ADVANCED STANDING

Doctoral students who have completed the requirements for an identical or comparable MA degree, conferred in another division of Columbia or by another regionally accredited institution (or the international equivalent) will be granted, upon entrance to the Graduate School, two Residence Units toward the required total of six. Departments must confirm whether the previously completed MA is comparable: it must meet Columbia departmental standards and contribute directly and substantially to the fulfillment of the requirements for the MPhil and PhD degrees at Columbia.

Advanced standing includes five years of guaranteed funding; after this they will have funding eligibility for one more year, whereas students without advanced standing are eligible for two more years. Advanced standing also affects the timetable for academic milestones (Major Colloquium, M.Phil. degree, and Dissertation Brief Defense) – see the respective programs of studies.

Please remember that

• no amount of transfer credit will affect the number of years of funding guaranteed in the offer of admission (5);

• students who transfer credit for an MA completed at Columbia or elsewhere, must complete the MPhil and the prospectus defense within **three years** from initial registration in the PhD program, and the PhD within eight years from initial registration in the PhD program.

• Anyone coming in with two Residential Units of advanced standing will have funding eligibility for **six years**.  
  
[GSAS Transfer Credit](https://gsas.columbia.edu/content/transfer-credit)