



Master of Public Administration (MPA):
Innovation, Public Policy and Public Value



Introduction

The UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose leads the world in rethinking the role of the public sector in co-creating value and driving change. Our Innovation, Public Policy and Public Value MPA teaches the dynamic skills required for purpose-driven organisations in public, private, and civil sectors to confront the grand challenges of the 21st century.

Tackling these challenges requires new ways of thinking and new organisational capabilities. Our students gain a deep understanding the explorative and risk-taking processes that structural change, innovation, and socio-economic transformation require. Graduates are equipped to help reshape organisations to be mission-led, experimental, and driven by public purpose.

Innovative curriculum

Our MPA provides new ways of thinking about the public sector and its role in driving innovation. Students learn the value of cultivating shared public purpose within and between organisations, and developing metrics that capture value process beyond static cost-benefit frameworks.

In the first term, students focus on challenging out-dated economic models of value creation and linear theories of policy change and evaluation. In the second term, the focus shifts to building organisational capabilities and design skills; students also select electives from across UCL, allowing deep engagement with areas of particular interest. The final term puts these skills to use, offering students the option of a placement with a public sector organisation or a supervised dissertation.

"Going back to academia after nearly 20 years in the private sector was quite daunting, but the IIPP MPA programme has been exactly what I wanted—challenging, stimulating and of course educational. Most of all it's given me a sense of optimism that collectively we can fix our Grand Challenges, if we harness our cross-sectoral strengths effectively."

Rachel Bentley, MPA student

Term I

- Economics of Innovation and Public Purpose
- Making Decisions: Evidence and Evaluation
- New Economic Thinking and Public Value
- Power, Politics, and Systems Change

Term II

- Creative Bureaucracies
- Transformation by Design
- 2 × Elective modules from across UCL

Term III

- Placement
- Or, dissertation



World-leading faculty

Led by Director Mariana Mazzucato and Deputy Directors Rainer Kattel and David Eaves, our faculty holds expertise from international development and digital transformation to housing and green transitions. Our Honorary and Visiting Professors enrich the programme with their experience in organisations including the United Nations, World Wide Fund for Nature, and the UK's Government Digital Service.

Professor Mariana Mazzucato is known for her influential research and talks on innovation, and award-winning books, including *The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking public vs private sector myths* and *The Value of Everything: Making and taking in the global economy*. She was named one of the '3 most important thinkers about innovation' by The New Republic.

Professor Rainer Kattel is a renowned expert on creativity within public administration. He is a co-author of *How to Make an Entrepreneurial State: Why Innovation Needs Bureaucracy*; and is the co-editor of *The Elgar Handbook of Alternative Theories of Economics*. He received Estonia's National Science Award for his innovation policy work.

Associate Professor David Eaves previously taught at Harvard Kennedy School with a focus on digital transformation and the governance of digital public infrastructure. David co-founded Teaching Public Service in a Digital Age, producing open-access materials to teach future public leaders the minimum needed digital competencies.

Top-tier students

A benefit of joining a world-leading Institute is the quality of students that it attracts. Our MPA students come from around the globe and bring a wealth of skills and practical experience in government, academic research, business, and advocacy. We strongly believe that students learn not only from their lecturers, but also from their peers; their work informs and enriches the classroom.

Purpose-driven placements

MPA students have the opportunity to undertake in a placement with one of our partner organisations, including organisations from our Mission-Oriented Innovation Network. During placements students experience first-hand the impact of the ideas presented in their modules, gaining valuable insights into how organisations can tackle societal challenges. The placement can help students to strengthen their networks and establish mission-led foundations for careers within the public, private, or civil sector.

Application details

To find out more about the MPA and how to apply, visit:
ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/public-purpose/mpa

If you have any questions please email iipp.studentenquiries@ucl.ac.uk



At the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose our mission is to change how the state is imagined, practised and evaluated in order to tackle societal challenges. We push frontiers at the cutting-edge interface between research and policy. We believe that innovation in public policy can create fairer and more sustainable societies.

ucl.ac.uk/IIPP
@IIPP_UCL

