

# Public Administration and Policy MA

## COURSE DETAILS

- Full-time: 12 months
- Part-time: 24 months

## KEY DATES

- Apply by: [29 August 2025](#)
  - Starts: 22 September 2025
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## Course overview

Our new MA in Public Administration and Policy programme seeks to equip you with advanced theoretical, methodological and practical tools to research public administration and policy.

## INTRODUCTION

Through the study of carefully selected compulsory and optional modules, you will explore the relationship between theory, practice and contemporary developments in the regional, national and international sphere of public administration and policy.

### Studying part time

International students may be able to study this course on a part-time basis but this is dependent on visa regulations. Please visit the **Government website for more information about student visas**.

If you're able to study part time, you'll study a selection of key modules from the full-time master's degree over a longer period, usually 24 months. You can make studying work for you by arranging your personal schedule around lectures and seminars which take place during the day. After you complete all the taught modules, you will complete your final dissertation or project and will celebrate your achievements at graduation the following term.

Studying part time means you can study alongside work or any other life commitments. You will study the same modules as the full-time master's degree over a longer period, usually 24 months. You can make studying work for you by arranging your personal schedule around lectures and seminars which take place during the day. After you complete all the taught modules, you will complete your final dissertation or project and will celebrate your achievements at graduation the following term.

## WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

The MPA is suitable for graduates from any subject background who have an interest in careers in government and administrative services (both nationally and internationally), NGOs and third sector organisations, advocacy groups and journalism and academia.

## **WHAT YOU'LL LEARN**

- How to deploy an advanced range of knowledge to design policies in a range of public administrative contexts
- Critical appraisal of public administration and policy
- Application of theories of public administration to practical scenarios, including real-world public administration problems and challenges
- Implementation of research methods in the field of social sciences to the study of public administration and policy
- Evaluation of problems of public administration and policy at local, national, regional and global levels and propose evidence informed solutions or approaches to those problems
- Communication to a diverse set of audiences, stakeholders, practitioners and academics, while maintaining academic rigour.

By the end of the programme you will be able to analyse and evaluate the contemporary challenges facing public administration and policy and formulate strategies to address them effectively.

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# Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

## SEMESTER ONE

Compulsory modules:

POLI551 – Public Administration and Policy research skills and methods

POLI552 – Understanding Public Administration and Policy

POLI553 – Navigating normative issues in Public Administration and Policy

Part-time Year 1 students take 30 credits of required modules in Semester 1.

Please note the structure of this programmes is still in development and full details will be available soon.

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## OPTIONAL MODULES

### CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND TRANSFORMATION (POLI513)

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

This module follows the evolution of the field of conflict studies: from the early adoption of an IR framework of bargaining to explaining conflicts within states, to testing structural, country-level correlates of conflict resolution or recurrence, to the recognition of multidimensional conflicts and the shift toward dyadic data, and finally, to the recent focus on armed group fluidity and theories about how rebel spoiling, splintering, and alliances lead conflicts to take new forms.

### THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST (POLI130)

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

This module looks at the international politics of the Middle East, focusing primarily on identity and security issues. At a general level, it seeks to provide a comprehensive account of the issues on the security agenda of governments and international organizations at a time of turbulence and change in the Arabworld. It takes the broader view of security as understood within the field of International Relations. Thus, in addition to the study of causes of conflict and co-operation, it is concerned with a wider range of issues that have the potential to bring greater political stability or instability. The nature of regimes and the significance of democratisation efforts for regional stability are central concerns of the module. It involves analysis of state structures, the pattern of relations between states, the political economy, new transnational movements, the role of identity and belief systems and the involvement of external powers. Special attention is paid to the Arab-Israeli conflict and other regional conflicts.

## **AFRICA-CHINA RELATIONS IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER (POLI305)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

This third year module examines how burgeoning economic, political and security relations between Africa and China are contributing to changes in the global order. Challenging framings of states in Africa as 'system ineffectual', inconsequential to global politics, and lacking material and ideational capabilities to structure their foreign relations, the module, through critical IR theories, examines how these states', the rise of China and the dynamics in China-Africa relations are impacting, shaping and reframing the norms and practices of development and global security governance.

## **EU AS AN INTERNATIONAL ACTOR (POLI328)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

This module explores the role of the EU as an international actor in the sphere of foreign policy, international relations, and security and defence. It analyses the historical development of EU foreign policy and its various dimensions, the main institutions and players involved, but also the different roles the EU assumes when acting internationally, and how it relates to regional and global partners. The module delves into some critical questions about the nature of the EU- whether it actually is an actor capable of making a distinct foreign policy- and whether any policy-making at EU level, particularly in matters of security and defence, is legitimate. This module can build on previous knowledge about EU history and integration or can provide new and specialised knowledge about this organisation's foreign policy.

## **ADVANCED TOPICS IN ELECTORAL RESEARCH (POLI518)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

This module examines some of the most crucial topics in contemporary electoral research, and aims to provide students with a deep understanding of the factors explaining people's political preferences and electoral behaviour in different contexts. The module takes an interdisciplinary approach that combines sociology, psychology and political science. Geographically speaking, this is a comparative module that focuses on full democracies, and students are encouraged to think about how the mechanisms covered in the different sessions may (or may not) work in other democratic contexts.

## **CONTEMPORARY ANTI-SLAVERY, FORCED LABOUR AND HUMAN RIGHTS (POLI150)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

The majority of teaching will be delivered face-to-face on campus. Online delivery will be used to complement the on-campus delivery and where technology affords a better learning experience.

This module requires students to engage with contemporary forms of exploitation often categorised as 'slavery', to consider the origins and human experience of such activities, to assess proposals for combating them, and to apply these to an independent research project. Seminars will challenge students to analyse the major themes in legal and political responses to trafficking, forced labour and other forms of human rights abuse analogous to slavery. Students will develop strategies for researching practices and policies relating to contemporary 'slaveries' and they will develop an independent study of a particular aspect.

*Any optional modules listed above are illustrative only and may vary from year to year. Modules may be subject to minimum student numbers being achieved and staff availability. This means that the availability of specific optional modules cannot be guaranteed.*

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## **SEMESTER TWO**

Compulsory modules:

POLI554 – Innovations in Public Policy

POLI555 – When Government fails: Public Policy Failures and how to avoid

POLI556 – Crisis leadership in public life

Please note the structure of this programmes is still in development and full details will be available soon.

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## **OPTIONAL MODULES**

### **POLITICS IN ACTION ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHEME (POLI500)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

This module provides an opportunity for students to gain credit from experience acquired in a placement, usually off campus, and outside their immediate academic context, in a setting that matches their academic and possible career/industry interests. During this placement students will have the chance to develop materials and/or undertake tasks within a practical or vocational context; to apply academic knowledge from their degree, and to develop their personal and employability skills within a working environment. Students will also be encouraged to critically reflect on their time on their placement, and tie their experiences into a broader theoretical understanding of what constitutes 'politics'.

## **BREXIT AND BEYOND (POLI522)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

The module analyses the process leading to Britain's withdrawal from the European Union and the form it took (referendum and withdrawal agreement) as well as the ongoing implications for British politics, society and culture.

## **COMPARATIVE PEACE PROCESSES (POLI133)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

Comparative Peace Processes examines the similarities and differences between peace processes. What common features can be identified in terms of how and why peace processes develop? What aspects of threat removal are most common, such as decommissioning, disarmament and reintegration? What political tools, such as consociation, partition, secession, devolution or integration, might be used? After a short overview, the module addresses these questions via a series of case studies, including Northern Ireland, Lebanon, Israel–Palestine Bosnia and the Basque region.

## **PUBLIC POLICY: AN ADVANCED INTRODUCTION (POLI310)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

This module explores the theories, ideas and concepts that underpin the development of contemporary public policies.

## **GENDER AND GLOBAL POLITICS (POLI349)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

This module provides alternative perspectives on global politics, drawing on feminist theory and gender analysis, with a focus on conflict and peace, and the implications for global politics and International Relations (IR). The module will engage with theoretical concerns (how are women affected differently by conflict and peace, how do we engage feminist methodologies) to practical concerns (conflict, security, participation, sexual violence, human rights). Theories and concepts will be illustrated with relevant global case studies and examples. The module aims to encourage engaged, critical reflection on feminist approaches to our understanding of issues in world politics.

## **INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION (POLI321)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

This module examines the different ways in which states intervene in the domestic affairs of other states or territories such as humanitarian intervention, invasion, annexation, peacekeeping, and colonial interventions. It explores how intervention has changed and developed historically, especially during and after the Cold War. It analyses whether state-practice has out-run the rules and norms that guide international state behaviour, particularly the legal framework of the United Nations and other relevant bodies of international law.

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## **FINAL PROJECT**

POLI531 – Political Science Dissertation

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## **HOW YOU'LL LEARN**

Teaching is chiefly by two-hour seminars with some lecture and workshop input within the seminars. The seminars are the primary forum where concepts, ideas and information will be communicated to you. You will have the opportunity to discuss the content of seminars during office hours that are offered by all teaching staff.

The emphasis on seminars as a teaching tool reflects the belief among teaching staff that it permits a suitable array of teaching and learning exercises to be fitted into the learning environment for students. The required modules for the programme include teaching exercises for some small group work and guest appearances from practitioner and stakeholder communities in order to convey to students the diverse nature of the applications of public administration and policy.

## **HOW YOU'RE ASSESSED**

All modules are designed to be assessed in an appropriate manner. For the required modules there is a mix of essays, presentation and participation marks, examination, group work and forms of authentic assessment such as podcasts and practitioner briefings to policy-makers. Our aim is to create a programme based on global citizenships that fits within the international dimensions of the MPA. This permits students to be exposed to a variety of learning and assessment methods in order to develop their skills as well as retention of knowledge of a complex series of political and intellectual topics.

Alongside the formal assessment, students will also be exposed to a wide range of activities during seminars to ensure they are able to foster their communication skills through peer-to-peer learning and oral presentations, simulation and role play activities. This variety of assessments engages students with techniques appropriate to their research specialisms and better prepares them for employment or further research.

## **LIVERPOOL HALLMARKS**

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

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# **Careers and employability**

The programme is designed to provide you with transferable employability skills such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration and team-work, creativity, persuasion, adaptability and research skills. You will develop your analytical skills and empirical knowledge, so that you are prepared for careers in government and administrative services (both nationally and internationally), NGOs and third sector organisations, advocacy groups and journalism and academia.

**Career support from day one to graduation and beyond**



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## **Career planning**

[Our Careers Studio and career coaches can provide tailored support for your future plans.](#)

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**From education to employment**

Employability in your curriculum for a successful transition

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### **Networking events**

Make meaningful connections with like-minded professionals

### **YOUR FUTURE**

The programme is designed to provide transferable employability skills such as:

- Critical thinking
  - Communication
  - Collaboration and team-work
  - Creativity
  - Persuasion, adaptability and research skills as their key components.
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# Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

## TUITION FEES

<b>UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)</b>	
Full-time place, per year	£11,700
Part-time place, per year	£5,850

<b>International fees</b>	
Full-time place, per year	£24,100
Part-time place, per year	£12,050

*Fees stated are for the 2025-26 academic year.*

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can [pay your tuition fees in instalments](#).
- All or part of your tuition fees can be [funded by external sponsorship](#).
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to [pay a tuition fee deposit](#).

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. [Learn more about fees and funding](#).

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## ADDITIONAL COSTS

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES**

We offer a range of scholarships and bursaries that could help pay your tuition and living expenses.

We've set the country or region your qualifications are from as United Kingdom. [Change it here](#)

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### **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MASTER'S IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY**

- [Home and international students](#)

[If you're joining our Public Administration and Policy MA, you could be eligible to apply for a fee discount of £5,000. Two awards will be available in each academic year.](#)

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### **CHILEAN NATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (ANID) SCHOLARSHIP**

- [International students](#)
- [Chile](#)

[If you're a Chilean student joining a master's degree, you could be eligible to apply for a 20% discount on your tuition fees with a Chilean National Agency for Research and Development \(ANID\) Scholarship. Scholarship.](#)

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### **CHEVENING SCHOLARSHIPS**

- [International students](#)
- [Albania](#)
- [Algeria](#)
- [Anguilla](#)
- [Antigua and Barbuda](#)
- [Argentina](#)
- [Australia](#)
- [Azerbaijan](#)
- [Bangladesh](#)
- [Barbados](#)
- [Belize](#)
- [Bolivia](#)
- [Brazil](#)
- [British Virgin Islands](#)
- [Brunei](#)
- [Canada](#)
- [Cayman Islands](#)
- [Chile](#)
- [China](#)

- [Columbia](#)
- [Costa Rica](#)
- [Cuba](#)
- [Dominica](#)
- [Ecuador](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [El Salvador](#)
- [Ghana](#)
- [Guatemala](#)
- [Guyana](#)
- [Honduras](#)
- [Hong Kong](#)
- [Iceland](#)
- [India](#)
- [Indonesia](#)
- [Iraq](#)
- [Jamaica](#)
- [Japan](#)
- [Jordan](#)
- [Kazakhstan](#)
- [Kenya](#)
- [Libya](#)
- [Malaysia](#)
- [Mauritius](#)
- [Mexico](#)
- [Moldova](#)
- [Mongolia](#)
- [Montserrat](#)
- [Morocco](#)
- [Nepal](#)
- [New Zealand](#)
- [Nicaragua](#)
- [Nigeria](#)
- [Pakistan](#)
- [Panama](#)
- [Paraguay](#)
- [Peru](#)
- [Philippines](#)
- [Russia](#)
- [Saint Kitts and Nevis](#)
- [Saint Lucia](#)
- [Saint Vincent and The Grenadines](#)
- [Serbia](#)
- [Singapore](#)
- [South Africa](#)
- [South Korea](#)
- [South Sudan](#)
- [Sri Lanka](#)

- [Sudan](#)
- [Taiwan](#)
- [Tanzania](#)
- [Thailand](#)
- [Trinidad and Tobago](#)
- [Turkey](#)
- [Turks and Caicos Islands](#)
- [Uganda](#)
- [Ukraine](#)
- [Uruguay](#)
- [Venezuela](#)
- [Vietnam](#)
- [Zimbabwe](#)

If you're an international student from an eligible country, joining a one-year master's course, you could be eligible to apply for a Chevening Scholarship. If your application is successful, you could expect to have your master's fees paid, up to a maximum of £18,000, and receive additional help with living costs.

### **CONSEJO NACIONAL DE CIENCIA Y TECNOLOGIA (CONACYT) AWARD**

- [International students](#)
- [Mexico](#)

If you're a Mexican student joining a master's degree, you could be eligible to apply for a 30% discount on your tuition fees with a CONACyT Award.

### **FUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES (FIDERH) AWARD**

- [International students](#)
- [Mexico](#)

If you're a Mexican student joining a master's degree and you're in receipt of a FIDERH graduate loan, you could be eligible to benefit from a 20% discount on your tuition fees with a FIDERH Award.

### **FUNED AWARD**

- [International students](#)
- [Mexico](#)

If you're a Mexican student joining a master's degree and you're in receipt of a FUNED loan, you can apply to be considered for a 20% tuition fee discount. A total of up to 50 awards will be available to master's and PhD students per academic year.

### **HRH PRINCESS SIRINDHORN UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL SCHOLARSHIP (THAILAND)**

- [International students](#)
- [Thailand](#)

[If you're a student from Thailand joining a one-year master's degree, you might be eligible to apply to have your tuition fees paid in full and receive help with living costs. One award is available and only students who are new to the University will be considered.](#)

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## **JOHN LENNON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

- [Home students](#)

[If you're a UK student, either born in or with strong family connections to Merseyside, you could be eligible to apply for a fee discount of up to £4,500. You'll need to demonstrate an active interest in global, community and environmental issues to be considered.](#)

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## **JUVENTUDESGTO SCHOLARSHIP**

- [International students](#)
- [Mexico](#)

[If you're a resident of the state of Guanajuato in Mexico joining a master's degree, you could be eligible for a 10% discount on your tuition fees with a JuventudEsGto Scholarship.](#)

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## **KAPLAN DIGITAL PATHWAYS EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP**

- [International students](#)

[Completed a Kaplan Digital Pathways Pre-Master's? We're offering a £5,000 fee discount off the first year of master's study for a maximum of two high achieving students joining one of our non-clinical master's courses from an online Kaplan Pre-Master's programme.](#)

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## **MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP**

- [International students](#)
- [United States](#)

[If you're a USA student joining an eligible master's with us, you could be eligible to apply for a Marshall Scholarship. If your application is successful, your master's tuition fees will be paid in full. One Marshall Scholarship for master's study is available in each academic year.](#)

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## **POSTGRADUATE OPPORTUNITY BURSARY**

- [Home students](#)

[If you're a UK University of Liverpool graduate joining a master's degree with us, you could be eligible to receive £3,000 off your tuition fees. You must have graduated in the last two years and received a widening access scholarship during your undergraduate studies.](#)

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## **SPORT LIVERPOOL PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME**

- [Home and international students](#)

[Apply to receive tailored training support to enhance your sporting performance. Our athlete support package includes a range of benefits, from bespoke strength and conditioning training to physiotherapy sessions and one-to-one nutritional advice.](#)



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## **TURKISH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP**

- [International students](#)
- [Turkey](#)

[If you're a Turkish student joining a master's degree, you could be eligible to apply for a 20% discount on your tuition fees with a Turkish Ministry of Education Scholarship.](#)

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## **UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP**

- [International students](#)

[Completed a Pre-Master's at University of Liverpool International College \(UoLIC\)? We're offering a £5,000 fee discount off the first year of master's study to some of the highest achieving students joining one of our non-clinical master's courses from UoLIC.](#)

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## **UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE IMPACT PROGRESSION SCHOLARSHIPS**

- [International students](#)

[If you're a University of Liverpool International College student awarded a Kaplan Impact Scholarship, we'll also consider you for an Impact Progression Scholarship. If selected, you'll receive a fee discount worth £3,000 off the first year of your master's course.](#)

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## **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S INTERNATIONAL ATTAINMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR MAINLAND CHINA**

- [International students](#)
- [China](#)

[Are you a high-achieving graduate from the People's Republic of China with a degree from a Chinese university? You could be eligible to apply for a £5,000 fee discount if you're joining an eligible master's course. Up to 15 eligible students will receive this scholarship.](#)

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# Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

<b>Your qualification</b>	<b>Requirements</b> <a href="#">About our typical entry requirements</a>
GCSE	4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics
Postgraduate entry requirements	<p>Admission to the programme is on an annual basis. We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. There is no specification of degree subject but sports, music or fashion degrees would not normally be considered as sole eligibility for the course.</p> <p>However, applicants with a prior undergraduate degree in either international politics/international relations, a related social science or humanities degree will benefit from taking this degree. Non-graduates will be considered for admission provided they satisfy general University requirements and possess appropriate professional qualifications or experience.</p> <p>Work experience is desirable, but not a requirement for admission. Previous work experience will not qualify a student for advanced standing.</p>
International qualifications	<p>Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the <a href="#">University of Liverpool International College</a>, means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.</p>

**THE ORIGINAL**

**REDBRICK**

