MA in Public Policy and International Affairs

Program Goals and Learning Outcomes
Students who earn a Master's degree in Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) will be able to participate in and analyze the policy process in the Arab region within the global context. The PPIA program is a professionally-oriented, terminal degree that seeks to expose students to perspectives and approaches from practitioners in public policy and international affairs.

Upon 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,
• 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
• and critically appraise the validity and limitations of domestic and international public policy theories and arguments.

Admission Requirements
Admission requirements to the program will follow FAS admissions policies. Admission to the MA in PPIA is restricted to the fall semester. Bachelor degree holders from most fields of study are eligible to apply for admission into the Public Policy and International Affairs master's program.

Students should have a strong academic record in relevant fields, reference letters and a letter of intent, and a thoughtful personal statement will all be evaluated closely for entry into the program. A minimum of one-year work/policy experience and academic social science training is strongly recommended and more is encouraged.

The ability to understand and communicate in Arabic is important for conducting research and following policy debates in the Arab region and thus PPIA recommends that students enter the program with at least an intermediate knowledge of the Arabic language.
Degree Requirements
The program permits full-time or part-time enrollments. To obtain a Master of Arts degree in Public Policy and International Affairs, the student must complete a minimum of 24 credits of graduate coursework and 6 credits of interdisciplinary thesis work, or an internship (3 cr) and final year project (3 cr) in the non-thesis track. Course work must include the three core courses (PPIA 301, PPIA 302, PPIA 308) and two additional PPIA courses plus any three courses in PPIA, PSPA, or other program relevant to the student’s program of study.

Credit Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required core courses (3)</th>
<th>9 cr.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional PPIA courses (2)</td>
<td>6 cr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Elective courses (3)</td>
<td>9 cr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis or (Internship + Project)</td>
<td>6 cr.</td>
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<td>Credits required for graduation</td>
<td>30 cr.</td>
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Required Core Courses

<table>
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<th>Required Core Courses</th>
<th>18 cr.</th>
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<tr>
<td>PPIA 301</td>
<td>Public Policy and Practice</td>
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<td>PPIA 302</td>
<td>International Affairs and Policy</td>
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<td>PPIA 308</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
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Thesis and Internship Tracks
Thesis Track (6 cr.): To follow the thesis track, students must first gain approval of a thesis proposal by a thesis committee that includes members of the PPIA program faculty and then defend the completed Master’s thesis.

Non-Thesis Track (3 cr. internship + 3 cr. project): Students are expected to complete an internship and a project.

Course Descriptions

Core Courses

PPIA 301 Public Policy and Practice 3.0; 3 cr.
The course covers topics related to the formation, development and evolution of frameworks of public policy. It compares theories and models of policy-making and decision-making to illustrate the special requirements of the country’s context and environment. It examines the roles of various participants in the policy process: legislators, political parties, interest groups, civil society groups, media, administrative structures, citizens and the judiciary. Using a comparative perspective, the course discusses how public policy is formulated, and how and why it changes. The course also examines the role of formal and informal institutions, actors, structures and networks including challenges. The course provides students with an increased understanding of theories of public policy, and the ability to critically analyze and compare public policy.
PPIA 302 International Affairs and Policy 3.0, 3 cr.
The seminar provides a survey of international affairs and policy. In addition to covering central theoretical perspectives, the course will introduce students to contemporary political, economic, social, and/or environmental issues as well as relevant actors and institutions with a special focus on those relevant to Lebanon and the Arab world. Students will develop critical thinking and analytical writing skills through close reading of key texts and writing exercises. Student engagement will include activities such as class presentations and participation in policy simulations.

PPIA 304 Development 3.0; 3 cr.
This course offers students historical, political and policy analysis of development both as a reality and as a concept and discipline in the social sciences. It explains the emergence and continuing relevance of development, offering particular critical attention to the close interdependence between development paradigms, international institutions (UN System, World Bank) and global political economy. The course deepens and broadens students' historical understanding of the antecedents behind contemporaneous global and local development issues and challenges with a critical focus on the interdependence between science, advocacy and policy.

PPIA 305 Economics for Public Affairs 3.0; 3 cr.
This course reviews the principles necessary to understand economic change and economic policy debates within both regional and international contexts. Starting with the microeconomics theory of the firm and the consumer, students are presented with an analysis of a competitive, monopolistic of markets to explain how the pricing and output decisions of firms depend on market structure and the behavior of competitors. The course also reviews how national income, employment levels, and prices are determined and how government policy can affect macroeconomics outcomes.

PPIA 306 Political Economy 3.0; 3 cr.
This course provides a critical examination of the politics of international economic relations, global economic development and transnational economic activity with a special emphasis on the position and experiences of the Middle East states in the global political economy. The course offers a survey of theoretical approaches to international political economy and addresses themes critical to the experience of the Middle East, such as state-led industrialization, trade and regionalism, finance, oil, labor migration, MNCs, transnational movements, globalization, neo liberalism, and the politics of development and global governance. Occasionally.

PPIA 307 Politics of Policy-Making 3.0; 3 cr.
The course provides an analysis of the politics of the policy-making process in its different stages, from elaboration to implementation, through the examination of a range of policy case studies (urban/spatial, development, environment, energy, social, health, etc.) at different scales (neighborhood, city, region, state, groups of states) and in different contexts (local, regional and international). It equips students to understand how policy ideas are framed into technical and normative discourses that depoliticize policy issues and neutralize power and inequalities. It trains them to identify, trace and deconstruct the political elements that determine how policy paradigms emerge, how policy windows come to be created, how policy actors mobilize, network and advocate their positions, and how policy agendas and tools are negotiated and assembled. It also approaches policy-making as a hybrid space between expertise and politics, science and democracy, nature and humanity.
PPIA 308  Research Methods  3.0; 3 cr.
This course provides students with an understanding of research language, concepts and ethics for the purpose of generating evidence-based research for policy-making. It introduces the elements of the research process within quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods approaches, with an emphasis on problem formulation, research design, data collection, analysis and reporting. The students will engage in identifying their main research question, selecting appropriate research methods, and designing the relevant data collection and fieldwork to address their research question. They will also learn how to present their research ideas as research proposals for academic, professional and other audiences. Students will also, throughout the course, be exposed to the variety of public policy tools used to communicate with different publics (memos, briefs, reports, etc.).

PPIA 309  Evidence, Policy and Communication  3.0; 3 cr.
This course introduces students to the types of questions that need to be answered to address and make improvements to public policy concerns and priorities, including what’s the problem, what policy and programmatic options are best suited to address the problem, and how can change be brought about. This course will train students to use the knowledge translation tools and resources available to public policymakers and stakeholders in order to support their use of research evidence; and will enhance students’ skills in assessing, selecting, adapting and applying research evidence. Students will experiment with key tools and resources to communicate with different types of policy makers including priority setting, evidence briefs, policy briefs, policy memos, personalized briefing and policy dialogues. This course will provide skills on how to prepare briefs and effective tips on how to communicate evidence (both published and tacit) to policy makers and the public.

PPIA 310  Topics in Public Policy  3.0; 3 cr.
PPIA 311  Topics in International Affairs  3.0; 3 cr.
PPIA 312  Global Governance  3.0; 3 cr.
This course explores the structures and processes of global governance. Rather than treating global governance merely in a technical way by focusing on the history of particular institutions, the course introduces students to global governance as a distinct field of inquiry within International Relations. It will provide students with a foundational understanding of the structures of global governance as well as how globalization has affected the processes of complex social relations between various actors and agents. The course also examines a selection of contemporary challenges in global governance including: international security, development and international trade, the international relations of the environment, international migration and human trafficking, and democracy and global governance.

PPIA 313  Foreign Policy  3.0; 3 cr.
The course is designed to prepare students to be foreign affairs practitioners and analysts in an increasingly complex global environment. This environment places a premium on breadth of knowledge across disciplines to include history, politics, economics and culture. It rewards those with an understanding of and appreciation for the tools of statecraft, which includes diplomacy, coercion and intelligence. It requires an understanding of the “drivers” of contemporary change: forces of globalization including information technology, the impact of values and nationalism on politics, demographics, resource scarcity, and global warming among others. Students should be able to relate theory to practice and understand the dynamics of significant, contemporary geopolitical challenges and conflicts.
PPIA 314  The Global South  3.0; 3 cr.
The purpose of this course is to develop greater understanding of the evolution and history of the Global South. The course highlights the nature of changes within global frameworks and structures. While the course explores the common historical processes that unify the various states, societies and peoples within the global south (e.g. imperialism/colonialism; core/periphery; formation of the G77 block within the United Nations; etc.), it also unpacks the contradictions; class, race and gender discrepancies; power imbalances and other particularities within the Global South.

PPIA 315  Anthropology of Policy-Making  3.0; 3 cr.
The course aims to open up the field of ‘policy studies’ to critical anthropological enquiry. Policy has become one of the fundamental ‘organizing principles’ of contemporary society, yet its effect on society is not well studied. Whether they originate in governments, non-governmental organizations or the private sector, policies play an increasingly pervasive role in shaping our everyday worlds. What exactly are ‘policies’ and how can we study them anthropologically? One method is to examine policies in terms of their effects or consequences. This course opens up such issues that lie at the heart of contemporary social anthropology, including debates around power and the state; institutions and human agency; authority and hegemony; ideology and meaning; ethnicity and identity; language, narrative and symbolism; and the relationship between the global and the local.

PPIA 321  Tutorial in Public Policy  1, 2, or 3 cr.
This course is designed to allow students to pursue a course of directed study with a faculty member. It may consist of independent research, directed reading, or policy-related work. Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor.

PPIA 322  Tutorial in International Affairs  1, 2 or 3 cr.
This course is designed to allow students to pursue a course of directed study with a faculty member. It may consist of independent research, directed reading, or policy-related work. Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor.

PPIA 395A/B  Comprehensive Exam  0 cr.
Prerequisite: Consent of advisor.

PPIA 397  Internship  3 cr.
An exploration of Public Policy and International Affairs through work experience in governmental, non-governmental, or private sector organizations. Students perform work for academic credit. Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor.

PPIA 398  Project  3 cr.

PPIA 399  Thesis  6 cr.