

Masters Degree in Public Policy



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'I am very favourably impressed by this proposal, I believe that its academic quality and its distinctive cross-disciplinary flavour will make it strongly competitive with other postgraduate programmes currently on offer.'

External assessor of the degree

Public policy affects all areas of our lives including decisions on health, welfare, housing, education, security, international development, energy and climate change to name but a few. Furthermore, public policy is not just a domestic concern, but the ability of countries to control their own destinies is heavily influenced by the decisions of other countries and international agencies.

These issues provide the focus for the new Masters in Public Policy offered by the School of Politics, Economics and International Relations at the University of Reading. The one-year degree offers strong training in research methods relevant to public policy, coupled with the ability to specialise in the economics or politics of public policy (or mix the two) and the opportunity to undertake an

extended project linked to a placement. The programme is designed to appeal to those wishing to follow careers in the public service or in NGOs, including international agencies. The teaching staff are specialists in their fields and will bring to the programme the results of their own cutting-edge research, including work that has been carried out for governments and international agencies. One of the distinctive features of our programme is the synergies that arise from involvement in a School that specialises in both Economics and Politics.



The programme

The programme that has been designed is multi-disciplinary in its scope and remit and aims to help graduates develop a deep understanding of the making and impact of public policy across a whole range of institutions at local, national, regional and global levels. It combines theoretical,

methodological and a great many practical issues relevant to the study of public policy.

Right from the outset advice and assistance has been sought from key institutions both within and outside the University sector, particularly with a view to maximising graduate employment

opportunities. The new MA will be attractive not just to domestic students, but to a wide range of international students, who will be able to tailor their studies to reflect personal or national interests as well as provide an issue-based focus for further study.

Three major elements make up the programme of study.

Core taught modules

Core taught modules provide a range of threshold concepts and key tools for a critical analysis of both the economics and politics of public policy, as well as key quantitative and qualitative research techniques.

Specialist pathways

Specialist pathways reflect major public policy challenges in five key domains:

Global and Regional Governance

Security and Rights

International Development and Emerging Markets

Sustainable Environments

Welfare and Social Policy.

A research dissertation

A research dissertation or applied research project. In all areas of their study students will also have opportunities to undertake a placement, an internship or a short period of study abroad. The structure is set out in the table below.

Core modules (60 credits)

Economics of public policy
(20 credits)

Politics of public policy
(20 credits)

Research training
(20 credits)

Pathways (60 credits)

Global and regional governance and institutions

Security and rights in the modern world

International development and emerging markets

Sustainable environments

Welfare and social policy

Research project (60 credits)

Dissertation (60 credits) **or**

Independent applied research project **and** placement/internship
(60 credits)



Specialist pathways

Each of the five pathways offers a wide range of module choices. Each module comprises between 10 and 30 credits and students are required to achieve 60 credits in total from their pathways. The full range of options can be found on our web site, but, as examples, they include:

Political integration in Europe	Macroeconomics and microeconomics for developing countries
International political economy	Climate change and economic policy
International money and finance	Urban economics
International security	Environment and development
Conflict in the Middle East	Economics of social policy
The United Nations Humanitarian intervention and contemporary warfare	Housing economics
The WTO and developing countries	Social policy of health and ageing

Teaching is both lecture and class based and includes discussion groups so that students can share their own perspectives and experiences with other students. The School's Development Officer will help students with the arrangement of placements for those wishing to choose this route. Where appropriate, site visits will take place to provide case studies and outside practitioners will also take part in the programme. The School also runs an active public lecture series with a strong policy slant. Speakers last year included the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Director of Liberty, Shami Chakrabarti. In addition, our own staff have given public lectures in Reading this year on The Economics of Happiness (Dr Marina Della Giusta) and Conflict, Corruption and Reconstruction (Dr Dominik Zaum).

Entry requirements

Students should have a good first degree in Politics, Economics, International Relations or in related fields. These might, for example, include geography, history or social policy. Students with practical experience in the field are also encouraged to apply.

Key Staff

The Programme Director is **Professor Geoffrey Meen**, (who is also Head of the School of Politics, Economics and International Relations). Information on the teaching and research interests of staff can be accessed via the School's web page, given below.

Further information

For further information on the programme, please contact the programme director, **Professor Geoffrey Meen**, at g.p.meen@reading.ac.uk

More information on the work of the School – both in teaching and research – can be found in our Annual Review, which can be accessed at www.reading.ac.uk/speir-home.aspx

Further details of the Public Policy degree and related subjects may be found at www.reading.ac.uk/speir-home.aspx

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 For more information, please contact:

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