

Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in joining my research group. I plan to recommend students for admission into the Ph.D. program in Fall 2024. All admissions are through the Social Psychology area of the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at UCSB. I encourage you to study the [admission criteria and requirements](#) before applying to the program. [This thread](#) on Twitter, [this article](#), and [this guide](#) in particular, provides further advice and resources that you might find helpful when applying to Ph.D. programs.

Ours is ranked [9th](#) among the nation's social psychology graduate programs and, like many such programs, is highly selective. In considering whether to apply (and in preparing your application if you do decide to apply), I encourage you to think carefully about the fit between your research interests and my group's research agenda and about the types of research questions and methods that you want to pursue in graduate school.

In the next years, my group will pursue questions such as: How do our social relationships with members of our own and other groups affect our awareness of, and opposition to, social injustice? Why do members of advantaged majority groups sometimes exaggerate the extent of their friendships with disadvantaged minority groups—and how can we more accurately measure cross-group friendship? Why do we sometimes consider the same controversial protest actions to be more (or less) acceptable depending on who the protesters are and what they are protesting? For more information, you can read more about my group's [research agenda](#), about [potential projects](#) for incoming graduate students, and about my [approach to mentoring](#). You can find my [recent publications](#) on Google Scholar.

Given the group's research interests, candidates who would be the best fit are those whose topical interests overlap with the questions outlined above, as well as individuals who are interested in using statistical methods and statistical programming to answer new questions about intergroup relations, social injustice, and social change. My research often combines innovative study design (e.g., social network analysis) and advanced quantitative methods (e.g., multilevel models). I do not expect students to already have those skills when applying to the program—but a keen interest in learning those skills will help your application.

In an effort to ensure a fair and equitable application process, I make the same information available to all prospective applicants and will not meet with anyone before the application deadline. If you do apply, note that fee waivers are available to some U.S. citizens and permanent residents who demonstrate evidence of financial need or proof of participation in an undergraduate research program. I hope that this letter will help you in shaping your decision and in preparing your application.

I wish you all the best with your application(s).

Kind regards,

Nils Reimer