

Advice to PhD Applicants to the Harvard Graduate School of Education

Thank you very much for your interest in HSGE for graduate work. Our students are the heart of our institution and building a thoughtful, respectful, and engaged learning community is the core of our work. I am delighted you are considering applying to the PhD in Education and encourage you to follow through with this interest.

I do not meet or correspond with prospective students during the admissions process. I receive too many requests during the admissions process than I can respond to in useful and substantive ways. I feel that it is important to dedicate my time to current students – and I assure you that if you become one of my students, I will make the time to support you completely.

That said, I know that the admissions process for doctoral studies can be daunting and opaque. I hope that this explanation of the process will help. At HGSE, individual faculty members do not select students at the outset of the admissions process. All applicants apply directly to the doctoral program.

When you apply to the Ph.D. in Education at Harvard, you will be asked on the application to indicate up to three faculty with whom you would like to work. It can also make sense to reference potential faculty advisors in your Statement of Purpose. Once applications are processed, they are sent to an admissions committee of faculty who, with feedback from applicants' potential advisors, make final admissions decisions.

You can read more about my work and interests on [my website](#) and [faculty page](#). Important is that I do not expect my students to “do what I do.” I most appreciate working with students who push my thinking and open me to new ideas. I encourage you to take a look at the breadth of work that my current doctoral students are doing on the Mowana Lab page of my website.

I hope this is helpful. Best of wishes in the application process and in finding the right fit for the next stages of your career.

Warmly,
Sarah