As part of your application to IDPAS, you must submit a Statement of Purpose (SOP). When evaluating applications, the admissions committee pays close attention to applicants' (A) intended research agendas, (B) intellectual and methodological fits with the IDPAS, (C) preparation for Ph.D. success, and (D) ethical standards and aims.

Below are several questions that we suggest students address in their SOP. Note that we do not require that statements address all of these listed topics.

A. Why are you interested in joining the IDPAS PhD program? Why do you find the IDPAS program appealing? How would your admission into IDPAS advance you towards your career goals? Which IDPAS faculty advisor(s) are you interested in working with and why?

B. What research questions and/or topics are you interested in exploring as a PhD student?

C. What experiences have prepared you for success in a PhD program like IDPAS? What specific academic or professional experiences provide a strong foundation for your success as a graduate student? What obstacles have you overcome to reach this point where you are able to apply to PhD programs?

D. Have you contributed to or plan to contribute to promoting diversity either i) within Anthropology or ii) more broadly in society? (educational outreach, inclusive pedagogy, community-based research, mentoring)

https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/cie/about/index.php
https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/diversity/

We appreciate well-edited and well-justified SOPs with specific information. Please limit your statement to three double spaced pages of text. Use 11-point font size or larger. Page margins should measure at least 1 inch.

We expect that you reach out directly to the faculty member(s) you are interested in working with as you compile your application materials. This interaction may give you a clearer idea of the opportunities available to IDPAS students and the active research topics of faculty within the program.