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

Degree offered: M.P.P.G.A.

Program Overview

The Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (M.P.P.G.A.) (http://www.mppga.ubc.ca/) is a professional degree program in global public policy that provides students the inter-disciplinary skills and substantive knowledge necessary to deal with complex problems of the 21st century across local, national, and global levels. The program can take 20 to 24 months to complete. It offers the acquisition of state-of-the-art, multi-disciplinary policy analysis skills through a sequence of core courses, plus concentrated study in one of three streams: Development and Social Change; Resources, Energy, and Sustainability; and Global Governance and Security. The program takes advantage of UBC’s strengths in these areas and its substantial faculty and program resources concerning contemporary Asia. Students will have opportunities for field-based learning and a client-based capstone project.

Admission Requirements

All applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Normally, applicants for a master's degree program must hold the academic equivalent of a four-year bachelor's degree from UBC with one of the following:
A minimum overall average in the B+ range (76% at UBC) in third- and fourth-year level courses.

Academic standing with at least 12 credits of third- or fourth-year level courses in the A grade range (80% or higher at UBC).

Alternatively, applicants who do not meet the requirements stated above, but who have had significant formal training and relevant professional experience, and/or otherwise possess demonstrable knowledge or expertise that would prepare them adequately for successful study in the M.P.P.G.A. program, may be granted admission on the recommendation of the M.P.P.G.A. Director and approval of the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

All applicants offered admission to the M.P.P.G.A. program must demonstrate knowledge of microeconomics, macroeconomics, and statistics prior to the commencement of studies. See the program website (http://www.mppga.ubc.ca/) for additional information and applicable deadlines.

Applicants with a degree from a university outside Canada in which English is not the language of instruction must present evidence of competency prior to an offer of admission. Test scores within 24 months of application must meet the following standards:

- TOEFL: 600 (paper version), 100 (internet version) - with no component score lower than 22, or
- IELTS: minimum overall band score of 7.0 with no other component lower than 7.0, or
- MELAB: minimum overall score 81.

Applicants will be evaluated on the following components of their applications:

- academic transcripts
- application statements
- three required letters of reference
- an acceptable English test score, where applicable

Relevant professional experience (one to two years or more) and proficiency in a second or third language relevant to the student’s planned program of study will be considered.

Applicants may be invited for an interview at the discretion of the selection committee. Meeting the minimum academic requirements does not guarantee admission in the event that the number of applicants exceeds the number of available spaces.

Transfer Credit

Transfer credit cannot be applied towards the 24 core curriculum credits. Up to 6 credits may be applied towards the 15 elective credits. In order to be eligible for transfer, the credits:

- must be completed with a minimum B+ standing (76% UBC-equivalency)
- must be graduate courses (500–600 level UBC equivalent)
- must not have been counted toward the completion of another degree or program
- must have been completed no more than five years prior to the time the student commences the M.P.P.G.A. program
- cannot be used as a basis for admission to the M.P.P.G.A. program.

Decisions concerning transfer credit are made by the M.P.P.G.A. Graduate Director.

Program Requirements
The M.P.P.G.A. program requires completion of 45 credits including a minimum of 24 500-level required core required course credits from within the program (8 courses), 15 elective credits across three streams (5 courses), a 6-credit capstone project, and a digital policy portfolio (completed within GPP 509). With permission, three elective credits may be taken outside the program. Language courses do not count for credit towards the M.P.P.G.A. degree. With permission, only three credits of senior-level undergraduate courses may be taken for credit towards the M.P.P.G.A. degree.

Stream 1: Development and Social Change

This stream focuses on the economics and institutions of development. It focuses on how policy making can enable countries and communities to grow and to manage social change in an inclusive manner.

Stream 2: Resources, Energy, and Sustainability

This stream addresses global and regional sustainability with a focus on policy making related to energy and natural resources. It bridges scientific understanding with the needs of policy making on energy and resource use, urbanization and the global environment.

Stream 3: Global Governance and Security

This stream uses the lens of governance to address human security. It examines how human rights and international relations play a key role in policy making at the national and global scale.

Contact Information

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Web: www.mppga.ubc.ca
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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/](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/](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**

Professors


Associate Professors


Assistant Professors

T. Owen, C. Cruz, N. Kunz, K. Ostwald, S. Shneiderman.