



School of
Applied Social
& Policy Sciences

Postgraduate Master of Public Administration (MPA)



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Public Administration (MPA)

Postgraduate Master

The course

This stimulating and challenging course, which is based at our Jordanstown campus, has been designed to develop the professional capacity of those working in or alongside the public sector. If your role includes management or governance, this degree will help you to develop an integrated and critically aware understanding of these two areas, thereby enhancing your effectiveness in the work place.

We expect course participants to be drawn from the public, voluntary and community sectors both locally and internationally. Administrators, managers and professionals from a wide variety of organizations are likely to find this course to be of immense benefit.

Course structure

You will receive your Master of Public Administration (MPA) award after successful completion of taught modules and a project amounting to 180 credit points. The 9 taught modules are each worth 15 credit points. The project is worth 45 credit points.

When you start the course you will be registered as an MPA student. Students who have completed 60 or 120 credit points (4 or 8 modules) have the option of exiting the course with the award of Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma in Public Administration respectively.

What we can offer you

- Modules that relate specifically to public sector policy development.
- Modules based upon staff research rated at national and international standards.
- A significant input from leading practitioners in the civil service and public services.
- Learning sessions that allow you to exchange information and network with colleagues from different work places to better understand how knowledge is being applied.
- Flexible delivery which recognises your need to fit your study around your home and working life.
- Modules which will be delivered on a block-release basis.
- A system whereby you can take individual modules as short courses and build these towards your award over a longer period of time thereby spreading the cost.

Entry requirements

Normally a UK second class honours degree, or better, in any discipline or the equivalent of this for international students. Additionally, applicants should normally have gained at least 3 years' relevant work experience in a supervisory or managerial position.

Applicants for whom English is not the first language, must also have achieved a score of at least 6.0 in IELTS, or an equivalent recognised by the University.

Length of course

Normally the course will be completed in two years.

Course Content

Core taught modules

- Public Administration & Governance
- Strategic Leadership
- Policy Analysis
- Applied Government
- Contemporary Issues in Public Policy
- Policy Evaluation
- Delivering services with NGOs
- Issues in Health & Social Care
- Research Methods

The Project in the final year will be a core part of the course and will give you an opportunity to explore a 'live' issue relating to your work situation. A supervisor will be appointed to give you guidance on the project.

Study material will be available early in the relevant semester. Teaching will be undertaken in 4 day blocks for each module (dates given below for the academic year 2019/2020). Assessment for each module will be completed before teaching for the next module commences.

MPA Modules on offer 2019/20	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
Year 1 Modules in 2019/20	Public Administration & Governance 21 - 24 October 2019	Policy Analysis 24 - 27 February 2020	
	Strategic Leadership 02 - 05 December 2019	Applied Government 20 - 23 April 2020	
Year 2 Modules in 2019/2020	Policy Evaluation 30 Sept - 03 Oct 2019	Health & Social Care 27 - 30 January 2020	Research Methods 11 - 14 May 2020
	Contemporary Issues in Public Policy 04 - 07 November 2019	Delivering services with NGOs 23 - 26 March 2020	

“Effective policy making has made and continues to make a real difference to the people of Northern Ireland. The collaboration between Northern Ireland Civil Service and Ulster University in delivering The Postgraduate Certificate has been very successful. Specifically it provides current and future policy makers with the necessary skills to fulfil their role, inspiring them to get involved in seeking out new, innovative approaches to support positive future outcomes.”

PG Cert. participant, DAERA

“...the content provided by lecturers and external speakers, as well as the in-class discussions, helped me develop a better understanding of the machinations of government and the policy-making process. The assignments also encouraged us to consider a variety of theoretical models and procedures, and it was interesting to learn how this knowledge could be applied in future.”

PG Cert. participant, DfC

“The combination of academic theory and practical skills, along with the ability to take some time away from the office, provides a unique opportunity to take a step back in order to test theories and inform practice. The interactive nature of the course and the chance to hear from senior civil servants provides a valuable insight into the realities and challenges of policy development. The course is challenging but the benefits reach far beyond the classroom.”

PG Cert. participant, DoJ

“Whilst the PGC is, at times, daunting, it is a wholly enjoyable experience. The course requires time and dedication, but the quality of teaching and the wide range of guest speakers and their applied learning ensures that you are engaged throughout. I would highly recommend the PGC course, particularly for those involved in policy design and implementation.”

PG Cert. participant, DfC

Assessment

Assessment is entirely by coursework on an individual or group basis hence there are no examinations for any of the above modules.

Fees

Price for 2019/20 is £7,310.

Application

To use our online applications system please go to: ulster.ac.uk/apply/how-to-apply and click on “Apply Online”.

Induction & registration

Tuesday 17 September 2019 at 2pm in Room 15J12 Jordanstown campus.

Need more information?

Contact the Course Director

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