



The Institute of Public Policy

A Masters Degree in **P u b l i c P o l i c y**

(MPhil Public Policy)



The Institute of Public Policy is a research and development institute distinguished by the provision of independent research and advice on economic and social development in New Zealand and comparative countries.

The location of the Institute within a university dedicated to applied research provides a framework for a dynamic relationship between public and private sectors, between the market economy, government (in its various forms), and the wider community.

In philosophical terms public policy is primarily concerned with economic and social development with the ultimate measure being the way in which policy serves “the public interest”.

The Institute of Public Policy represents a broad range of stakeholders. Within the context of the university, policy areas as diverse as commerce, education, biotechnology, employment, taxation, health, Maori development, culture and the arts, social security, housing, income distribution, family policy, law, and urban planning provide a substantial base on which to build a multi-disciplinary institute dedicated to policy research and evaluation.

The purpose of the IPP within the university is to harness this expertise, thereby providing a centre that is recognised for its multi-disciplinary and applied research capacities, and for the contribution of its scholars to major areas of economic and social development.

The stakeholders beyond the university are even more diverse. These stakeholders include business enterprises (both large and small), industry and manufacturing in its various forms, government policies and programmes (local, regional, and central), Iwi and indigenous cultural organisations, and ultimately the individual households and localities that comprise our national and international communities.

A masters degree gives candidates the opportunity to conduct research in a particular area of Public Policy which is of significance to the individual concerned as well as being in ‘the public interest’.

Subject areas could include:

- Public policy in New Zealand and comparative countries
- The relationship between state and ‘civil society’
- The role of government in major areas of public policy such as health, education, housing, justice and immigration
- Employment, unemployment, the occupational structure and population change
- The future of welfare: household income, tax and social transfers
- Public policy for particular population groups: children, families, households, communities, the elderly
- Trade: the changing dynamics of government and the market economy
- Public policy issues:
 - genetic modification
 - seabed and foreshore
 - infrastructure and utilities
 - public private partnerships
 - crime and policing

The list is merely indicative!

The value of the MPhil degree is that it allows you to select a particular area or subject of interest to you. By pursuing this passion in the course of a Masters degree you also produce work that will be invaluable to public policy in New Zealand.

So, what is an MPhil degree?

The Master of Philosophy degree is designed as:

- a one year research only masters degree
- a supervised research programme in a particular field or subject area
- a qualification for candidates interested in cross-disciplinary research
- a pathway for candidates interested in developing their own research capacities

What are the goals of the MPhil in Public Policy?

The MPhil programme will enable a candidate who has successfully completed approved and supervised research, to:

- critically investigate an area of public policy that is both substantive and significant
- demonstrate independent thinking and push the boundaries of knowledge
- make a significant contribution to public policy in New Zealand and/or comparative countries
- produce work which informs policy and practice and in the process builds a resource literature for agencies, organisations and policy makers as well as the public at large

What are the admission requirements?

The admission requirements for the MPhil in Public Policy as set out in the 2008 University Calendar are as follows:

Admission

- 1.1 The normal admission requirement for the Master of Philosophy is completion of the requirements for one of the following:
 - 1.1.1 a four-year bachelor's degree at level 8
 - 1.1.2 a bachelor's (honours) degree, with at least second class honours
 - 1.1.3 three-year bachelor's degree plus a postgraduate diploma
 - 1.1.4 a bachelor's degree, plus at least three years' experience relevant to the programme and evidence of ability to undertake advanced academic study
 - 1.1.5 evidence of professional experience or a recognised professional qualification deemed by the programme board of studies to be equivalent to the level of competence specified in 1.1.1 to 1.1.4 above.
- 1.2 The programme board of studies may require candidates to complete an approved course in research methods prior to admission.
- 1.3 Prior to recommending the admission of an applicant, the Faculty Postgraduate Committee shall be satisfied that the following requirements have been met:
 - 1.3.1 the applicant has the appropriate qualification
 - 1.3.2 the proposed programme of research is viable
 - 1.3.3 the arrangements for supervision are appropriate and able to be sustained.

Completion Requirements:

To qualify for a Master of Philosophy in Public Policy a student must achieve 120 points by successfully completing the thesis paper specified in the Table of Papers:

AK 3720 MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY			
TABLE OF PAPERS			
Code	Title	Points	Prerequisites
*	Thesis	120	

* Code allocated by the Institute of Public Policy

How do I enrol?

If you are interested in exploring the possibility of enrolling in the MPhil in Public Policy, Contact:

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Marilyn will discuss the options with you both in terms of the subject area of the proposed research as well as the range of potential supervisors. The aim is to engage the best available expertise in the appointment of supervisors. As the first step in this process, fill in the attached form and then we can begin the conversation.



