



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

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IIPP

Introduction

The UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) leads the world in rethinking the role of the public sector in co-creating value and driving change.

Led by Director Mariana Mazzucato and Deputy Director Rainer Kattel, our 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.

As graduates of the programme, students will be equipped to help reshape organisations to be mission-led, experimental, and driven by public purpose. Students will understand the explorative and risk-taking processes that structural change, innovation, and socio-economic transformation require.

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

- Public Value and Public Purpose
- Grand Challenges and Systems Change

Term II

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

Term III

- Placement
- Or, dissertation



World-leading faculty

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

Rainer Kattel is Professor of Innovation and Public Governance. He is a renowned expert on thinking about creativity within public administration. He is a co-author of *Innovation Bureaucracies* (forthcoming in 2021); and is the co-editor of *The Elgar Handbook of Alternative Theories of Economic*. In 2013, he received Estonia's National Science Award for his work on innovation policy.

Professors Mazzucato and Kattel are joined by faculty with expertise in areas ranging from housing and green transitions, to international development and anti-corruption. Our Honorary and Visiting Professors enrich the programme with their experience in organisations including the United Nations, The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the UK's Government Digital Service.

Top-tier students

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

Purpose-driven framework

MPA students have the opportunity to undertake in a final placement with a world-class organisation based in the UK, hand-picked from IIPP's Mission-Oriented Innovation Network (MOIN).

By taking part, students witness first-hand the impact of the ideas presented in the modules and gain valuable insights into how organisations can tackle societal challenges. We believe the placement helps 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 contact our Teaching and Learning Administrator Isha Reid: iipp.studentenquiries@ucl.ac.uk



IIPP is a department within University College London (UCL) – founded in 1826 to solve grand challenges – and part of The Bartlett faculty, known internationally for its radical thinking about space, design and sustainability. We apply our critical thinking to research and thought leadership; teaching and training; influencing public policy; and engaging the broader public.

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