

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

Purpose of the statement:

Our philosophy is that a diverse graduate student body will enhance and enliven the disciplines associated with Classical Studies and is vital to the continued growth of the field. With that philosophy in mind, please share your experiences, background, and aspirations with us in this essay.

In order for us to consider if the Bridge M.A. is a good match for each student, we ask each applicant to compose a brief PERSONAL ESSAY (word limit, 750 words). This essay is distinct from your academic statement. The statement might incorporate aspects of the following formal eligibility areas that are relevant or applicable to you. Further, as applicable, you might include in this essay a description of your goals or demonstrated commitments to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion goals in your own background and experiences in academic, community, or other contexts.

In your essay you should address the following main question:

*How have your background and life experiences, including cultural, geographical, financial, educational or other opportunities or challenges, motivated your decision to pursue a graduate degree at the University of Michigan?* This should be a discussion of the journey that has led to your decision to seek a graduate degree in Classics or a related field.

For example, your essay could involve growing up in a community where educational, cultural, or other opportunities, particularly as relates to the study of Classics, were either especially plentiful or especially lacking and how this influenced your academic and professional goals, including graduate study. As another example, if your cultural background, combined with your intellectual interests, represents diverse or emerging fields of Classical Studies (e.g. Black Classicisms, Latin American Classicisms, Asian Classicisms, or Arabic language and translations from Greek), please mention this in your personal essay and/or in your academic essay.

Formal Criteria for Bridge M.A.

- The Bridge M.A. Program emphasizes the interconnectedness of academic excellence and diversity. As such, along with evaluation of students' scholarly interests and foci, the program's eligibility requirements include the following :Have a record of superior academic achievement (e.g., grade point average, honors, or other indicators of academic learning, excellence, and accomplishment)
- Are U.S. citizens or permanent residents

And meet **one or more** of the following criteria:

- Come from an educational, cultural or geographic background that is underrepresented in graduate study in their discipline in the United States or at the University of Michigan;

- Have demonstrated a sustained commitment to diversity in the academic, professional, or civic realm through their work experience, volunteer engagement, or leadership of student or community organizations. By commitment to diversity, we mean efforts in the U.S. to reduce social, educational or economic disparities based on race, ethnicity or gender, or to improve race relations in the U.S.;
- Have experienced financial hardship as a result of family economic circumstances;
- Are first-generation U.S. citizens or are the first generation in their families to graduate from a four-year college.