Master of Public Policy and International Affairs

Program Goals
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.

Program Objectives

The objective of this program is to enable students to:

- *(Comprehension)* explain fundamental theories and processes of public policy and international affairs;
- *(Application)* apply techniques and methodologies in public and international policy research;
- *(Analysis)* critically analyze key policy and international affairs issues;
- *(Communication)* demonstrate oral and written communication skills in public and international policy arenas;
- *(Synthesis)* formulate domestic and international public policy alternatives and arguments;
- *(Evaluation)* critically appraise the validity and limitations of domestic and international public policy theories and arguments.

- *Swift Exposure*: students must be exposed to cutting day issues of public policy and international affairs.

Admissions Requirements

Applicants with backgrounds from most fields of study are eligible to apply for admission into the program. Students should have a GPA of at least 3.0 or 80, but, the given the competitive nature of the admissions process, a GPA of 3.0 does not guarantee admission. 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:
As the location of AUB, in the heart of the Middle East, is an added value to the program, 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).
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.

The course work is distributed as follows:
- 18 credits of required core courses
- 12 credits of elective course
- 6 credits of mini-courses/seminars on policy-making and international affairs related to the Arab World.

**Credits Summary**

- Required core courses 18 cr.
- Seminars/mini-courses 6 cr.
- Elective Courses 12 cr.
- Thesis or (Internship/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 Global Affairs (3 cr.)
- PPIA 304/305/306 Development* OR Economics for Public Affairs* OR Political Economy (3 cr.)
- 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 (3 cr.)
- AMST 301 America in the Middle East (3 cr.)
- ECON 327 Macroeconomics *** (3 cr.)
- ECON 335 International Trade Theory *** (3 cr.)
- ECON 336 International Monetary Economics *** (3 cr.)
- ECON 337 Economic Development *** (3 cr.)
- ECON 334 Financial Markets and Institutions *** (3 cr.)
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**
HMND 318 Policy and Decision Making in Health care
HMND 320 Governance in Health Care
HPPD 354 Special Topics in Health Management and Policy
FINA 325 Global Finance

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