

Politics. Economics. Philosophy

How to Apply

Applications are processed on a rolling basis and can be submitted at any time. Within three business days of receiving your application, we will send an acknowledgment of receipt. If you do not hear from us within three business days of sending, please [contact us](#).

All documents submitted as part of your application that are not in English or Russian should have an official English or Russian translation and be in either PDF or JPEG formats. Please include your last name in the filename (for example, Smith_BADiploma.pdf or Ivanov_Passport.jpeg).

[Apply online](#)

Application includes:

- Completed application form
- Resume/CV

Please submit a standard CV, including, at a minimum, your educational achievements, work and research experience, publications (if any), and language knowledge.

- Letter of motivation (300-500 words)

This letter should describe your reasons for applying to this programme, in the context of your long-term career goals and background.

- Two letters of recommendation (at least one from someone familiar with your academic work)

Please provide your recommenders with [HSE's letter of recommendation guidelines](#).

- Copies of published papers, if available (in academic journals, collective monographs and conference papers etc.)
- Academic essay of 1500-3000 words on one of suggested topics (See **Supplement 1** below)
- Scans of diplomas and academic transcripts
- If you have not yet received your Bachelor's diploma, please include an official copy of your most recent academic transcript.
- Awards and participation certificates from student's conferences, contests etc.
- Scan of English proficiency exam results (IELTS or TOEFL)

Native speakers of English and students who have completed an entire degree exclusively in English do not need to submit proof of their English ability. All other applicants should submit test results no more than two years old.

- Application procedure includes an interview with the applicant (acceptable by scope). Assessment criteria for the application portfolio and the academic essay see below (**Supplement 2**).

Supplement 1. Essay topics for application to PEP Master's programme in 2015

1. How are historical traditions related to political reforms and innovations? What kind of traditions might hinder reform, and why so? What kind of traditions can be reform-friendly, and why so?
2. What are the functions of political protests? Under which conditions can protests exacerbate political crisis, and under which can they help to overcome it?
3. 'Democratic deficit' is a widely discussed topic in the European Union, as well as in some democracies. Why was it raised? What are the chances to overcome it? Are structural reforms needed for this purpose, or it is sufficient to improve practices of the current institutions?
4. Recent years and decades are marked with phenomena of 'façade' and 'illiberal' democracies. What role do parties, elections, legislature and other similar institutions play in such political systems? What are their functions?
5. BRICS is a very important group of countries. What keeps them together: mutual respect, political or economic interests? Give a review of key topics.
6. Increasing income differentiation is a characteristic feature of recent decades in many developed market economies. How is this trend connected with economic policies of the period? What impact may this phenomenon have on current economic growth?
7. What is the role of bankruptcies in a market economy?
8. Interfuel competition is based largely on comparative economic efficiency. What is the combination of factors for winning or losing long-term competition for renewables?
9. 'Austerity' policies introduced in 2010 (after a period of "quantitative easing") by European authorities were later recognized to be "a drag of growth". What explanations of such a shift in economic policy one should expect from the exponents of alternative schools of macroeconomics?
10. 'Democracy', 'Republic', 'Sovereignty', 'State' are very old concepts of political philosophy and political practice. How and why did they change their meaning since the time they had emerged?
11. Can we treat 'justice' in a similar way in interpersonal relations and in politics?
12. Is 'justice' as a political category always the same, for all people and historical situations?

Supplement 2. Assessment criteria for the application portfolio and the academic essay:

	Assessment criteria for the application portfolio	Scores
1.	Letter of motivation	0 – 5
2.	Diploma (calculated according to average score adapted to 1--10 scale)	до 10
3.	Published papers	0 – 20
4.	Letters of recommendation	0 – 10
5.	Awards and participation certificates	0 – 5
6.	Academic essay (evaluated after the interview)	0 – 20
7.	Interview	0 – 30
Maximum score		100

Assessment criteria for the academic essay			
I	Task setting	(a) Understanding and justification of the topic	1,0
		(б) Soundness of problem setting	3,0
II	Content quality	(a) Logic of text structure and argumentation	2,0
		(б) Clarity of presentation	1,0
		(B) Breadth of sources involved and of background knowledge	4,0
		(r) Ability of critical assessment of the literature, innovative thinking	5,0
III	Soundness of conclusions		2,0
IV	Quality of literary form (style etc.)		2,0
Maximum score			20

Scholarships

Successful applicants can apply for [full-tuition scholarships](#) after they have been admitted to the programme.

Timeline

Early admissions deadline: **March 30, 2015**

Regular admissions deadline: **July 15, 2015**

Reply deadline for early admissions students: **June 1, 2015**

Reply deadline for regular admissions students: **August 1, 2015**

Classes begin: **September 2015**