DEGREE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Master of Public Diplomacy draws from two of the most prestigious professional schools at USC – the Annenberg School and the School of International Relations. As a member of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA), at USC you will be prepared for the global workplace of the 21st Century by combining multidisciplinary, policy-oriented, intercultural studies with field experience. The two year program at USC is designed for recent college/university graduates with international studies experience, foreign language skills and a passion for diplomacy. The one-year mid-career professional program is designed for diplomats with at least five years of professional experience.

When is the application deadline?

Admission to the two-year program is limited to the fall term and the application deadline is January 15, 2016. All official transcripts (original language and English translation for International students) and test scores must be sent to USC Graduate Admission by January 29. Admission to the one-year program is limited to the summer term and the application deadline is December 1, 2015. All official transcripts (original language and English translation for International students) and test scores must be sent to USC Graduate Admission by April 1.

What content should be in my application resume?

Submit a current resume listing positions held, including internships, nature of work and dates of employment. Include academic and professional awards, honors, association memberships, teaching experience, subject matter expertise, language(s) other than English, and your familiarity with any research or communications technologies, e.g. Web design, television production, spreadsheets, etc.

What should I address in my Statement of Purpose?

This statement, which should convey your passion for the field, should be three to four pages long, typed and double spaced. Care should be taken to submit a clear, concise and well-written essay. The statement should address the following questions:

1. Why do you want to pursue the Master of Public Diplomacy at USC?
2. With whom do you want to study and why?
3. How will you utilize your training in Public Diplomacy after receiving your Master’s degree?
What type of writing sample is required?

The faculty admissions committee is looking for a sample of your current writing abilities. This should be a college/university academic paper. The writing sample should not exceed 10 pages.

How many letters of recommendation are needed, and from whom?

Select two individuals familiar with you and your potential for success in graduate studies in public diplomacy. For the two-year program, faculty recommendations are preferred. For the one-year program, professional references from managers or supervisors are expected.

You must provide recommenders’ names and e-mail addresses on the online application and they will receive online recommendation forms. Your recommenders must submit a letter of recommendation online in addition to completing the digital recommendation form.

What test scores must I submit to apply?

This degree program application requires a valid GRE score, and TOEFL or IELTS scores from international applicants (when required). Please see the USC Annenberg Graduate Application Checklist on the right for more information on required graduate test scores.

How much does the program cost?

Forty-nine (49) units are required to complete the two-year degree program. For the 2015-2016 academic year, the estimated tuition cost is $1,666 per unit.

The one year mid-career professional program requires 32 units to complete the program. For the 2015-2016 academic year, the estimated tuition cost is $1,666 per unit.

†Actual tuition, mandatory fees and living expenses may be higher or lower depending on your course load and living situation. The estimate should not be considered a bill of expense for USC.

Limited departmental scholarships are awarded competitively to domestic and international applicants based on the completed graduate admission application. Although we offer some departmental scholarships and awards, more than 80% of the incoming graduate class is self-funded.

There are multiple opportunities available to help fund a graduate program in public diplomacy. Investigating these options as early as possible is beneficial. APSIA provides a valuable list of fellowships and scholarships that can be applied towards the USC Master of Public Diplomacy:  http://www.apsia.org/find-fellowships-scholarships/

For more information on financing your USC education, visit the USC Financial Aid Website: http://www.usc.edu/admission/fa/