

# PHD APPLICATION SERVICE

## ELEMENT NINE



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# QUESTIONS FOR PHD ADMISSION INTERVIEW

What are the main characteristics that you feel make you a good fit for our PhD program?

How do you feel your education and career to date have prepared you to complete a PhD program?

What do you feel was the main contribution that your white paper made to advancing the knowledge and understanding around the field of ESG and the metrics in this field?

Please can you tell me about the business model and approach of Greenspan Infrastructure?

What was your main role when working as a corporate strategy consultant for Greenspan Infrastructure?

What did you find the main challenges associated with working as a corporate strategy consultant for Greenspan Infrastructure in Mumbai?

Why did you leave your role at Greenspan Infrastructure?

When working as an ESG Strategy Analyst, how did you approach the problem of developing and delivering effective ESG integration strategies?

When working as an ESG Strategy Analyst, how did you measure ESG compliance risk levels?

Do you intend to continue to work as an ESG Strategy Analyst for Altura Advisory whilst studying for your PhD? If so, how do you propose to balance the heavy PhD workload with your commitments to your employer?

What has made you choose to do a PhD at this point in your career?

What do you plan to do after you complete your PhD at our institution?

Do you have a job role or potential promotion lined up that may depend on a successful PhD completion?

What do you believe are your main strengths as a professional, as an academic student, and as a person in general?

How would you look to apply these strengths to your PhD studies?

What do you believe are your main weaknesses as a professional, as an academic student, and as a person in general?

How would you look to mitigate these weaknesses to ensure they do not hinder your PhD studies?

Would you require any specific training or support in order to complete your PhD successfully? If so, would you expect our institution to provide this support?

Why have you chosen to research the ESG disclosure gap?

Your proposal states that “the current ESG reporting landscape is fragmented, lacking consistency in scope, depth, and stakeholder alignment”. What evidence do you have to support this assertion?

Why have you chosen to focus on infrastructure firms for your PhD? And how would you define an 'infrastructure firm', surely all firms have infrastructure?

Many people have tried to develop a harmonised ESG reporting framework that integrates stakeholder expectations, regulatory mandates, and firm-level strategic objectives. Why do you think your project will succeed where theirs have failed?

Your first objective is to critically analyse existing ESG disclosure practices in European infrastructure firms. Does this mean you are going to study ESG disclosures across the whole of Europe, including Turkey and Russia?

How do you propose to measure and assess the extent of stakeholder alignment in current ESG reports?

How will the stakeholder-centric ESG disclosure framework you create be tailored to the infrastructure sector?

Your literature review seems to focus very heavily on quite old theories, such as stakeholder theory and legitimacy theory. Do you feel this will limit the level of insight you are able to achieve?

Your literature review states that "In the infrastructure sector, research is sparse". Do you have any evidence to support this assertion?

Your methodology states you will use quantitative content analysis, but then states you will use NVivo for this. Isn't NVivo a qualitative analysis tool?

How do you propose to measure disclosure breadth, depth and materiality reporting in a quantitative manner?

Do you have any specific contacts or ways to access the 20 ESG managers, compliance officers, and sustainability consultants you plan to interview?

Do you have any candidate firms that are likely to agree to your pilot application to test usability and stakeholder resonance?