

Application checklist & timeline

SOAS MPhil/PhD Politics & International Studies · September 2026 entry · for personal use

Phase 1 — Pre-application (Nov 2025 – Jan 2026)

- Send supervisor email to Dr Sutha Nadarajah, attaching concept-note.pdf only.
- If no reply in 14 days: send one short follow-up. No third.
- If Nadarajah declines / at capacity: approach Dr Vino Kanapathipillai.
- Confirm UK Lobbying Act and UK Terrorism Act §12 compliance audit is documented on the site.
- Book IELTS Academic test slot (if required by SOAS).
- Update LinkedIn headline to reference TLTE C.I.C. (not just the role title).
- Add TLTE C.I.C. block to CV (Companies House line, scope, jurisdiction).

Phase 2 — Application drafting (Feb – April 2026)

- Polish research proposal to 2,500–3,000 words (the current draft is the spine).
- Polish personal statement to ~800 words.
- Portfolio appendix — finalise URL list and freeze archive state.
- Two academic / professional referees identified and briefed.
- Apply for SOAS doctoral scholarships in parallel (deadlines often earlier than the PhD itself).
- Apply for SOAS Research Studentship if eligible.

Phase 3 — Submission (by early June 2026)

- Submit application well before the 15 June 2026 deadline.
- Attach: research proposal, personal statement, CV, two references, transcripts (where available), IELTS, named supervisor confirmation.
- Portfolio appendix referenced in personal statement and proposal, linked to permanent URLs.
- TLTE C.I.C. letter of intent (signed by founder in personal capacity), confirming TLTE will not be a scholarship beneficiary.

Phase 4 — Interview prep (June – August 2026)

- Rehearse the 'is this advocacy?' question explicitly. Answer: refusal rules, Tier-A discipline, Berkeley Protocol, UCP, Murad Code, UK §12.
- Rehearse the 'no master's' question. Answer: two years of practice-based output, frozen and citable.
- Rehearse the 'why SOAS' question. Answer: supervisor pool + taught environment + institutional posture.
- Have a one-paragraph answer for: 'what happens to TLTE if you do the PhD?' (continuity protocol).

Phase 5 — Decision & arrival (Aug – Sept 2026)

- If accepted: trigger Continuity Protocol Level 1 (founder partially-available state).
- If rejected: request feedback; consider Sheffield, Westminster, Newcastle as next-cycle targets.

- Either way: do not stop publishing on docs.tlfe.cloud.

Last line of defence: the archive does the talking. If anyone — supervisor, admissions tutor, external examiner — wants to know if this is serious, they can read it.