Urban Innovation and Policy MPA /

This Master’s of Public Administration (MPA) is designed for professionals in the public, private or third sector who would like to lead change in urban development and city leadership. Students undertake a major live project with a real client and have the opportunity to engage with leading urban scholars and practitioners across UCL.

Degree summary

Graduates are equipped with key skills for a role in urban policy, including strategic engagement, city leadership and experimentation. Students study conceptual frameworks for innovation and urban planning, and master policy tools and analytical methods to implement, evaluate, and revise urban policies. They are taught how to bridge gaps within government and in the public and private sector, and how to gather evidence to support decision-making.

More than half of the world’s population are city dwellers, making cities a key pathway to sustainable change. This practical programme offers experiential learning for skills needed in urban innovation policy-making.

Students undertake a week-long scenario activity on the policy-making process where they engage with external experts and UCL academics. During the programme, students undertake a nine-month major project on urban policy for a real-world client. Example policy problems include congestion, water or energy infrastructure, waste management, transport or safety.

Students will gain the opportunity to network with UCL STEaPP’s broad range 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; Part-time: 2 years
Location: London, Bloomsbury

Applicants electing to study the MPA Routes on a part-time basis must be available to study on a full-time basis for the initial term of the MPA (from the end of September to Mid-December).

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).

Please note that the list of modules given here is indicative. This information is published a long time in advance of enrolment and module content and availability is subject to change.

COMPULSORY 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
- Urban Innovation 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
- Clean Energy and Development
- Science, Research and Innovation in Policy
- Development, Technology and Innovation in Policy
- Energy, Technology and Climate Policy
- Digital Technology and Policy

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

The degree is suitable for professionals or graduates currently working in (or who want to work in) urban policy and planning, as well as future city leaders from a wide range of organisations including non-governmental organisations, the private sector, consultancies and the third sector.

The MPA is also suitable for academics, engineers, scientists and technologists who would like to shape the policies for future sustainable urban development.

MPA graduates can go on to work in a range of organisations, including: national and local government; government offices of innovation and development; transportation agencies; planning agencies; corporate and institutional sustainability offices; city network organisations (such as C40 Cities); public water and energy utilities.

Employability

Throughout the MPA programme, students will:

- gain a greater awareness of current issues and developments in urban innovation, science, technology and engineering
- develop an understanding of the knowledge systems underpinning successful policy-making processes
- learn how to communicate with scientists and engineers, policymakers and industry experts
- develop the skills to mobilise urban and innovation 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 Urban Innovation 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

There is an application processing fee for this programme of £75 for online applications and £100 for paper applications. Further information can be found at:
www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/application.

FEES AND FUNDING 2019/20 ENTRY

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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 Students website.

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 26 July 2019

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/brexit