

Master of **POLICY STUDIES**

"The professors used the classroom as an opportunity to teach the practical side of policy. Based on their expertise, I learned not only the theory, but also how to apply what we learned to the working world. In my current role, as a Project Officer with the City of Sydney Council the knowledge I gained through the program has allowed me to hone in on the elements of my work that are most important and that most affect change...the program taught me important and practical skills that I use on a daily basis. Many of my courses have focused on communication, leadership and presentation skills that help in all aspects of life, not just my career. What I took most from the program is the importance of being technically sound in the work I complete, but also keeping an open mind about opinions different from my own."

Ashley Heath

Graduate: Master of Policy Studies

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Policy is extraordinarily relevant to all people. Policy shapes the way we communicate, behave, and conduct our lives. The Master of Policy Studies hones students' expertise in policy studies and provides practical and theoretical insights into contemporary policy management and processes. Students learn how to actively participate in the policy process and influence the way we are governed.

Students are prepared to be professional policy practitioners, by developing analytical skills and a practical appreciation of the processes of policymaking and implementation. Students are equipped with the skills and perspectives policy practitioners need for proficient assessment, evaluation and sensitivity to the effectiveness of programs and the impact they have on clients and the public. A strong emphasis is placed on the application of analytical skills to practical policy issues and challenges. Lectures, group tasks and assessments focus on real life policy situations. Small class sizes for the core policy courses allows for strong engagement and interaction between teaching staff and students.

Industry speakers are a key feature of core courses and have included:

The former Secretary, Prime Minister and Cabinet, the CEO of the Independent Transport and Safety Reliability Regulator; the CEO of Sydney Ferries; the CEO of Jewish Care; the Senior Advisor to the Deputy Premier's Office; the Manager of the Aboriginal Health Branch, NSW Department of Health; a Senior Consultant, Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

Policy Studies is also available as a Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate program.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Recent graduates are employed in policy positions in non-government agencies and organisations, at all levels of government and in the private sector in government relations roles advocating, consulting and representing their industry in public policy arenas. Our graduates have gained employment in the Department of Climate Change; Department of Premier and Cabinet; Alzheimer's Australia; Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia, Canada; Queensland Department of Mines and Energy; British Virgin Islands Cabinet Office.



UNSW
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Postgraduate Coursework 2011 – 2012

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Students gain real world policy experience through the core course *Policy Project*. Students link the study of policy to the practice of policy, by carrying out an individually designed policy project for an external organisation. The aim of the project is for the student to make a valuable contribution to the policy process of the organisation. As an alternative to the project students can undertake a desktop policy analysis exercise critiquing a policy issue of interest.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The program consists of eight courses, including four required core courses and four electives.

Through the core courses students acquire a solid grounding in policy analysis and the policy process, before specialising in a range of areas which may include Social Policy, International Development Policy or Policy Management.

CORE COURSES

- Policy Analysis
- Information and Research for Policy
- Policy and Organisations
- Policy Project

ELECTIVE COURSES

Students select four elective courses. These may come from the recommended streams listed below or from any other program taught across the university that is of interest to the student, e.g. business and management studies or public health.

- Policy Management and Program Evaluation
- International Development Policy
- International Relations Policy
- Social and Public Policy
- Environmental Policy

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The program is oriented to the practice of policy, and participants are required to have relevant work experience. This may be in the public sector, unions, business or community organisations.

A recognised Bachelor degree and significant work experience in a related area. Students who are interested in the program and feel they may not have the necessary work experience should contact the Program Convenor.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Program Code 8248

Program Duration one year full-time or two years part-time

Location UNSW Kensington Campus

Commencement Semester 2, 2011 (July);
Semester 1, 2012 (March); Semester 2, 2012 (July)

UNSW Handbook www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/2011
(2012 handbook available September 2011)

How to Apply apply online at www.apply.unsw.edu.au

Application Deadlines

Semester 2, 2011 – Applications close 30 April 2011

Semester 1, 2012 – Applications close 30 October 2011

Fees <https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/fees/FeesMainPage.html>

Information for International Students www.international.unsw.edu.au



CONTACT

Program Convenor Chris Walker

Email c.walker@unsw.edu.au

School Office

School of Social Sciences and International Studies
UNSW Sydney NSW 2052 Australia

T: + 61 2 9385 1807

E: ssis@unsw.edu.au

W: <http://ssis.arts.unsw.edu.au>