

PATHS Forced Migration: Europe in the Global Context

Entrance Exam Preparation Guide

EXAM OVERVIEW

The entrance exam is designed to assess your general readiness to engage with the interdisciplinary study of forced migration. While prior expertise in migration studies is not a prerequisite, you are highly encouraged to familiarize yourself with foundational concepts, core debates, and theoretical approaches within the social sciences and related disciplines.

You 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 WITH BACKGROUNDS IN DISCIPLINES OTHER THAN SOCIAL SCIENCES OR HUMANITIES

If your academic background is in a discipline other than social sciences or humanities, you are encouraged to connect your previous academic background to the themes of the program. When preparing for the entrance exam, you 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

The following readings and resources may help you prepare for the entrance exam. Please note that these are suggested orientation materials rather than a mandatory 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>