Digital Technologies and Policy MPA

This Master’s of Public Administration degree prepares future leaders and decision makers across the public, private and third sectors to synthesise political and technical factors in order to effectively address issues like cyber security, the digital economy and online human rights.

Degree summary

The MPA will tackle a series of pressing topics for policymakers, such as: are global agreements on cyber security realistic or necessary? how do we balance protection of human rights against the security of the Internet of Things? how can we reconsider approaches to policy-making in the rapidly evolving information age? Students also gain deep understanding of conceptual frameworks, policy tools and analytical methods to implement, evaluate and revise public policies through a series of core modules.

Policymakers and those in the private sector often feel they lack the appropriate background to take the lead on developing strategies, policies and guidelines that can account for the wide range of diverse (and sometimes competing) interests that characterise today’s era of rapid technological change. Graduates of this Master’s of Public Administration will be able to develop informed policy and tackle the challenges and opportunities of the digital age.

Students are taught how to bridge gaps within government and in the public and private sector, gather evidence to support decision-making and engage with issues like cyber security and Internet governance. They also gain practical insights through a week-long scenario activity on the policy-making process and an extended policy project with a real-world client on a relevant topic.

Students will gain access to UCL STEaPP’s network of international partners, expert staff and a diverse range of academics and professionals from across the department’s MPA and doctoral programmes.

The programme combines innovative classroom teaching methods with unique scenario-based learning, enabling students to dynamically engage with real-world policy challenges. Scenarios are designed to help students consolidate knowledge and develop essential practical skills and their understanding of principles. During the programme, students acquire a comprehensive range of relevant skills.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year
Location: London, Bloomsbury
Full-time

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of four core modules (105 credits), one optional module (15 credits), an elective module (15 credits), and a Major Group Project module (45 credits).

CORE MODULES

- Students undertake three core modules with students from sister MPA programmes, and a specialist module focusing on their degree topic.
- Introduction to Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy
- Analytical Methods for Policy
- Digital Technology and Policy
- Evidence, Institutions and Power

OPTIONAL MODULES

- Students select one optional STEaPP module from the following:
  - Science, Technology and Engineering Advice in Practice
  - Risk Assessment and Governance
  - Communicating Science for Policy
  - Negotiation, Mediation and Diplomacy

Students will then also select one further 15-credit graduate module which is relevant to their degree of study. This module can be selected from any UCL department.

MPA GROUP POLICY PROJECT

- In the Group Project, students work with an external client on a relevant policy challenge. With the support of STEaPP academic staff, the multidisciplinary student groups work together to produce an analysis that meets their clients’ needs.
Your career

This MPA degree prepares graduates to step into leadership and decision-making roles in government, technology companies, think tanks, and consultancies that engage with issues like cyber security, the digital economy, the Internet of Things, Internet governance and online human rights.

Employability

Throughout the MPA programme, students will:

- gain a greater awareness of current issues and developments in digital technology
- develop an understanding of the knowledge systems underpinning successful policy-making processes
- learn how to communicate with scientists and engineers, policymakers and technology experts
- develop the skills to mobilise public policy, and science and engineering knowledge and expertise, to address societal challenges.
Entry requirements

A minimum of an upper second-class Bachelor’s degree from a UK university in a relevant discipline or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. Students are encouraged (but are not required) to have work experience prior to enrolling on this programme.

English language proficiency level

If your education has not been conducted in the English language, you will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency.

The level of English language proficiency for this programme is: Good.

Information about the evidence required, acceptable qualifications and test providers is provided at: www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/english-requirements

Your application

Students are advised to apply as early as possible due to competition for places. Those applying for scholarship funding (particularly overseas applicants) should take note of application deadlines.

When assessing your application, the MPA Admissions Panel are particularly looking to understand:

- why you want to study Digital Technologies and Policy at graduate level
- what particularly attracts you to the programme at UCL
- how your academic and professional background and interests meet the demands of this challenging programme
- where you would like to go professionally with your degree and how the MPA fits with your career goals

FEES AND FUNDING 2018/19 ENTRY

- UK: £17,710 (FT)
- EU: £17,710 (FT)
- Overseas: £24,860 (FT)

The tuition fees shown are for the year indicated above. Fees for subsequent years may increase or otherwise vary. Further information on fee status, fee increases and the fee schedule can be viewed on the UCL Current Students website.

STEaPP will be announcing a limited number of scholarship places for 2018/19. Details to be announced during Summer/Autumn 2017.

To receive further details and updates on scholarships, register your interest or contact steapp.admissions@ucl.ac.uk

Full details of funding opportunities can be found on the UCL Scholarships website: www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 27 July 2018

Details on how to apply are available on the website at: www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply

CONTACT

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EU referendum

For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to www.ucl.ac.uk/eu-referendum