The **Department of Political Studies and Public Administration** offers three graduate programs: **Master of Arts in Political Studies**, **Master of Arts in Public Administration** and the recently introduced **Master of Arts in Public Policy and International Affairs**.

These programs enable students to acquire advanced analytical skills, an in-depth understanding of the disciplines studied, and training in research methods. Students that graduate from our programs find employment in the public, private and non-profit sectors, or enroll in PhD programs in Europe or the United States.
MA in Political Studies – MA in Public Administration (PSPA)

Curriculum
The MA in Political Studies (PS) addresses fields such as: Comparative Politics, International Relations, International Political Economy, Middle Eastern Politics, Political Theory or Public International Law.

The MA in Public Administration (PA) addresses fields such as: Public and Non-profit Management, Human Resource Management, Organization Theory, or Public Policy Research And Analysis.

Both programs aim at:

- Providing students with an advanced understanding of some of the themes, questions and issues in the fields of Political Studies and Public Administration.
- Training students in research methods and design.
- Prepare students for careers or graduate studies through developing their decision-making, analytic and research skills.

Graduation Requirements
PS and PA graduate students must complete a total of 30 credits. They are required to complete 24 credit hours of courses (of which up to 6 credit hours can be taken outside of their major) and, during their second year, write a thesis (worth 6 credits). Graduate students write this independent piece of scholarly research under the supervision of one of the Department’s faculty members, and defend their thesis in front of a thesis committee.

Graduate Assistantships
The department offers a number of Graduate Assistantships for the MA programs in PS and PA. Students awarded an assistantship have their tuition covered and work with one of our faculty members on research, teaching and other academic activities.

MA in Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA)
An Autonomous Program Tailored to the Region’s Need

Curriculum
The Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) program is an autonomous MA graduate program within the PSPA department. It is housed in, and linked to, the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI), whose experience, networks, and research work constitute a great resource. It is open to graduates from various backgrounds who wish to pursue professional or academic careers in public affairs; as well as to early and mid-career professionals in Lebanon and the region who wish to deepen their knowledge of the field or acquire new ways of thinking and policy tools.

The program is centered on articulating public and international policy perspectives that are well contextualized in political, economic, social and even structural terms; incorporating the specificities and particularities of the Arab world and its many constituents; and linking academia to the policy practitioner.

Graduate Assistantships
Graduate Assistantships covering tuition are also available for the PPIA program. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic record and departmental need. Therefore, assistantships are highly competitive.
Study Abroad

Graduate students interested in spending a semester abroad may explore the opportunities offered via the Office of International Programs.

Outside the Classroom

The PSPA Department and its PPIA Program offer a learning experience that goes beyond the classroom. In addition to the department’s Brown Bag series and lectures, policy makers and scholars discuss contemporary political issues with students.

MA candidate Melissa Ajamian presenting on her analysis of Lebanese NGOs.

Faculty profiles

HILAL KHASHAN
Comparative Politics, Middle Eastern Politics

AHMAD MOUSSALLI
Islamic Political Thought

THEODOR HANF
Conflict Regulation in Divided Societies, Religion, Education and Politics

SAMER FRANGIEH
Social and Political Theory (Middle East emphasis)

WALEED HAZBUN
International Political Economy, International Relations of the Middle East

HIBA KHODR
Public Policy, Public Reform

KARIM MAKDISI
International Politics/Affairs (Middle East emphasis), Politics of the United Nations, Global Environmental Politics

DANYEL REICHE
Comparative Politics, Politics of Sport

CARMEN GEHA
Public Sector Reform, Civil Society, Public Management

OHANNES GEUKJIAN
Nations and Nationalism, Conflict and Conflict Resolution, Peace Studies (Caucasus and Middle East emphasis)

TANIA HADDAD
Non-Profit Management, Civil Society

NIKOLAS KOSMATOPOULOS
Anthropology of Politics, Policy Experts Ethnography of Peacemaking, Infrastructures of Solidarity and Resistance in the Mediterranean Sea

CORALIE PISON HINDAWI
Security Studies (Middle East emphasis), International Law

ANTONIO-MARTIN PORRAS-GOMEZ
Public Management, Multi-level Governance

TARIQ TELL
Political Economy, Middle Eastern Politics (Jordan, Gulf)
Graduate students also have the opportunity to attend lectures and events hosted at AUB that are relevant to their specific research interests. Many of these events are sponsored by research centers such as: the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI), the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES), and the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship.

Admission Requirements

The MA programs offered by the PSPA Department follow AUB Graduate Studies Policies and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) admission requirements. Applications should include two letters of recommendation and a statement of purpose, which must explain intellectual background and research goals at AUB. TOEFL scores are required from non-native English speakers who did not attend universities where the language of instruction is English, as well as GRE scores for the PS and PA programs.

Admission as a Prospective Graduate Student

Applicants who hold a bachelor’s degree in a major field of study other than the one to which they are applying, and who do not have sufficient academic preparation in the field, may be admitted as prospective graduate student who must complete a certain undergraduate course requirements.

Additional Requirements PPIA Program

For candidates to be considered for admission in the PPIA program, a minimum of one-year work experience is expected.

Please check the Office of Admissions website for detailed information and application deadlines.

After Graduation

Our graduates undertake careers in international organizations, think tanks, media, non-profit organizations, research institutes, governmental institutions, and private enterprises, both locally and internationally. A portion of our graduates continues their academic studies in some of the world’s most competitive universities, and pursue an academic career.

PSPA chairperson Dr. Khashan gives frequent interviews to international news outlets.

Department of PSPA

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