

Master's Degree in Strategic Public Relations and USC Language Academy

Welcome international students! Public Relations is increasingly a global profession and the student body at USC Annenberg reflects that globalization. Our faculty is absolutely committed to providing you with the expertise and skills needed to succeed professionally, whether in your home country or working for a multinational organization based in the United States or abroad. Our goal is nothing short of training the future leaders who will advance the public relations profession in every corner of the world. We hope that you will be among them.

If you are not a United States national, and you will be entering, or have already entered, the United States with an F-1 or J-1 student visa, you are considered an international student. Students who already reside in the United States and hold other non-immigrant visas (E2, H2, or L2, for example) are also considered international students.

You may rest assured that our extensive experience working with international students has given us the expertise needed to help you succeed at USC Annenberg (if you are offered admission and choose to enroll).

There is no doubt that you will benefit the most from our rigorous program (in which the demands for English language competencies are very high), avoid struggles in the classroom, enjoy living and learning in the United States, and maximize professional marketability, if you have achieved a high degree of competency in written and spoken English.

In partnership with the prestigious USC Language Academy, the Strategic Public Relations faculty have developed a highly flexible, student-focused program that delivers English language skills at a reasonable cost and in a reasonable timeframe. A brief summary of the guidelines follows. (Note: These are guidelines, not absolute admission policy. Please know that all aspects of your application are considered in the admission review process; no grade point average or test score will guarantee admission.)

1. Applicants with TOEFL IBT test scores of 110 – 120 and GRE-writing scores of 4.5 – 6.0 and who meet all other admission criteria may be exempt from attending USC Language Academy.

2. Applicants with TOEFL IBT test scores of 100 – 109 and GRE-writing scores of 4.0 – 4.5 may be subject to one of the following options offered by USC Language Academy:
 - a. A fall semester refresher course covering English language speaking, writing and presentation skills.
 - b. A six week summer program consisting of four courses: Oral Skills, Reading & Writing Skills, Grammar Skills, and Introduction to Public Relations Writing.
3. Applicants with TOEFL IBT test scores of 90-99 and GRE-writing scores of 3.5 – 4.0 may be required to attend the six week, four course summer program offered by USC Language Academy.

Applicants enrolling in USC Language Academy course(s) attaining a grade of B or better and satisfying the class attendance requirement will be admitted conditionally to the Master's degree program in Strategic Public Relations. The condition will require earning a grade point average of 3.0 or better in the first semester of graduate studies.

These guidelines are designed to work in your best interest while maintaining the high academic standards that you expect of USC Annenberg.

To apply for admission, review the Strategic Public Relations graduate application guidelines at <http://annenberg.usc.edu/Prospective/Masters/SPR.aspx>.

If you have questions about the application process, e-mail USC Annenberg Admissions Office at ascadm@usc.edu.

To learn more about the USC Language Academy, including costs, application process and housing, visit <http://www.usc.edu/dept/education/langacad/welcome.html>.