Dear Prospective Applicant:

At the Harvard Graduate School of Education, we strive to be a place that supports and benefits from the perspectives of each member of our community. We aspire to create an intellectually vibrant learning environment in which all people—regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender identity, sexuality, ability, age, socioeconomic background, political views, religious beliefs, or any other element of who they are—are heard and valued. As our authentic selves, we aspire to be a place where we question conventional wisdom and assumptions; engage in robust debate in the quest to advance our knowledge and understanding; and work to remain united, despite our different approaches and philosophies, in our shared respect for each other and in our faith in the power of education to change the world.

For our shared success, it is critical that you feel like you fully belong and can equitably access the extraordinary opportunities at HGSE. Through our vast array of student organizations and programs, we know you will find the resources and supports you need to thrive. Through our outstanding faculty, staff, and student body, we know you will meet trusted mentors and colleagues who will help to sustain your success and expand your vision for the future. At the same time, we also invite and encourage you to share your own gifts and talents to help make HGSE, and the Harvard University community more generally, a better place for all people.

Having a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community is central to our collective efforts to imagine, create, and support greater educational opportunities around the world. I hope you will join us in this work.

BRIDGET TERRY LONG
Dean
Saris Professor of Education and Economics
Harvard Graduate School of Education
@bterrylong
HGSE students come from small towns and big cities, from across the street and across the globe. They possess a wide range of educational and professional experiences, and represent a seemingly endless variety of personal, socioeconomic, racial, religious, and political backgrounds.

At HGSE, they come together to form a community that not only learns from one another, but lifts each other up; supports, sustains, and energizes each other; and is committed to making sure that every member of our community can thrive.
HGSE offers an abundance of opportunities for students to connect with people of similar backgrounds and experiences, including student organizations, cultural events, and other social and academic activities.

Arriving at HGSE with a family, I was nervous about supports; however, there are a lot of us who get together and share meals and childcare. Who would think that this is a thing? Our children have grown up together and will be lifelong friends.

DIA NICOLE BRYANT | Ed.L.D.
Three words that describe me: MAVERICK, INSPIRED, DRIVEN
Three words that describe me:
QUEER, ARTIST, STORYTELLER

I have consistently felt supported by the staff, faculty, and students with whom I have built close relationships. In any moments where I feel frustrated or lonely, I know exactly to whom I can turn for a listening ear or a smile.

Whether you’re an activist or an entrepreneur, an educator or researcher, you will find the resources to propel your career forward and a community of supportive friends and colleagues that will sustain you through your academic experience and beyond.
Being able to identify as both undocumented and first-generation was something that I felt comfortable doing at HGSE from the very beginning. 

ARIANA APARICIO AGUILAR | Ed.M.
Three words that describe me: FIRST-GENERATION, LATINX, UNDOCUMENTED

Our students come from a wide range of backgrounds and represent a great variety of perspectives and interests. Wherever you come from — and wherever you want your life and career to go — you’ll find an inclusive and encouraging environment at HGSE and all the resources you need to achieve success.
HGSE students come from a wide range of academic, professional, and personal backgrounds, which helps to create a dynamic learning environment and a supportive community.

ANDREW WESTOVER | Ph.D.
Three words that describe me: LEARNER, TEACHER, CONNECTOR

HGSE brings together people with vastly different experiences, identities, and values. The opportunity to learn with people whose perspectives diverge from my own has helped me grow both academically and personally.
With the education and support our students receive, they inevitably grow — both personally and professionally — and develop the confidence to follow their passions and turn their visions into reality.

MARK DENNIS | Ed.M.
Three words that describe me:
EDUCATOR, ACTIVIST, WRITER

“Facing and sharing your vulnerability can be terrifying especially at a place like HGSE, but for me this was essential.”
ABEELA LATIF | Ed.M.

Three words that describe me: BOLD, COMPASSIONATE, LEADER

“The opportunities I’ve had here have helped me polish and fine-tune my skills, while also giving me the creative space to discover capabilities I did not think I had. The best part was bringing my whole self to all these spaces and being received wholeheartedly.”

HGSE values every student voice. Classrooms and other safe spaces provide an open and accepting environment for students to speak their minds and engage in a free exchange of different ideas.
CREATE CONNECTIONS, PURSUE PASSIONS, LIVE DREAMS

The breadth and depth of student organizations and events at HGSE is testament to our commitment to ensuring that every aspect of your HGSE experience is fulfilling. If our existing initiatives do not meet your wants and needs, we encourage you to create your own.