



# MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

The Master of Public Policy programme aims to advance the knowledge, skills, competencies, and behaviour of individuals, organisations, and communities to provide high-quality policy advice and creative policy and programme design with a strong sense of public purpose and integrity. It provides an excellent avenue for professionals in the public and non-governmental sectors to acquire a nuanced understanding of policy design, analysis, and implementation in the real world. You will develop practical problem-solving skills and learn techniques that draw on concepts from several disciplines. Our association with key players in government means that you will learn from policymakers and advisers involved in strategic and operational decision-making.

The flexible format of this programme allows you to study while in full-time employment. You can tailor your programme according to your specific needs by choosing courses from within the School of Government or from other areas within the University. This qualification will help increase your employment options in the public sector, not-for-profit organisations, and private corporations involved in policy areas. You can either enter directly into the Master's programme, or staircase your studies through a Postgraduate Certificate in Public Policy and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Policy.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be accepted into this programme you will need:

- a Bachelor's degree
- a minimum of two years of relevant work experience
- approval by the academic programme leader to commence the proposed course of study.

If you have not completed a Bachelor's degree, you may still be eligible for admission into this programme if you demonstrate extensive practical, professional, or scholarly experience of an appropriate kind.

## PROGRAMME DELIVERY

This 180-point Master's degree is taught at the School of Government, located in the heart of Wellington next to Parliament and major government offices. Most students start in either February or July and complete the programme in a minimum of one year (if studied full time). It is possible to start in November in some cases. Part-time study usually takes two years. There are three modes of class delivery: module format, involving full day classes approximately every six weeks; intensive block format of four consecutive days; and weekly evening classes.

## QUICK FACTS



**Duration:** Three trimesters



**Intensity:** Full time or part time



**Start date:** 24 February 2020,  
6 July 2020, 9 November 2020



**Completion:** 180 points (12 courses)



**Location:** Pipitea campus, Wellington



**Entry requirements:**  
Bachelor's degree and two years of  
work experience



**Domestic Fees:** NZ\$24,973 (based  
on 2020 fees and student levies.  
Applicants are required to provide  
a recent CV)

## COURSE STRUCTURE

The programme comprises 11 courses: six required 15-point courses, a 30-point research project, and four 15-point electives.

### PART 1

Six required courses worth 90 points that develop understanding of public-policy context, disciplines, and methods.

#### GOVT 501 Government and Governing

This course examines government and governing and the ethical and practical foundations of the institutions and processes that make up a polity.

#### GOVT 505 An Introduction to Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy

This course is an introduction to the application of the methods of statistical analysis to problems, challenges, and decisions related to public policy. The emphasis is on the intuition of applied statistical analysis, rather than the mathematics and mechanics of the methods.

#### GOVT 521 Economics and Policy

This course examines economic theories, principles, and ideas, and their application to complex strategic and operational policy issues; behavioural and institutional economics; and the application of theories to selected policy issues.

#### GOVT 522 Policy Analysis and Advising

This course consolidates knowledge, competencies, and behaviour required to craft quality policy analysis and advice across various policy domains. It examines policy systems and processes, including public participation, policy instruments, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

#### GOVT 523 Policy Methods and Practice

This course develops competencies in techniques for collecting, analysing, interpreting, and applying information and evidence to advance policy objectives, particularly under conditions of complexity and uncertainty.

#### GOVT 524 Policy Workshop

This course compares and integrates competing frameworks, theories, methods, and practices in the design and evaluation of policy; and considers the roles, skills, and competencies of policy practitioners operating in contexts that can be complex, uncertain, and ambiguous.

### WHO TO CONTACT

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## PART 2

You are required to complete 60 points.

a) Choose four 15-point courses from the Master of Public Policy or the Master of Public Management schedule.

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| Development Policy and Management                    |
| Digital Government and Public Sector Reform          |
| Governance for Sustainability and Resilience         |
| Internship   |
| Leading Change in Public and Community Organisations |
| Managing for Results                                 |
| Managing People in the Public Sector                 |
| Monitoring and Evaluation                            |
| Politics, Philosophy, and Public Policy              |
| Public Integrity                                     |

OR

b) Select a coherent 60-point programme of study from 400- and 500-level courses. Qualifications can be awarded with a specialisation in one of the following disciplines (some of which have pre-requisites).

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| Economics                               |
| e-Government                            |
| Health and Wellbeing                    |
| Human Resource and Industrial Relations |
| Information Systems                     |
| International Business                  |
| Management                              |
| Marketing                               |
| Tourism Management                      |

## PART 3

Part 3 comprises a 30-point independent investigation into a critical policy area.

#### GOVT 562 Research Project

Supervised independent research or practice-oriented investigation leading to a report addressing specific objectives in public management or public policy.



**“In my job in the public service, I advise on workforce-related issues such as diversity and workforce planning. I find that my study has developed the practical skills I use day to day, which will undoubtedly add value to my career in the public sector. I enjoy learning the skills to think deeply about society’s big issues, while being provided with the tools to start thinking about the solutions. Furthermore, the broad research methodology skills, especially in qualitative and quantitative enquiry, have been very valuable.”**

**Ross Wood**  
Adviser at the State Services Commission