Master of Arts (MA) in Public Policy and International Affairs – Division of University Interdisciplinary Programs (DUIP)

The DUIP supports University interdisciplinary programs involving multiple departments or disciplines in two or more faculties.

MA in Public Policy and International Affairs

Program Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes:
Students who earn a master’s degree in public policy and international affairs will be able to participate in and analyze the policy process in the Arab region within the global context. Students will also be able to raise awareness about public policy and international problems; assess the quantity and quality of policy relevant data and theories; advance the capacity, accountability, and responsiveness of public actors; and promote sound public policies that are informed by evidence.

- On successful completion of this interdisciplinary course of study, students will be able to:
  - Explain fundamental theories and processes of public policy and international affairs;
  - Apply techniques and methodologies in public and international policy research;
  - (Analysis) critically analyze key policy and international affairs issues;
  - Demonstrate oral and written communication skills in public and international policy arenas;
  - Formulate domestic and international public policy alternatives and arguments;
  - Critically appraise the validity and limitations of domestic and international public policy theories and arguments.

Admission Requirements:
Admission requirements to the program will follow AUB Graduate Studies Policies. Bachelor degree holders from relevant fields of study are eligible to apply for admission into the program. Remedial courses may be needed for students as would be recommended by the Program.

Students should have a GPA of at least 3.0 or 80 and good recommendations to be considered for regular admission into the program. Students with GPA above 75 and below 80 are considered for admission on probation. A strong academic record in relevant fields, reference letters, a letter of intent, and a thoughtful personal statement will all be evaluated closely for entry into the program. Moreover, a minimum of one-year work experience is strongly recommended, and more is encouraged. It should further be noted that the MPPIA program seeks to foster a diverse group of students who come from different professional/social backgrounds and disciplines, and will take this under consideration (where relevant) when reviewing applicants’ files.

Two to three pre-requisites (such as introductory classes in public administration, political science and economics) will be required for applicants who have a technical or natural scientific background, and thus have little or no relevant coursework in fields related to public policy and/or international affairs. However, the requirement for pre-requisites, particularly for more experienced applicants, may be waived at the discretion of the MPPIA Admissions Committee.
Language Requirements:
Applicants to any graduate program other than AUB graduates and graduates of recognized colleges or universities in North America, Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand, must demonstrate proficiency in the English language. For more information, refer to AUB Graduate Catalogue. It is necessary for students to have intermediate knowledge of the Arabic language. The ability to converse, read, and write in Arabic is crucial in gaining understanding of the Arab region. Students will be tested on their Arabic level upon admission, and, if not native speakers or fluent, they will be required to take Arabic classes available at the Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages.

PPIA Proposed Degree Requirements:

The program permits part time and full-time enrollments. Students of the MPPIA Program must complete a minimum of 36 credits of graduate course work and 6 credits of interdisciplinary thesis work (or internship and final year project) in the non-thesis track) for a total of 42 credits.

There is also the option of providing a 3-week intensive course (0 credits) on Economic methods prior to the start of the Fall semester for those applicants lacking this background.

Credits Summary

- Required core courses 18 cr.
- Seminars mini-courses 6 cr.
- Elective Courses 12 cr.
- Thesis or Internship or Project Elective 6 cr.

Total no. of credits required for graduation 42 cr.

Core Courses (total = 18 cr.)

PPIA 301 Public Policy (3 cr.)
PPIA 302 International Affairs (3 cr.)
PPIA 304/305/306 Development OR Economics for Public Affairs (3 cr.)
OR Political Economy
PPIA 307 The Politics of Policy Making (3 cr.)
PPIA 308 Research Methods: Gateway course (3 cr.)
PPIA 309 Evidence, Policy and Communication (3 cr.)

Seminars mini-courses (6 cr.)

PPIA 310 Topics in Public Policy (3 cr.)
PPIA 311 Topics in International Affairs (3 cr.)

Elective Courses (total = 12 cr.)

Sample Electives in International Affairs

PPIA 304 Development (3 cr.)
PPIA 402 Global Governance * (3 cr.)
PPIA 403 Foreign Policy* (3 cr.)
PPIA 404 History of the Global South * (3 cr.)
PPIA 405 Law and Development* (3 cr.)
PPIA 406 Law of Armed Conflict and the Use of Force** (3 cr.)
PPIA 407 International Criminal Law** (3 cr.)
PPIA 408 Issues in International Economics** (3 cr.)
PPIA 409 Topics in Economic Development and Policy (3 cr.)
PPIA 410 Philosophy and Methodology of Economics ** (3 cr.)
PSPA 311 International Politics and the Middle East (3 cr.)
PSPA 312 Public International Law (3 cr.)
PSPA 313 International Security (3 cr.)
PSPA 314 The UN and International Politics (3 cr.)
PSPA 316 International Environmental Policy (3 cr.)
PSPA 317 International Political Economy (3 cr.)
PSPA 318 Theories of International Relations (3 cr.)
PSPA 325 Political Trends in the Middle East  
AMST 301 America in the Middle East  
ECON 327 Macroeconomics ***  
ECON 335 International Trade Theory ***  
ECON 336 International Monetary Economics ***  
ECON 337 Economic Development ***  
ECON 334 Financial Markets and Institutions ***  
ECON 345 International and Arab Emerging Markets ***  
SOAN 318 Human Migration  
SOAN 324 Special Topics: Transitional justice  
HIST 303/304 Graduate Seminar in Arab and Middle East History  
HIST 305/306 Graduate Seminar in European History  
HIST 331-334 Topics in Arab and Modern Middle East History  

Sample Electives in Public Policy

PPIA 601 Anthropology of Policy-Making**  
PPIA 602 Ethics & Public Policy**  
PPIA 603 Public Policy & Quality of Life**  
PPIA 409 Topics in Economic Development and Policy **  
PPIA 410 Philosophy and Methodology of Economics **  
PSPA 324 Government and Politics in Lebanon  
PSPA 341 Environmental Regulation and Legislation  
PSPA 351 Foundations of Public Administration  
PSPA 361 Public and Non-Profit Program Evaluation  
PSPA 362 Public Policy and Administration  
PSPA 363 Public Financial Management  
PSPA 371 Public Management  
PSPA 372 Leadership and Management of Public Organizations  
PSPA 373 The Ethics of Public Administration  
PSPA 374 Non-Profit Management  
ECON 362 Public Finance ***  
ECON 333 Energy Economics and Policy  
ECON 332 Political Economy ***  
ECON 326 Microeconomics ***  
EDUC 303 Determinants of Educational Policy  
EDUC 308 Educational Planning and Policy Studies  
EDUC 332 Seminar in Educational Planning for Social and Economic Development  
URPL 665 Development and Planning Policies  
URPL 664 Transportation Planning and Policy  
URPL xxx Decentralization Policy**  
HMPD 318 Policy and Decision Making in Health care  
HMPD 320 Governance in Health Care  
HMPD 354 Special Topics in Health Management and Policy  
FINA 325 Global Finance  

* courses to be developed  
**prerequisite may be required  
*** Three asterisks (***): denote suggested courses require the following economics prerequisites: Intermediate Macroeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Econometrics, Calculus 1, and Calculus 2.

Apply online:  
https://graduateadmissions.aub.edu.lb

Frequently Asked Question:  
http://www.aub.edu.lb/units/graduate_council/Pages/faq.aspx