The Brooks School serves as Cornell’s intellectual hub for the empirical examination of public policy. The school’s faculty, with expertise on every region of the world, apply a multi-disciplinary and solution-oriented focus to a broad set of public policy issues. The Brooks School’s core areas of focus are: data science and technology policy; environmental and sustainability policy; global security; health policy; inequality and social policy; international development; and race, racism and public policy.

The Brooks School offers a multi-disciplinary PhD in Public Policy that offers training in:

- a social science discipline (economics, government, and sociology),
- empirical methods, and
- a policy area of focus

First year coursework is disciplinary; subsequent coursework and research is guided by student interest and faculty expertise.

PhD Program Fast Facts

- Median time-to-degree is 5 years
- Average enrollment is 5 students per cohort
- Students enroll with diverse research and academic experiences
- Funding is guaranteed for 5 years, which includes a stipend, tuition, and health insurance
- The Brooks PhD student organization sponsors social events, a peer research group, and a mentoring program for new students
- Policy PhD graduates go on to academic positions in policy schools and in departments of economics, sociology, and consumer sciences; others join government agencies, consulting firms, and non-governmental organizations

Learn more and apply today!

Visit us at publicpolicy.cornell.edu/studying-at-brooks/phd-program or email em75@cornell.edu
“... any person ... any study.”
- CORNELL FOUNDING PRINCIPLE

In the Brooks School of Public Policy, we welcome students from all backgrounds, including those from communities that have been excluded or marginalized in higher education. Our scholars study how public policy has produced societal inequalities, as well as how policy can be a tool to reduce inequality along many dimensions, including gender, race, and income. We are actively working to address systemic racism, reduce racial inequality, and increase our own diversity.

Our small cohort sizes create a close and supportive community of policy scholars.

Cornell’s Ithaca, NY campus

- Located on Cayuga Lake, Ithaca is home to many parks, waterfalls, and green spaces.

- Named one of the best college towns in the country, Ithaca is a small town with big appeal.

- Cornell’s campus offers a vibrant, welcoming, and diverse community. The Big Red Barn Graduate and Professional Student Center offers over 500 events each year.

- Cornell has a wealth of centers devoted to the social sciences that offer opportunities for collaboration and training. Brooks faculty and students are affiliates of the Cornell Population Center, the Center for the Study of Inequality, the Cornell Center for Health Equity, the Institute of Politics and Global Affairs, the Cornell Program in Infrastructure Policy and the Brooks School Tech Policy Institute.

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