The PhD program in Urban Education Policy welcomes applicants whose policy interests are aligned with the USC Rossier School's mission to improve learning in urban education locally, nationally, and globally and who plan to pursue careers as research scholars. Students in the program benefit from close interaction with a distinguished faculty, a collaborative research community and a positive student culture. The four-year, full-time program is offered on a semester calendar, beginning in August. Courses are taught at USC’s University Park Campus.

The program features multi-disciplinary coursework that allows students to explore educational topics in depth while gaining exposure to diverse research methodologies. Students focus their work in the following concentration areas:

- K-12 Education Policy
- Educational Psychology
- Higher Education
- Teacher Education

**GRADUATE ASSISTANCE AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

All students receive a four-year financial assistance package that includes a graduate teaching and research assistantship requiring a work commitment of approximately 20 hours per week.

**Financial support includes:**
- $21,000-25,000 stipend per academic year (August-June)
- Approximately $6,900 in additional summer funding
- Up to 12 units of tuition coverage per semester for all required coursework
- Health and dental benefits package
- Annual scholarly advancement fund for participation in academic conferences, research and professional development opportunities
DISTINCTIVE BENEFITS

Mentorship – Students prepare to become faculty members in an apprentice relationship with their faculty mentors, promoting the development of teaching, research, writing, presentation and grant writing skills.

Individualized Program of Study – Students work closely with faculty mentors to select courses that reflect their research interests, with an interdisciplinary perspective that incorporates diverse research methodologies. Students can complete the program, including dissertation, in four years.

Diverse Student Body – Students come from a variety of backgrounds, making the program one of the most diverse in the country. Their experiences vary educationally, culturally, and professionally. Many students have previous experience as classroom teachers, student affairs professionals, graduate students, researchers, and education leaders.

Conference Participation & Workshop Training – Students receive financial assistance to present their research at national and international conferences. This assistance may also be used to fund travel to relevant workshops and training seminars across the country that will strengthen the skills needed to be competitive academics upon graduation.

Post Graduation Placement – Under the guidance of their adviser and with support from Rossier Career Services, recent graduates have accepted tenure-track positions, post-doctoral fellowships, and research and policy positions.

ADMISSION

Admission to the Rossier PhD program is competitive and selective. The Admissions Committee seeks students whose academic background and breadth of experience demonstrate promise for success as an education policy scholar.

The ideal candidate combines well-developed written and verbal communication skills with strong quantitative proficiency. Preference is given to applicants who have some background in education, hold a master’s degree and demonstrate research interests that are compatible with the USC Rossier School’s focus on urban education.

In order to be considered for admission, complete applications must be received by December 1 of each year.

“...The greatest aspect of my time at USC Rossier has been the opportunity to meaningfully interact with, learn from, collaborate with, and be mentored by premier faculty and policy leaders. My adviser is a prime example of this; he has been integral in my development as a scholar and I use what he has taught me both explicitly and implicitly about teaching, research, service, mentorship, networking, and high expectations and accountability for myself and others as the paradigm for my work in higher education.”

Raquel Rall
PhD Candidate

LEARN MORE
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