

PATHS Entrance Exam Preparation

Orientation for Applicants

The entrance exam is designed to assess applicants' general readiness to engage with the interdisciplinary study of forced migration. Applicants are not expected to be experts in migration studies. However, they are encouraged to prepare by familiarising themselves with some basic concepts, debates, and approaches from the social sciences and related fields.

Candidates may find it helpful to reflect on the following areas:

- migration as a social and political process shaped by inequalities, institutions, states, labour markets, families, communities, and transnational relations;
- basic concepts from the social sciences, such as social structure, agency, social stratification, class, gender, race/ethnicity, citizenship, belonging, integration, exclusion, and social change;
- the connection between migration and broader historical and contemporary processes such as globalisation, colonial histories, conflict, economic inequality, demographic change, welfare-state transformations, and changing border regimes;
- the differences and overlaps between voluntary migration, forced migration, displacement, asylum, refugee protection;
- the ways in which migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers may be differently socially positioned through legal status, gender, age, class, race/ethnicity, religion, sexuality, family situation, and other intersecting social categories;
- basic perspectives on integration, inclusion, marginalisation, racism, discrimination, social cohesion, and access to rights;
- the role of public debates, media narratives, policy language, and political discourses in shaping how migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers are perceived;
- basic awareness of different sources and methods used in migration research, including interviews, ethnography, surveys, statistical data, policy documents, legal texts, and discourse analysis;
- openness to interdisciplinary approaches to forced migration, including perspectives from sociology, political science, law, psychology, anthropology, human geography, social work, and related fields.

Questions for candidates from other disciplinary backgrounds

Candidates from disciplines other than social sciences or humanities are warmly encouraged to connect their previous studies to the themes of the programme. When preparing for the entrance exam, they may wish to reflect on the following questions:

1. How does your discipline understand migration, forced displacement, asylum, or refugee protection?
2. Which concepts from your previous studies could help you analyse the situation of migrants, refugees, or asylum seekers?
3. How might your disciplinary perspective be connected with social science approaches to inequality, institutions, borders, rights, belonging, and exclusion?

Suggested readings and Resources for preparation

The following readings and resources may help candidates prepare for the entrance exam. They are suggested as orientation materials and are not intended as a compulsory reading list.

- Brettell, C. B., & Hollifield, J. F. (Eds.). *Migration Theory: Talking Across Disciplines*. Routledge.
- Castles, S., de Haas, H., & Miller, M. J. *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*. Bloomsbury / Red Globe Press.
- Triandafyllidou, A. (Ed.). *Routledge Handbook of Immigration and Refugee Studies*. Routledge.
- Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E., Loescher, G., Long, K., & Sigona, N. (Eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies*. Oxford University Press.
- Freedman, J., & Santana de Andrade, G. (Eds.). *Research Handbook on Asylum and Refugee Policy*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- International Organization for Migration. *World Migration Report*. Available online through IOM. <https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/>
- UNHCR. *Global Trends: Forced Displacement*. Available online through UNHCR. <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends>