



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

MA

Public Administration and Policy

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Our new MA in Public Administration and Policy programme seeks to equip you with advanced theoretical, methodological and practical tools to research public administration and policy.

Introduction

Through the study of carefully selected compulsory and optional modules, you will explore the relationship between theory, practice and contemporary developments in the regional, national and international sphere of public administration and policy.

Studying part time

International students may be able to study this course on a part-time basis but this is dependent on visa regulations. Please visit the **Government website for more information about student visas**.

If you're able to study part time, you'll study a selection of key modules from the full-time master's degree over a longer period, usually 24 months. You can make studying work for you by arranging your personal schedule around lectures and seminars which take place during the day. After you complete all the taught modules, you will complete your final dissertation or project and will celebrate your achievements at graduation the following term.

Studying part time means you can study alongside work or any other life commitments. You will study the same modules as the full-time master's degree over a longer period, usually 24 months. You can make studying work for you by arranging your personal schedule around lectures and seminars which take place during the day. After you complete all the taught modules, you will complete your final dissertation or project and will celebrate your achievements at graduation the following term.

Who is this course for?

The MPA is suitable for graduates from any subject background who have an interest in careers in government and administrative services (both nationally and internationally), NGOs and third sector organisations, advocacy groups and journalism and academia.

What you'll learn

- How to deploy an advanced range of knowledge to design policies in a range of public administrative contexts
- Critical appraisal of public administration and policy
- Application of theories of public administration to practical scenarios, including real-world public administration problems and challenges
- Implementation of research methods in the field of social sciences to the study of public administration and policy
- Evaluation of problems of public administration and policy at local, national, regional and global levels and propose evidence informed solutions or approaches to those problems
- Communication to a diverse set of audiences, stakeholders, practitioners and academics, while maintaining academic rigour.

By the end of the programme you will be able to analyse and evaluate the contemporary challenges facing public administration and policy and formulate strategies to address them effectively.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY RESEARCH SKILLS AND METHODS (POLI551)	15
UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY (POLI552)	15
NAVIGATING NORMATIVE ISSUES IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (POLI553)	15

Optional modules	Credits
MODERN SLAVERY, FORCED LABOUR AND HUMAN RIGHTS (POLI521)	15
THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST (POLI130)	15
ADVANCED TOPICS IN ELECTORAL RESEARCH (POLI518)	15
AFRICA-CHINA RELATIONS IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER (POLI305)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
INNOVATIONS IN PUBLIC POLICY (POLI554)	15
WHEN GOVERNMENT FAILS: PUBLIC POLICY FAILURES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM (POLI555)	15
CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN PUBLIC LIFE (POLI556)	15
Optional modules	Credits
POLITICS IN ACTION ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHEME (POLI500)	15
PUBLIC POLICY: AN ADVANCED INTRODUCTION (POLI310)	15
GENDER AND GLOBAL POLITICS (POLI349)	15
COMPARATIVE PEACE PROCESSES (POLI133)	15
BREXIT AND BEYOND (POLI522)	15
INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION (POLI321)	15
THE FORMAL AND INFORMAL INSTITUTIONS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE (POLI557)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
POLITICS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION DISSERTATION (POLI550)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching is chiefly by two-hour seminars with some lecture and workshop input within the seminars. The seminars are the primary forum where concepts, ideas and information will be communicated to you. You will have the opportunity to discuss the content of seminars during office hours that are offered by all teaching staff.

The emphasis on seminars as a teaching tool reflects the belief among teaching staff that it permits a suitable array of teaching and learning exercises to be fitted into the learning environment for students. The required modules for the programme include teaching exercises for some small group work and guest appearances from practitioner and stakeholder communities in order to convey to students the diverse nature of the applications of public administration and policy.

How you're assessed

All modules are designed to be assessed in an appropriate manner. For the required modules there is a mix of essays, presentation and participation marks, examination, group work and forms of authentic assessment such as podcasts and practitioner briefings to policy-makers. Our aim is to create a programme based on global citizenships that fits within the international dimensions of the MPA. This permits students to be exposed to a variety of learning and assessment methods in order to develop their skills as well as retention of knowledge of a complex series of political and intellectual topics.

Alongside the formal assessment, students will also be exposed to a wide range of activities during seminars to ensure they are able to foster their communication skills through peer-to-peer learning and oral presentations, simulation and role play activities. This variety of assessments engages students with techniques appropriate to their research specialisms and better prepares them for employment or further research.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

The programme is designed to provide you with transferable employability skills such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration and team-work, creativity, persuasion, adaptability and research skills. You will develop your analytical skills and empirical knowledge, so that you are prepared for careers in government and administrative services (both nationally and internationally), NGOs and third sector organisations, advocacy groups and journalism and academia.

The programme is designed to provide transferable employability skills such as:

- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Collaboration and team-work
- Creativity
- Persuasion, adaptability and research skills as their key components.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £12,500

Part-time place, per year – £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

Admission to the programme is on an annual basis. We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. There is no specification of degree subject but sports, music or fashion degrees would not normally be considered as sole eligibility for the course.

However, applicants with a prior undergraduate degree in either international politics/international relations, a related social science or humanities degree will benefit from taking this degree. Non-graduates will be considered for admission provided they satisfy general University requirements and possess appropriate professional qualifications or experience.

Work experience is desirable, but not a requirement for admission. Previous work experience will not qualify a student for advanced standing.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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