



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND WRITING SAMPLE GUIDELINES
Graduate Programs
Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology (CASA)
Stanford University

I. Statement of Purpose

The Statement of Purpose is the single most important part of your application. While information on your past work is important, it is most relevant in explaining how it led you to focus on the problems that currently interest you. The admissions committees are primarily concerned with learning about your current and future research interests.

Generally, a shorter Statement of Purpose that is clearly written is better than a longer one. A Statement longer than one to three pages of normal type and normal margins is considered less favorable than the recommended shorter statement.

II. Writing Sample

In addition to the University's application requirements, the Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology requires a writing sample from all applicants to the A.M. and Ph.D. Programs.

Specifically, the Admissions Committee will be looking for a Senior Paper, Honors or Master's Thesis, published paper, or comparable written work giving evidence of both writing ability and the capacity for research, analysis, and original thought at the graduate level, and demonstrating the ability to use theory in relation to evidence. Papers originally written in a language other than English must be submitted in English translation. **Other things equal, a short, effectively written sample is preferable to a longer sample.** If you decide to submit a longer sample, please indicate which 10-12 pages should be reviewed by the admissions committee.

If you have further questions regarding this requirement, please contact the Student Program Coordinator, via email at shelly.coughlan@stanford.edu, or via telephone/voice mail at 650 723 4641.

Please sign the certification below and **attach this sheet to your writing sample.**

In keeping with the spirit of Stanford University's student honor code, I certify that the attached represents my own work, excepting normal input from advisors and named co-authors or sources.

Signature

Date

Print Name