Application Deadline:

ALL MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY: December 1, 2015 (11:59 p.m. PST)

Official Transcripts: Send Now

- Send directly to the USC Rossier PhD Program - DO NOT SEND TO USC GRADUATE ADMISSIONS
  
  Electronically: rsoephd@rossier.usc.edu
  OR
  Mail: USC Rossier PhD Program
       3470 Trousdale Parkway, WPH 503
       Los Angeles, CA 90089-4035

GRE Scores: Send Now

- Institution Code: 4852 (no department code)
- Email screenshot to: rsoephd@rossier.usc.edu

Submit Online Application: Late August through December 1

- www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/apply/ (Use Firefox or Chrome browsers)

The online application is available from late August through December 1.

- Biographical Information
- Contact Information
- Application Information (If requesting a fee waiver, USC Graduate Admissions will contact you for supporting documentation once you submit your application.)
- Financial Aid
- Academic Background
- Test Information
- Employment information / Resumé: Upload your CV or resumé
- Language Background
- Additional Questions
- Supporting Documents: DO NOT upload copies of transcripts or any other documents.

Statement of Purpose

Your Statement of Purpose should be no longer than 2 single spaced pages. Your statement should address the following three areas:

1. Your interest in the Ph.D. program and how you believe the program will help you to reach your short- and long-term professional goals.
2. In considering your personal, educational and employment background, in what ways do you hope or expect to contribute to the academic and professional community at USC Rossier? Additionally, you may include your personal history and its impact on your prior academic and professional development.
3. Education policy research lies at the heart of the Rossier PhD program. Please describe your research interests and explain how they align with Rossier’s urban mission and identity. In addition, please identify 3-5 Rossier faculty who have similar interests.

- Supplemental Forms: N/A
- Three (3) Recommendations
TRANSCRIPTS

The instructions on the USC Rossier PhD checklist differ from those on the USC Graduate Admissions website. Which instructions should I follow?

Follow the instructions listed above on the USC Rossier PhD checklist.

Which transcripts do I need to send?

USC requires an official transcript from every post-secondary institution attended, even if a degree was not earned. That includes all community college transcripts even if the coursework appears on another institution’s transcript. We cannot accept the transcript if it is opened or stamped “student copy.” Transcripts must come directly from your prior institutions.

Where do I send transcripts?

Only send transcripts to the USC Rossier PhD program. Please note that the USC Grad Admissions website says to send transcripts to their department, but please disregard and send or email your transcripts directly to the USC Rossier PhD program.

- Electronically: rsoephd@rossier.usc.edu
- OR
- Mail: USC Rossier PhD Program
  3470 Trousdale Parkway, WPH 503
  Los Angeles, CA 90089-4035

Do I need to upload my transcripts to the online application website?

No, you do not need to upload a copy of your transcripts to the online application.

When do I send transcripts?

Now! Applicants do not need to wait until they have submitted their online application.

GRE

Do I need to take the GRE?

Yes.

What is the minimum score required?

USC does not have a minimum score requirement. However, the USC Rossier School of Education PhD program looks for competitive scores- 62nd percentile (score of 153) or higher for verbal reasoning, and 26th percentile (score of 144) or higher for quantitative reasoning.

I took the GRE in 2008, can I use those scores?

No, scores must be from the past 5 years

When is the latest I can take the GRE?

You should take the GRE by the end of November.

Where do I send the results?

Send them to USC, institution code 4852. There is no department code.

Also send a screenshot to rsoephd@rossier.usc.edu
INTERNATIONAL TRANSCRIPTS AND TEST SCORES

My transcripts are not in English. What should I do?

- Send the original-language transcript as well as a word-for-word translation.
- Do not send a credential evaluation report from an outside agency.
- [http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/application.html](http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/application.html)

Does USC require the TOEFL or IELTS?

- Yes, for most international applicants. Please review the guidelines: [http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/englishproficiency.html](http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/englishproficiency.html)
- Scores must be sent directly to USC.
  - TOEFL: USC’s institution code is 4852
  - IELTS: select “University of Southern California” from the list of available institutions

FEE WAIVER

How do I apply for a fee waiver?

- In the Application Information section of the online application, Question 9 asks if you would like to apply for a fee waiver.
- If yes, select from the drop down menu. USC Graduate Admissions will contact you after you have submitted your online application.
- Fee waivers are granted to USC students, USC alumna, USC employees or dependents of USC employees, McNair Scholars, Vietnam Education Foundation Fellows, participants in the IRT program, persons who can demonstrate financial hardship with a letter from the financial aid institution of their previous school or unemployed persons with proof of unemployment from a state agency.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Whom should I ask for letters of recommendation?

Recommenders ideally should be able to speak to your ability to do research.

WRITING SAMPLE

Do you require a writing sample?

No, we do not require a writing sample. Your statement of purpose will serve as a sample of your writing.

FINANCIAL AID

Do I need to apply for financial aid?

All admitted students will receive a stipend of approximately $30,000 for the year as well as tuition (up to 12 units a semester), health insurance, dental insurance and access to the student health center.

For information on loans, please contact the financial aid office [http://www.usc.edu/admission/fa/](http://www.usc.edu/admission/fa/)
APPLICATION QUESTIONS

If I previously applied, do I need to submit the online application again?
Yes, you need to start a new online application. You can contact us to see if we have your test scores and transcripts on file so that we can add them to your new application.

When will I be notified with an admissions decision?
We will notify applicants during the first week of February.

Can I apply after the December 1 deadline?
Unfortunately not. Faculty review applications starting in December, so we need all application materials by the December 1 deadline.

If admitted, can I defer my admission?
No. If you decide not to enroll, you will need to apply again.

Do you accept transfer students?
If an applicant is enrolled in another program, the applicant must follow all of the same application steps. If admitted, the applicant and faculty advisor would determine if any prior coursework could be applied toward the USC Rossier PhD degree.

PROGRAM QUESTIONS

Is the program full-time?
Yes, the PhD program requires that students are on campus full-time. Students attend class on campus and work as research assistants for 20 hours a week on campus.

Are there different start dates?
The program starts in the fall semester of each year. The start date for cohort 2016 is August 22, 2016.

Do PhD students work as research assistants and take classes in the summer?
Yes, PhD students take classes and work in the summer. The program can be completed in 4 years and 4 summers.

Apply by December 1, 2015 for a Fall 2016 start.

Contact Laura Romero with questions:
rsopshd@rossier.usc.edu
or 213.740.4069