Introduction

A School within the Faculty of Arts

Director's Office
Alison Macfarlane, Director
6476 NW Marine Drive
Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z2
Telephone: 604.822.3801

The UBC School of Public Policy and Global Affairs is an essential centre for innovation in global affairs and public policy. The Policy School consists of a network of scholars from across UBC who collaborate with students, community, government, business leaders, and civil society through research, teaching, and practice to develop practical policy and governance solutions. The Policy School houses the Institute of Asian Research, the Liu Institute for Global Issues, The Canadian International Resources and Development Institute (CIRDI), the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI) and offers a two-year professionally oriented master’s degree program, the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA).

The School graduates its first students in May 2017. Graduates of the MPPGA program can expect to find careers locally, nationally, and internationally across the public, private, and civil sectors. The program equips future policy leaders and analysts with a broad mindset, multiple tools, and cross-Pacific human networks that enable them to make a difference in government, international institutions, private businesses, and in non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The Policy School will engage academic units from across both UBC’s Vancouver and Okanagan campuses, taking advantage of an exceptional collection of scholars who have deep knowledge in their individual disciplines and a capacity and willingness to work across disciplines in a rapidly changing world.

Master's Degrees

Public Policy and Global Affairs

Please see the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (http://calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=12,204,828,1557#21631) for detailed information.

Institutes and Centres

The Institute of Asian Research (http://sppga.ubc.ca/institutes-centres/institute-of-asian-research) is UBC’s principal point of focus on Asia policy and current affairs. A campus-wide hub and a cross-Pacific partner, the Institute of Asian Research is dedicated to fostering closer understanding and human networks between Asia and North America in a way that will have a defining impact on the future global challenges of our common world. It seeks to build knowledge that supports deep understanding and effective action in addressing a wide range of domestic, regional, and global problems centered on Asia. The Institute of Asian Research advances this mission through five major activities: research; teaching; network-building across the university and with scholarly communities elsewhere; community interaction; and policy engagement. It works closely with the International Office and a number of academic departments in supporting collaborations with Asian partners.
The Liu Institute for Global Issues (http://sppga.ubc.ca/institutes-centres/liu-institute-for-global-issues) is a pan-UBC interdisciplinary research hub for current and emerging global issues. The Institute’s mandate is to catalyze innovative thinking and positive change, bridging the gap between academics and practitioners to transform research into action. A policy-led approach encourages examination of economic, social, and environmental interactions and the generation of innovations in policy and governance designed to advance sustainability, security, and social justice, particularly in lower-income communities. The Liu Institute for Global Issues faculty, staff, and students share a commitment to community engagement in research, teaching, and outreach for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources. This includes a convening and collaborating role across campus to encourage dialogue, debate, and learning about global issues.

The Canadian International Resources and Development Institute (CIRDI) (http://cirdi.ca) focuses on resource-led sustainable development that fosters strong, accountable and inclusive governance structures; drives diversified economies; supports the integrated management of natural resources and ultimately contributes to poverty alleviation.

Four strategic pillars, (A) Impact; (B) Knowledge; (C) Partnerships; and (D) Future Growth underpin the strategic direction for CIRDI. Areas of focus include: (1) Strengthening Integrated Resource Management; (2) Improving Public Sector Capacity and Governance; (3) Transforming Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM); (4) Engaging Communities and Sharing Benefits; and (5) Building Capacity through CIRDI Learning Programs.

The Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI) (http://democracy.arts.ubc.ca) seeks to advance publicly-engaged research, teaching, and dissemination of ideas and knowledge about innovation in democratic practice and institutions. Through its programs, the Centre promotes excellence in research and teaching, brings together scholars, public officials and students from diverse backgrounds and academic disciplines, and works with governmental and non-governmental organizations. Consistent with the global mission of the university, the Centre’s activities include major established democracies, emerging democracies, and non-democratic states. Focus areas include (1) Citizen Engagement and Participation; (2) Constitutional Governance; and (3) Transitional Regimes.
E. Baines, B.A. (St Mary's), M.A. (W.Ont.), Ph.D. (Dal.), Ivan Head South-North IDRC Chair
D. Boyd, B.Com (Alta.), J.D. (Tor.), Ph.D. (Br.Col.); joint appointment with Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability
J. Dierkes, B.A. (Calif., Berkeley), M.A., Ph.D. (Prin.), Keidanren Chair in Japanese Research
K. Hopewell, B.A., M.A. (Tor.), Ph.D. (Mich.), Canada Research Chair in Global Policy
S. Lightfoot, B.A. (St.Olaf), M.A., Ph.D. (Minn.), Canada Research Chair in Global Indigenous Rights and Politics; joint appointment with Department of Political Science
K. Ostwald, B.A. (Rutgers), M.A. (NU Singapore), Ph.D. (Calif., San Diego); joint appointment with Department of Political Science
K.-A. Park, B.A. (Yonsei), M.A., Ph.D. (Georgia), Korea Foundation Chair in Korean Research
T. W. Shakya, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., (Lond.); joint appointment with Department of Asian Studies
S. Shneiderman, B.A. (Brown), M.A., Ph.D. (Cornell); joint appointment with Department of Anthropology
H. Tworek, B.A. (Camb.), Ph.D. (Harv.), joint appointment with Department of History

Assistant Professors
T. P. Cookson, B.A. (University of British Columbia), M.A. (University of Toronto), Ph.D. (University of Cambridge)
N. Kunz, B.Eng., B.B.M., Ph.D. (Qld.), Canada Research Chair in Mine Water Management and Stewardship; joint appointment with Norman B. Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering
M. Margulis, B.A., M.A. (Tor.), Ph.D. (McM.), joint appointment with Faculty of Land and Food Systems
V. Sriram, B.A. (Northwestern University), M.PH (Columbia University), Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins University)

Associate Members
G. Fallon, Department of Educational Studies
J. Harten, School of Community and Regional Planning
R. King, Department of Asian Studies
P. Klein, UBC Graduate School of Journalism
J. Mostow, Department of Asian Studies
A. Murphy, Department of Asian Studies
Y. Tiberghien, Department of Political Science