they require the same set of materials as the Harvard Griffin GSAS application.

## Late Fall/Winter

- Submit application materials. Admissions deadlines are in December and January. Be sure to check the Harvard Griffin GSAS website for the department's deadline.
- If your program of interest interviews applicants (either in person or virtually), prepare by arranging mock interviews.

## Spring

- Look for a decision letter in late February or March.
- Visit the campus. You will be invited to visit the campus as a guest of Harvard Griffin GSAS for several days of informational and social meetings with faculty, administrators, and current students. This visit provides a more extensive picture of the Harvard experience and will help you make an informed decision about whether to accept the offer of admission.
- Reply to the offer of admission by April 15.



## Harvard Griffin GSAS Application Fee Waiver

The application fee is \$105. Harvard Griffin GSAS is committed to ensuring that our application fee does not create a financial obstacle for prospective applicants, and waivers are available to those for whom payment of the fee would be financially challenging.

The Application Fee section of the application provides instructions.

## To Apply

Visit [gsas.harvard.edu/apply](https://gsas.harvard.edu/apply) to apply online and to learn more about programs of study.

## Other Opportunities for Study

### VISITING STUDENTS PROGRAM

The Visiting Students Program enables participants to pursue graduate-level study without entering a degree program.

For information, visit [gsas.harvard.edu/apply/](https://gsas.harvard.edu/apply/visiting-students-program)

[visiting-students-program](https://gsas.harvard.edu/apply/visiting-students-program) or contact the Visiting Students Program Office at [gsasvisitingstudent@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:gsasvisitingstudent@fas.harvard.edu).

### OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Participating in research can help you decide whether a PhD is right for you and, if you do apply, makes you a stronger applicant. If you are looking for a short-term research experience, consider a paid summer internship organized by Harvard Griffin GSAS, Harvard departments, and Harvard-affiliated teaching hospitals. The School also offers a post-baccalaureate program, the Research Scholar Initiative, which enables college graduates to take part in a long-term research experience.



Learn more at  
[gsas.harvard.edu/programs/  
recruitment-and-outreach](https://gsas.harvard.edu/programs/recruitment-and-outreach)

## Financing a Graduate Education

Harvard Griffin GSAS offers a comprehensive program of financial support, including grants and fellowships from internal and external sources, traineeships, teaching fellowships, research assistantships, other academic employment opportunities, and several types of loans. All PhD candidates receive at least five years of full financial support, with students in the humanities and social sciences receiving a dissertation completion fellowship in their final year. Students in the sciences typically receive funding until they complete their degree.

## Academics and Professional Development

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is committed to helping you develop and sustain a productive and supportive relationship with your advisors and mentors. Although the advising structure and role may vary by program, all entering graduate students will have one or several advisors to assist them in navigating their academic path. Harvard faculty are uniquely invested in the success of their graduate students, and Harvard Griffin GSAS places great emphasis on making the advising role as meaningful as possible. It is important to take advantage of the resources your faculty advisor can offer.

No one individual, however, can meet all of your needs, so be proactive about seeking out other mentors, both within and outside of your field, for academic and professional support. Be sure to take full advantage of Harvard resources, including the Fellowships & Writing Center, the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, the Mignone Center for Career Success, as well as student groups such as, Harvard Griffin GSAS Women in Science and Engineering Group.

# AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

## MINORITY BIOMEDICAL SCIENTISTS ASSOCIATION OF HARVARD GRIFFIN GSAS

“When I came to Harvard, I searched for people who have stories similar to mine,” says **Salvador Brito**. The PhD candidate in neuroscience found them through the Minority Biomedical Scientists Association of Harvard Griffin GSAS (MBSA), a graduate student group that aims to improve the experience of GSAS scientists from underrepresented backgrounds.

MBSA organizes events for professional development, and one such event, which Brito helped organize last term, is the annual Jocelyn Spragg Lecture and Career Paths Panel. The panel focuses on career paths beyond graduate school, and usually features a keynote speaker from an underrepresented background. “We hear about how they became faculty and learn from their successes and failures,” he says. Other MBSA events address issues such as fellowship opportunities, imposter syndrome, and mental health.

MBSA also creates opportunities to build community through social events. A particular favorite last term was the Karaoke Wind Down, coordinated with the W.E.B. Du Bois Graduate Society of Harvard Griffin GSAS. “It’s a very inclusive, family-like environment,” Brito says.

When **Ayana Henderson** first sat in on a MBSA board meeting, she was pleasantly surprised to see a group of underrepresented minorities in one room. “We support people of all backgrounds, scientifically and culturally,” she says.

For Henderson, a PhD candidate in biological and biomedical sciences, MBSA is a place where minority students can be comfortable sharing their struggles. “It gives rise to authentic relationships. Because of our shared experiences, whenever I meet new people through MBSA, it feels like I’ve already known them for a long time.”



“MBSA is a place where minority students can be  
comfortable sharing their struggles”

—AYANA HENDERSON (RIGHT)



## The Student Center at Harvard Griffin GSAS

The Student Center, prominently situated in Harvard Yard, is the center of Harvard Griffin GSAS student life, offering intellectual, social, and recreational opportunities to students across the disciplines. Center activities are planned by and for students, and they include dinners with faculty, film series, trips to beaches and ski areas, outings to museums and restaurants, community service opportunities, and musical performances. Students can drop in at any time for a meal, a cup of coffee, or a quiet place to read.

Harvard Griffin GSAS also sponsors graduate student groups ranging from religious and environmental groups to those affiliated with an ethnic group or academic discipline.

Visit [gsas.harvard.edu/student-center](https://gsas.harvard.edu/student-center) for information.

## W.E.B. Du Bois Graduate Society of Harvard Griffin GSAS

W.E.B. Du Bois Graduate Society of Harvard Griffin GSAS sponsors numerous activities and meets with Harvard Griffin GSAS administrators to address issues of concern to Harvard's Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community. Named for the first African American to receive the PhD at Harvard, the Du Bois Society is a multicultural student group that plans potluck dinners, student research forums, faculty-student lunches, and a student-run conference.

Visit [engage.gsas.harvard.edu/organization/dubois](https://engage.gsas.harvard.edu/organization/dubois) for information.

## Harvard Griffin GSAS Women in Science and Engineering Group

Harvard Griffin GSAS Women in Science and Engineering Group (HGWISE) is dedicated to the personal, academic, and professional development of women in natural sciences, social sciences, and engineering. HGWISE aims to enhance the graduate experience for women in science and engineering at Harvard by providing opportunities for networking, professional development, and mentoring, as well as developing a meaningful community for women scientists.

Visit [engage.gsas.harvard.edu/organization/gwise](https://engage.gsas.harvard.edu/organization/gwise) for information.

## Diversity and Inclusion Fellows

The Diversity and Inclusion Fellows are current graduate students who support the efforts of the GSAS Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging, help Harvard Griffin GSAS identify needed areas of support, and work with student groups across the School in this paid position.

Meet the fellows at [gsas.harvard.edu/diversity/diversity-inclusion-fellows](https://gsas.harvard.edu/diversity/diversity-inclusion-fellows)



# HELPING STUDENTS FEEL VALUED AND SEEN

## THE W. E. B. DU BOIS GRADUATE SOCIETY OF HARVARD GRIFFIN GSAS

“When everyone stays in their own professional circles, it’s hard to feel that the graduate experience is worth anything apart from work,” says **Jovonna Jones**, a PhD candidate in African and African American studies. For her, the W.E.B. Du Bois Graduate Society of Harvard Griffin GSAS provides the opportunity to connect with other students across departments in a meaningful way.

The Du Bois Society serves all students of color. A mainstay event is the Harvard Hacks series, which addresses professional concerns such as writing fellowship applications. The Society also organized a forum called We the People of Color that discussed cross-disciplinary approaches to scholarship and advocacy, and the Boston Area Doctoral Students of Color Reception. “Consistency makes the Society unique,” says Jones. “Minority students feel valued when they see that these events occur regularly.”

The Steering Committee of the Du Bois Society also has monthly meetings with the GSAS Dean for Academic Programs and Diversity, where they discuss issues affecting minority students. “We’re always asking ourselves: How can we connect people? How can we help them feel valued?”

**Jeraul Mackey**, a PhD candidate in education, describes the monthly Wind Downs as the heartbeat of the Society. “The events refresh and re-energize me. I know I’ll see people who not only look like me, but likely struggle with the same issues.”

Outside of graduate work, Mackey pursues stand-up comedy. He recounts an occasion where he didn’t tell anyone he was performing, but his friends from the Du Bois Society found out and bought tickets anyway. “Even when you’re absent, you feel seen,” he says. “We support each other even outside graduate student life.”

“Even when you’re absent, you feel seen.”

—JERAUL MACKEY (LEFT)



## Minority Biomedical Scientists Association of Harvard Griffin GSAS

The Minority Biomedical Scientists Association of Harvard Griffin GSAS (MBSA) is a graduate student group dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion in the life sciences community at Harvard. MBSA provides a welcoming and enriching environment to a diverse population of graduate students, research assistants, and undergraduates interested in a career in science. MBSA aims to improve the experience of underrepresented graduate students in the sciences by organizing community-building and career development events throughout the academic year. The group promotes these objectives through various interactions with senior faculty as well as non-academic scientists and administrators who can provide counsel and guidance to help students of color thrive in their doctoral studies.

Visit [engage.gsas.harvard.edu/organization/mbsh](https://engage.gsas.harvard.edu/organization/mbsh) for information.

## Harvard University Native American Program

The Harvard University Native American Program (HUNAP) is committed to advancing the well-being of indigenous peoples through self-determination, academic achievement, and community service. In addition to public forums, lectures by tribal leaders, and an annual powwow, HUNAP offers the 1665 Fellowship (commemorating the graduation in 1665 of Harvard's first American Indian graduate) to assist advanced PhD students whose work will specifically benefit Native people.

Visit [hunap.harvard.edu](https://hunap.harvard.edu) for information.

## LGBTQ@GSAS, a Harvard Griffin GSAS Student Group

LGBTQ@GSAS helps to provide a community for students who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender+, queer, intersex, asexual, who are questioning, or fall anywhere else on the LGBTQIA+ spectrum, as well as those who are queer allies. Each year, the group hosts dozens of events, including happy hours, mixers, end-of-year celebrations, study breaks, movie nights, and outings in the greater Boston area. LGBTQ@GSAS provides professional and academic support to its members, while remaining outspoken in advocacy for all LGBTQIA+ graduate students. The group is dedicated to expressing solidarity with other student associations that promote diversity and inclusivity, both at Harvard and beyond.

Visit [engage.gsas.harvard.edu/organization/lgbtq](https://engage.gsas.harvard.edu/organization/lgbtq) for information.

## Other Harvard Student Groups

Graduate Society of Underrepresented Students in STEM, a Harvard Griffin GSAS Student Group  
[engage.gsas.harvard.edu/organization/gsuuss](https://engage.gsas.harvard.edu/organization/gsuuss)

Underrepresented Scholars in Neuroscience, a Harvard Griffin GSAS Student Group  
[engage.gsas.harvard.edu/organization/USN](https://engage.gsas.harvard.edu/organization/USN)

Harvard Griffin GSAS Latinx Student Association  
[engage.gsas.harvard.edu/organization/latinxstudentassociation](https://engage.gsas.harvard.edu/organization/latinxstudentassociation)

## Other Resources

For students whose intellectual interests involve issues of race and ethnicity, Harvard offers a wide range of relevant research groups and programs, including the Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy, and the Center for the Study of World Religions. We also support students with families through resources, such as the Harvard GSAS Student-Parents Organization, and access to childcare, education, and more.

# Applying to Harvard Griffin GSAS

## Commonly Asked Questions

### How should I start?

Review the programs of study ([gsas.harvard.edu/programs](https://gsas.harvard.edu/programs)) to learn more about the department you are interested in. If you have questions afterward, contact the program administrator.

### Do I need to visit campus prior to applying?

Visiting campus is not required before you apply. However, if you choose to visit, be sure to connect with the program administrator who can help you determine the best time to visit and suggest the best way to make an appointment with the faculty members you are interested in studying with.

### Can I speak with a current GSAS student?

Yes, we are happy to connect you with current students. Email Stacy Clemons, program coordinator, at [minrec@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:minrec@fas.harvard.edu).

### Should I contact faculty in my program of interest?

For some programs, connecting with faculty in advance of applying is critical; for others, such contact is unnecessary. Program administrators can help you decide if contacting faculty would be appropriate.

### If I do plan to contact a faculty member, how should I prepare?

Before reaching out to a faculty member, be sure to do your homework. Visit their Harvard webpage, review their research, and be prepared to discuss your own interests and the connection you see between your work and their field of interest. If you reach out to the faculty member by email, remember that this is a formal communication and it is best to make a good first impression. Be sure to address them as Professor and clearly communicate why you are contacting them, including why you are interested in working with them. Accuracy is key: Ask someone to proofread your email before you send it. After you connect, don't forget to follow up with a formal thank-you note.

### How are admissions decisions made?

Admissions decisions are made by a faculty committee based in the department you hope to join, weighing all your materials, not only grades or test scores.



# PERSPECTIVES

Application and Student Life Resources



**Sheila Thomas**  
PhD, Dean for Equity,  
Diversity, Inclusion &  
Belonging and Special  
Projects Advisor



**Gisselle A. Vélez-Ruiz**  
PhD, Director of Equity,  
Diversity, Inclusion, and  
Belonging



**Clarisse Wells**  
PhD, Associate Director  
of Equity, Diversity,  
Inclusion & Belonging



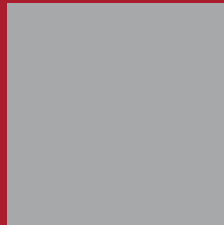
**Alicja Majer**  
Associate Director of  
Equity, Diversity,  
Inclusion & Belonging



**Xavier du Maine**  
PhD, Assistant Director  
of Equity, Diversity,  
Inclusion & Belonging,  
Harvard Integrated Life  
Sciences



**Stacy Clemons**  
Program Coordinator,  
Equity, Diversity,  
Inclusion & Belonging



**Sarah Feldman**  
Staff Assistant, Equity,  
Diversity, Inclusion &  
Belonging

## For More Information:

The Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging is available to answer any questions about outreach programs, the application process, student life, and diversity and inclusion efforts.

### CONTACT

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**Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging**  
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Diversity & Inclusion Fellows | diversityfellows@fas.harvard.edu

**Office of Admissions and Financial Aid**  
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GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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