The School of Public Policy and Global Affairs

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Introduction

A School within the Faculty of Arts

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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 for detailed information.

Institutes and Centres

The 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 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://www.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://www.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.

**Academic Staff**

**M. Cameron**, Acting Director, B.A. (Br.Col.), M.A., Ph.D. (Calif., Berkeley)

**Professors**

T. Cheek, B.A. (Aust.), M.A. (Virg.), Ph.D. (Harv.), Louis Cha Chair in Chinese Research; joint appointment with Department of History

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