

Application for Doctoral Studies, Academic Year 2026-2027

PhD program in Government at The Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy, and Strategy at Reichman University

The PhD program in government equips students with the necessary analytical and methodological tools as well as academic writing skills to advance the theoretical and empirical understanding of the political world. The program focuses on the following areas: national and international security; diplomacy and conflict resolution; political psychology, behavior, strategy, and decision-making; and public policy.

Students in the program receive close guidance from their advisors in all stages of their research to ensure the successful completion of their studies.

During their studies, PhD students will have the opportunity to participate in conferences, seminars, and workshops organized by the Lauder School of Government and to engage with its various research institutes: The Institute for Policy and Strategy; the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism; The Abba Eban Institute for Diplomacy and Foreign Relations; and The Institute for Liberty and Responsibility.

Graduates of the program will be well-equipped to obtain academic positions as well as research positions in the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, and research institutes.

Registration Dates:

Registration for the academic year 2026-2027 begins on January 1st, 2026.
The registration deadline is March 31st, 2026.

Admission Requirements

Applicants with an excellent academic record, indicating strong research ability, may be admitted to the Ph.D. program in Government. Admission may be granted through one of the three tracks outlined below:

1. Applicants with a Master's degree in government, political science, or international relations with a Master's thesis:

Applicants who have completed a research-based Master's degree with an average grade of at least 85 and a grade of at least 88 for the Master's thesis are eligible to apply.

2. Applicants with a Master's degree in government, political science, or international relations who have written a significant research paper equivalent to a thesis:

Applicants who have completed a Master's degree with an average grade of at least 88 are eligible to apply, provided they have written a paper that demonstrates – both in quality and scope – a significant research contribution. If the paper was co-authored, the applicant's name must appear first.

3. Applicants with a Master's degree in another field (such as law, economics, or psychology):

Applicants who have completed a Master's degree with an average grade of no less than 85 and a thesis grade of at least 88 are eligible to apply. Upon acceptance to the program, these students will be required to complete supplementary coursework in government, to be completed with a minimum average grade of 88.

Required Documents:

Applicants for the PhD in Government must submit scanned documents online to the admissions department, along with the application form, including:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Original copies of academic degree certificates
- Transcripts, including final weighted GPA for the aforementioned degrees
- Recommendation letters from two referees, at least one from academia
- List of academic publications (if applicable)
- Master's thesis or an equivalent research paper

Candidates who have completed a Master's thesis must include it in their application materials and provide an original confirmation of the thesis grade.

Upon confirmation from the admissions department that the application meets threshold requirements, candidates will be required to submit a statement of intent of up to three pages, detailing their motivation for pursuing the PhD, future professional aspirations, areas of interest, and the intended topic for their dissertation. Additionally, candidates will need to obtain the consent of a senior faculty member at the Lauder School of Government, at the rank of senior lecturer or higher, to serve as their PhD advisor.

Registration Fees:

An application fee of 320 ₪ is required upon submission of the application. Registration fees cover a portion of the processing costs and are non-refundable under any circumstances, even in the event of cancellation of registration by the applicant.

PhD students are exempt from tuition (excluding supplementary studies).

For further details and registration for the doctoral program, contact phd@runi.ac.il

Dean of the Lauder School of Government: Prof. Liza Ireni- Saban

Head of the PhD Program in Government: Prof. Alex Mintz

PhD Program Advisor in Government: Prof. Asif Efrat