

Center for Development Economics, WILLIAMS COLLEGE

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November 24, 2024

INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS

Mira Acharya
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Dear Joint Secretary Acharya,

I am writing to you to invite nominations for candidates to the MA in Policy Economics program at Williams College from the Government of Nepal. The program is a specialized master's degree in economics for public sector officials from developing nations. We are currently accepting applications for the next session, running from August 2025 through June 2026.

Over the history of our program, Williams College has trained 16 Nepalese professionals, primarily from the National Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance, and the Nepal Rastra Bank, and we have an additional two students from Nepal currently enrolled. We look forward to training more professional economists from your country next year and in the future.

PRE-CONDITIONS FOR APPLICANTS

The annual admissions process is highly competitive with a maximum of thirty places available each year for candidates worldwide. In recent years fewer than 10% of applicants have been admitted. Minimum qualifications for consideration are as follows:

- A bachelor's degree demonstrating strong academic performance with economics as the major or minor field of study. In most cases, successful applicants have earned grades ranking in the top 10% of their university class. Many candidates already hold master's degrees from their home countries;
- Several years of experience working on economic development issues in the public sector. We value the responsibility achieved by a candidate more than simply the number of years of work experience;
- An effective command of spoken and written English. TOEFL scores of most admitted candidates are above 600PBT/100iBT, with a minimum required score of 80iBT (TOEFL), 6.5 (IELTS), or 105 (DuoLingo);
- Evidence of very strong computer and quantitative skills. GRE quantitative scores of admitted candidates are usually above 155 (new scoring system) or 700 (old scoring system); and
- Evidence of the ability, maturity, and motivation to make a lasting contribution in one's country.

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TIMELINE

The key steps in the application process and their timing are as follows:

December 15, 2024: Application deadline. Visit website, <http://cde.williams.edu> , and complete the application steps detailed in the section "Admission and Funding." Submit GRE and English proficiency scores by December 15, if available.

Early January 2025: In countries where the GRE is not widely available, selected candidates may be invited to take a CDE test of quantitative skills. This test may be offered in up to 40 countries each year, and is provided at no cost to applicants.

Mid to late January 2025: Selected candidates will be interviewed by Zoom or Skype.

February/March 2025: The CDE Admissions Committee (professors and staff) will meet to discuss candidates and make admissions selections.

May to July 2025: Enrolling candidates will apply for US J-1 visas with support from Williams College staff.

August 2025: Enrolling students will fly to the US and begin full-time study through early June 2025.

FUNDING

After individuals are selected for admission, Williams College will work to arrange scholarship funding based on demonstrated financial need. Once funding is finalized, Williams College will initiate the US visa process for study.

We greatly appreciate your help in identifying those from your country who can make best use of this challenging opportunity. We will be pleased if information about the MA in Policy Economics can be shared within your institution and among other appropriate public sector offices. Please find attached our program brochure for additional information about the program.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Powers
Director

cc/

Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Kathmandu, Nepal
Ministry of Finance, Kathmandu, Nepal
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kathmandu, Nepal