Every generation faces an opportunity and a responsibility to meet the great challenges of its era. Today’s most compelling global issues—entrenched poverty to climate change to security threats—are complex, interrelated, and urgent. They require bold thinking and passionate leaders with the courage and the tools to turn ideas into action.

At Harvard Kennedy School, our mission is to educate exceptional public leaders and generate ideas that help solve public problems. Through our rigorous educational programs and cutting-edge research initiatives, we seek to influence and improve governance and the development of effective public policy at all levels. Harvard Kennedy School brings together from across continents and sectors a diverse group of individuals who are committed to the public interest. Scholars and practitioners, public officials and social innovators, educators and students, teach and learn from one another in a vibrant atmosphere of intense inquiry and open dialogue.

This unique learning environment stimulates the development of principled and effective public leaders and innovative solutions that can influence societies and improve lives. At Harvard Kennedy School, we take great pride in the international connections we make, the professional networks we facilitate, and the inspiration we evoke. If you are prepared to engage and be engaged—if you care deeply about the world and are committed to helping lead the way toward a better future—Harvard Kennedy School presents an opportunity like no other. We invite you to…

Ask What You Can Do.

Harvard Kennedy School attracts a diverse group of candidates. This snapshot shows our degree programs based on a five-year average.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MPP</th>
<th>MPA/ID</th>
<th>MPA</th>
<th>MC/MPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENTERING CLASS SIZE</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE AGE</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE YEARS WORKED</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMALE</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS*</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. STUDENTS OF COLOR**</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Joint and Concurrent Programs

Students may pursue joint or concurrent programs with other professional schools at Harvard or with selected professional schools outside Harvard. Joint degree programs feature integrated coursework developed by faculty members to provide a holistic learning experience. Coursework for concurrent degree programs is not as closely integrated—students weave together the two halves of their learning experience independently.

** Defined as those who do not hold U.S. citizenship. HKS students come from approximately 100 countries and territories outside the United States.

** Represents the percentage of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who identify as students of color.
**MPP**

The two-year *Master in Public Policy (MPP)* is a rigorous program that prepares students to understand complex policy problems and to craft concrete solutions. Through courses, exercises, and fieldwork, students master a conceptual toolkit that draws on the social sciences but is adapted for action. MPP candidates arrive at Harvard Kennedy School committed to improving the world, and they equip themselves to do so by developing broad-spectrum analytic competency. This defining feature of the MPP translates into intellectual honesty, a hunger for evidence, and the capacity to extract answerable questions from the messy clutter of real-world public problems. Students develop familiarity with a wide range of analytic methods and the habit of picking the right tool to fit the task.

---

**Curriculum**

MPP candidates are arranged in cohorts of roughly 60 students for a first-year core curriculum featuring policy analysis, economics, management and leadership, empirical analysis, negotiation, ethics, and politics. The first year culminates in a Spring Exercise, and most students spend the summer in a policy-oriented internship. The Policy Analysis Exercise (PAE)—a client-driven, often team-based practicum—caps the second-year curriculum.

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**Policy Areas**

As a complement to the MPP core curriculum, students are required to specialize in a policy area of concentration (PAC) or a concentration. MPP candidates develop expertise in their areas through required and elective courses and a policy-oriented seminar, which culminates in the generation of the PAE.

Students choose from the following policy areas:

- Business and Government Policy
- Democracy, Politics, and Institutions
- International and Global Affairs
- Political and Economic Development
- Social and Urban Policy

---

**SPRING EXERCISE**

Spring Exercise is a two-week simulation that challenges students to intellectually integrate and practically apply the disciplines taught in the MPP core. The exercise gives students the opportunity to apply core tools and concepts to a complex policy problem in a setting and at a pace similar to those of a professional environment. It serves as a capstone to the first-year core and is a bridge to the second year PAE and subsequent professional work.

Past Spring Exercise projects have included:

- Anti-microbial Resistance
- Autonomous Vehicles
- Iceland’s Energy Future
- The Opioid Crisis

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**POLICY ANALYSIS EXERCISE (PAE)**

The PAE is an analytic and consultative professional product, typically about 40 pages, in which students examine an existing public or nonprofit policy or management issue presented by a client. An applied thesis, the PAE allows students to integrate and apply the technical skills and specialized knowledge they have gained through their coursework. MPP graduates often point to the PAE as a highlight of their HKS education.

Past PAE projects have included:

- Policy recommendations to an international nonprofit organization for promoting human rights best practices in the energy industry
- Social media strategy for a major U.S. city police department
- High-tech growth plan for the president’s office of a developing country
- Analysis for a U.S. federal government agency of the impact of educational technology programs on learning outcomes for migrant students

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**MPP Class of 2018 Employment Overview**

MPP graduates apply their core training, policy interests, and functional skills to roles and organizations across employment sectors. The majority of MPPs find positions in the public and nonprofit sectors following graduation. However, each graduating class demonstrates a wide diversity of employment preferences.

**Employment Sector Breakdown**

- 38% Private
- 30% Nonprofit/Nongovernmental Organization
- 28% Public
- 15% National/Federal Government
- 7% Intergovernmental Organization
- 5% City/Local/Regional Government
- 3% State/Provincial Government
- 4% Unspecified

---

“HKS offered me the chance to find a community, to help improve a community, and therefore to better myself as a public servant.”

JONATHAN MCMASTER MPP 2013

United States

U.S. Diplomat, Department of State

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“An MPP student presents her PAE work at the annual PAE showcase event.

TOP: MPP Faculty Chair John Donahue’s teaching focuses on public sector reform and distribution of public responsibilities across government.”

---

hks.harvard.edu/mpp
Core courses include:

- Advanced Macroeconomics
- Advanced Microeconomics
- Advanced Statistics and Econometrics
- Applications and Cases in International Development
- Economic Development: Theory and Evidence
- Good Governance
- Management in a Development Context
- Normative Principles, Political Institutions, and Development
- Second Year Policy Analysis (SYPA) Seminar

“To understand the most pressing international development challenges and, importantly, to thrive as a professional seeking to address these problems, a rigorous understanding of economics is absolutely essential.”

MOLLY KINDER  MPA/ID 2008
United States
Consultant, Global Development Innovation Ventures

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

MPA/ID students spend the summer between their first and second years working on development projects, usually in developing countries. These internships are hands-on opportunities for students to put the skills they have learned in their first year to the test, and to gain additional real-world experience and guidance as they think about the careers they will pursue after HKS. Students with substantial previous work experience use their internships to explore new organizations, areas of interest, or regions of the world. Some students choose to build on their internship experience when they write their Second Year Policy Analysis.

SECOND YEAR POLICY ANALYSIS (SYPA)

The Second Year Policy Analysis is an integral part of the MPA/ID Program. Designed to serve as a capstone experience, the second year paper offers students an opportunity to deploy the skills they acquired during the program, integrate their coursework, and design and present policy recommendations for a concrete development problem. In the SYPA, students pose a policy question and draw on their economics, management, and institutional analysis training to develop convincing recommendations.

Past SYPA projects have included:

- Examining why women entrepreneurs in Uganda tend to enter low-wage, low value-added sectors
- Promoting manufacturing foreign investment from China to Ethiopia
- Improving targeted outcomes in social programs in Peru
- Assessing potential demand for financial services in remote regions of East Malaysia
- Evaluating a microsavings intervention in rural Mexico

MPA/ID Class of 2018 Employment Overview

Through the MPA/ID Program, students share a curriculum and training in the field of international development. Although the sector, geography, and focus will vary, there is more predictability in the types of positions MPA/IDs secure compared to other HKS programs.

Employment Sector Breakdown

- 34% Private
- 33% Public
- 23% Intergovernmental Organization
- 7% National/Federal Government
- 2% City/Local/Regional Government
- 1% State/Provincial Government
- 31% Nonprofit/Nongovernmental Organization
- 2% Unspecified

TOP  MPA/ID students are trained to be the next generation of leaders in international development.
LEFT  MPA/ID Faculty Chair Dani Rodrik has published widely in the areas of economic development, international economics, and political economy.

hks.harvard.edu/mpa-id
The two-year Master in Public Administration (MPA) prepares established professionals and concurrent degree students for positions of significant responsibility in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors. The program is designed for students with a record of high academic distinction and exceptional professional accomplishment and promise. Applicants are expected to have substantial graduate-level training and at least three years of work experience. MPA students have significant latitude in selecting courses and designing their field of study. They may choose courses from a range of disciplines and study under virtually any HKS faculty member. The program fosters a strong sense of community through student-organized seminars, informal weekly gatherings with classmates, small-group dinners, and other social events. Students also work closely with faculty members on developing leadership skills and networks to prepare for their post-HKS careers.

Curriculum

The MPA curriculum offers extraordinary flexibility. Students are invited, in consultation with their advisors and mentors, to design an individual study plan over four semesters. However, they are required to take two elective courses in an HKS policy area—Business and Government Policy; Democracy, Politics, and Institutions; International and Global Affairs; Political and Economic Development; or Social and Urban Policy. Students are also required to earn four credits in each of the following areas:

- Economics and Quantitative Analysis
- Management and Leadership
- Public Ethics and Political Institutions

Students select their remaining credits to support their unique intellectual and professional skills and objectives.

“HKS provided the cross-sector competency that has made it possible for me to pursue new social ventures.”
FELIPE VALDEZ MPA/MBA 2013
United States
Social Entrepreneur

MPA Students Pursuing Concurrent Degrees

A significant number of MPA students pursue concurrent degrees with one of our partner institutions (see page 1) by completing a reduced credit study plan over three semesters.

MPA Class of 2018 Employment Overview

MPA students often come to HKS with existing advanced degrees and solid professional experience or as students in a concurrent MBA or JD program. They benefit from a flexible curriculum that they can tailor to their unique interests.

The number of private sector jobs secured at graduation is, in large part, a reflection of our many concurrent degree graduates.

Employment Sector Breakdown

- 72% Private
- 16% Public
- 8% National/Federal Government
- 6% Intergovernmental Organization
- 1% State/Provincial Government
- 1% City/Local/Regional Government
- 12% Nonprofit/Nongovernmental Organization

“HKS provided the cross-sector competency that has made it possible for me to pursue new social ventures.”
FELIPE VALDEZ MPA/MBA 2013
United States
Social Entrepreneur
The Mid-Career Master in Public Administration (MC/MPA) is the longest-running program at Harvard Kennedy School. This intensive one-year program offers a flexible curriculum to allow highly accomplished mid-career leaders and professionals to hone their skills, redefine their career goals, or pursue specialized interests through coursework at HKS. MC/MPA students represent a range of professions from the public, nonprofit, and private sectors and come from more than 60 countries to study innovative ways to tackle the world’s most complex public challenges. Graduates have gone on to become heads of state, cabinet ministers, military officers, diplomats, journalists, chief executives, and nongovernmental organization directors.

Curriculum

The MC/MPA Program begins with the required Mid-Career MPA Summer Program, an intensive five-week course for students to study applied economics, quantitative analysis, political institutions, and globalization in preparation for the academic year. During the fall and spring semesters, students are responsible for choosing courses that align with their individual goals. In addition, they are required to complete at least four credits in three fundamental skill areas:

- Economics and Quantitative Analysis
- Management and Leadership
- Public Ethics and Political Institutions

Students select their remaining credits to support their unique intellectual and professional talents and objectives.

MC/MPA Mason Program Fellows

The Edward S. Mason Fellows are a cohort of approximately 85 students within the MC/MPA Program who are from developing, newly industrialized, and transitional economy countries. In addition to fulfilling the MC/MPA Program requirements, Mason Fellows attend required co-curricular seminars throughout the year that feature topics in international development and global leadership.

“HKS sharpened my managerial skills, provided global perspectives, and updated my understanding of technology and social media trends. These are invaluable in leading two Philippine nonprofits I cofounded.”

GIANNA MONTINOLA MC/MPA 2013 MASON FELLOW

Philippines
Cofounder and Director, Hands On Manila Foundation, Inc. and Cofounder and President, PeaceTech Foundation, Inc.

MC/MPA Class of 2018 Employment Overview

MC/MPA graduates build on their proven professional experience with a flexible curriculum that they can tailor to their interests and goals. Whether transitioning to new careers or deepening knowledge and skills in their existing ones, MC/MPAs gain a rich education from the classroom and their mid-career colleagues.

Positions secured by MC/MPAs following graduation include:

- Commissioner for a state-level government agency
- Communications and public affairs specialist at a media outlet
- Counterterrorism expert at a government agency
- Executive leadership in human rights, global poverty alleviation, or advocacy NGOs
- Policy officer at an intergovernmental organization

Employment Sector Breakdown

- 50% Public
- 32% National/Federal Government
- 9% Intergovernmental Organization
- 5% State/Provincial Government
- 4% City/Local/Regional Government
- 26% Private
- 23% Nonprofit/Nongovernmental Organization
- 1% Unspecified

LEFT: MC/MPA students focus on honing their skills, redefining their career goals, and pursuing new interests.

TOP: Professor Cornell Brooks is Professor of the Practice of Public Leadership and Social Justice and Director of The William Monroe Trotter Collaborative for Social Justice at the School’s Center for Public Leadership.
Financial Assistance

Financial assistance at Harvard Kennedy School is a partnership. As a partner, we assist as many students as we can with our limited scholarship and fellowship resources. The students’ role in the partnership is to reduce consumer debt, maintain realistic expectations for standard of living, investigate all possible sources of outside funding, and save as much as possible. Nevertheless, attending HKS may require significant borrowing. Advance planning is a crucial part of making enrollment possible.

Fellowships and Scholarships

HKS offers competitive fellowships and scholarships based on merit and need. Completing the financial aid application (available online shortly after submission of the admission application) allows applicants to be considered for scholarships and fellowships. Applicants must apply for financial assistance before learning whether they have been admitted. Opportunities to apply for funding (other than loans) after admission are minimal.

Harvard and Partnership Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Type</th>
<th>MPP</th>
<th>MPA/ID</th>
<th>MPA</th>
<th>MC/MPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Type</th>
<th>Annual amount of assistance awarded to admitted applicants by degree type (three-year average)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td>$47,136, $51,429, $33,489, $49,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>$48,269, $53,739, $47,944, $77,145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Loans

Loan Repayment Assistance and Forgiveness Programs

The HKS Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) assists graduates working with modest salaries in the nonprofit and public sectors by providing assistance with educational loan repayment. Applicants must be employed in qualified public service positions and have a household income within the LRAP income scale. Funding is limited and eligibility is restricted to no more than five years of participation.

Through the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF), federal loan borrowers going into public service may qualify to have 100 percent of their remaining federal loans forgiven after 10 years. To qualify, they must be employed by a federal, state, local, or tribal government — or by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit — and be repaying their loans on an income-based repayment plan. For information on the PSLF, visit studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service.

Federal Loans

U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are eligible for federal loans (i.e., Stafford and Graduate PLUS).

Supplemental Loans

Supplemental loans are also available to bridge the gap between a student’s cost of attendance and other aid received. Terms of these loans vary. Although international students are not eligible for federal student loans, they may apply for private educational loans, typically with a co-signer who is a U.S. citizen.

Expenses

2019-2020 TUITION + FEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Year Tuition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Materials</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<td>HKS Activity Fee</td>
<td>$220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Career MPA Summer Program</td>
<td>$9,049</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC/MPA Mason Fellows Seminar</td>
<td>$3,832</td>
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Mandatory Health Insurance

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUHS Student Health Fee</td>
<td>$1,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Health Insurance Plan*</td>
<td>$1,700</td>
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</tbody>
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* May be waived if student is enrolled in a comparable health insurance plan.

Other Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated cost of books and supplies for the year</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated living and personal expenses (9 months)</td>
<td>$26,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated living and personal expenses (10 months)</td>
<td>$28,960</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Harvard Kennedy School offers a stimulating, challenging, and positive learning environment where student-driven initiatives play a large role. Our students are deeply engaged in activities beyond the classroom, participating in more than 80 clubs that range from the Student Public Service Collaborative to the Soccer Club. They lead conferences and caucuses, write and edit for journals, and are committed to serving in their community. Many students participate in the annual HKS Serves day at the start of the fall semester.

Centers & Initiatives
HKS is home to world-class research centers, programs, and initiatives, including:
- Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation
- Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
- Carr Center for Human Rights Policy
- Center for International Development
- Center for Public Leadership
- Institute of Politics
- Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy
- Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government
- Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy
- Taubman Center for State and Local Government
- Women and Public Policy Program

For a complete list, visit: www.hks.harvard.edu/centers-initiatives.

Student Journals
- Africa Policy Journal
- Asian American Policy Review
- The Citizen, a student-run newspaper
- Harvard Kennedy School Journal of African American Public Policy
- Human Rights Policy Journal
- Journal of Hispanic Policy
- Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy
- Kennedy School Review
- Latin America Policy Journal
- LGBTQ Policy Journal
- Singapore Policy Journal
- Women’s Policy Journal

Sampling of Student-Led Conferences
- Africa Development Conference
- Black Policy Conference
- Conference on Poverty and Inequality
- European Conference
- German American Conference
- India Conference
- Latin American Conference
- Social Enterprise Conference
- Women in Power Conference

hks.harvard.edu/student-life
From 2012 to 2018, students have come to Harvard Kennedy School from:

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belgium
- Benin
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Burinational State of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Congo, The Democratic Republic of
- Costa Rica
- Côte d’Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hong Kong SAR, China
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran, Islamic Republic of
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Israel
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Korea, Republic of
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- Lithuania
- Macedonia, Republic of
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Moldova, Republic of
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palestine, State of
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Rwanda
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Taiwan
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand, United Republic of
- Timor-Leste
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela
- Viet Nam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

SOURCES FOR COUNTRY LIST: UNTERM, United Nations Multilingual Terminology Database and Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School

The Power of the Alumni Network

Harvard Kennedy School students agree that the connections they make with their classmates are one of the most valuable parts of their education. After graduation, our alumni become part of an active global community of individuals who generate positive change in the world—a robust network that alumni use to further their careers, gain professional advice, and continue to experience the power of a Harvard Kennedy School education.

Our alumni can be found in more than 200 countries and territories.

22,000+ HKS degree program alumni

55,000+ HKS Executive Education participants

HKS by the Numbers: Class of 2018 Highlights

603 graduates are working in 65 countries and territories, in 33 U.S. states, and in Washington, D.C.

89 COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES WERE REPRESENTED IN THIS CLASS.

89% OF EMPLOYERS ENGAGED ONLY ONE GRADUATE, WHICH HIGHLIGHTS THE DIVERSE CAREER TRAJECTORIES OF OUR ALUMNI.

89 COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES WERE REPRESENTED IN THIS CLASS.

93% OF OUR GRADUATES WERE EMPLOYED, RUNNING FOR ELECTED OFFICE, LAUNCHING A NEW VENTURE, OR CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION.

hks.harvard.edu/more/alumni
Questions about Admissions

How do I apply?
We accept all necessary documents through our website at hks.harvard.edu/apply.

What is the application deadline and when are decisions released?
The application deadline typically falls in early December, and decisions are released in mid-March. Refer to our website for specific dates. There is no spring admission.

May I apply to more than one master’s degree program at HKS?
You may apply to only one master’s degree program at a time.

Does HKS accept transfer students?
HKS does not accept transfer students.

Who should write my letters of recommendation?
They should be written and submitted by academic or professional references; we discourage letters from friends, co-workers, etc. Avoid submitting all three letters from academic references. HKS requires three recommendation letters for all applications. Many factors are considered, including essays, letters of recommendation, and standardized test scores. The admissions committee pays close attention to the quality and depth of his or her past professional experience and potential.

Is an interview required to be considered for admission?
Interviews are not a required part of the admission process.

Do I need a certain kind of academic major or work experience?
HKS students come from a variety of academic and professional backgrounds. We do not look for a particular major or type of work experience. Rather, we evaluate each applicant’s potential to work for the public good. If your academic and/or professional background varies from the proposed course of study at HKS, you should ensure that your application addresses how an HKS education will allow you to make a transition.

May I reapply if I was not accepted?
You may reapply if you were not accepted for the next available session or an open house. For more information, visit huhousing.harvard.edu.

May I study part-time or in the evening only?
HKS does not offer part-time degree program options. Degree program students must be enrolled full time each term of study. In addition, degree program students may not complete their degree through evening classes only.

May I visit the campus?
We hold information sessions throughout the year and host several open houses in the fall. You are encouraged to visit our website to register for an information session or an open house. For more information, visit hks.harvard.edu/admissions-events.

Which standardized tests are required?
The GRE or GMAT is required of all applicants to HKS master’s degree programs except those who are applying to the Mid-Career Master in Public Administration Edward S. Mason Program or to the Wesleyan Israel Fellowship.

Either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is required of all applicants to both two-year and mid-career programs whose native language is not English or whose four-year undergraduate degree program was not conducted entirely in English. The minimum TOEFL scores to be considered for admission are: IBT – 100 or PBT – 600. The minimum IELTS overall band score is 7.

I have been out of school for a long time. How important are my GRE or GMAT scores?
Although standardized test scores are an important measure of academic ability, if an applicant has extensive professional experience, the admissions committee pays close attention to the quality and depth of his or her past professional experience and potential.

Must I be fluent in a language other than English to apply?
We do not have an additional language requirement.
Pursuing a degree at Harvard Kennedy School is about professional development. While engaged in a unique academic and personal experience, students begin early—in partnership with faculty and program staff members, research center affiliates, fellow students, alumni, and the Office of Career Advancement (OCA) team—the process of clarifying their professional paths after HKS.

What can I expect when it comes to professional development at HKS?

Everything at HKS supports our students’ professional development, from time spent at events to conversations over lunch. Given the diversity of interests and experience among HKS students, the process of taking your next career step will be a unique journey. Your HKS network of faculty members, research center and program staff, alumni, and classmates will be a priceless resource. The OCA team provides career development resources in the form of individual coaching, access to potential employers, job search skill development, and guidance on building a strong network to support your career interests.

How are graduates faring in this economy?

Our graduates consistently do well after HKS. By October of their graduation year, close to 95 percent are settled. They are either employed, running for office, or continuing their education.

What is career coaching?

Students will find informal career coaches throughout HKS. In OCA, the career coaching team is available for individual meetings. Each coach has focus areas that align with the specific professional interests of HKS students. Students are encouraged to meet with a career coach early in their program to design a career development strategy. Alumni also consult with OCA coaches as their careers progress.

What resources are available for finding jobs and internships?

The OCA team provides individual and small-group support to help polish job search skills. The online job bank and career management system JACK (Jobs and Careers for the Kennedy School) is a powerful tool for identifying unique opportunities and potential employers. OCA screens and posts approximately 4,000 targeted jobs and internships annually. The HKS Alumni Directory and LinkedIn Group (open to students, alumni, faculty and staff members, and Executive Education participants) represent our dynamic professional network and avenues to internships. Policy Analysis Exercise (PAE) clients, and employment.

Do employers come to campus?

OCA brings nearly 100 employers to campus for career fairs and information sessions each year. In addition, valuable connections develop with alumni who return to HKS to share their expertise or who attend our regional networking events off-campus. Students also benefit from the many practitioners and alumni speaking at research center seminars every day, who are eager to share career advice.

Is funding available for internships?

HKS, through a general summer internship fund and the generous support of its research centers, provides funding for unpaid or minimally paid internships, primarily in the public or nonprofit sector. Funding is competitive and requires an application.
Contact Us

Master's Programs Admissions
Questions about admission and application requirements should be directed to the Office of Admissions. Contact the Office of Student Financial Services with questions about funding your degree. Direct questions about the curriculum and academic program requirements to the degree program offices.

Office of Admissions
617-495-1155 | admissions@hks.harvard.edu
hksadmissionblog.tumblr.com

Office of Student Financial Services
617-495-1155 | financial.aid@hks.harvard.edu

Master's Degree Programs
MPP PROGRAM | mpp_program@hks.harvard.edu
MPA/ID PROGRAM | mpaid_program@hks.harvard.edu
MPA PROGRAM | mpa_program@hks.harvard.edu
MC/MPA PROGRAM | mpa_program@hks.harvard.edu
MC/MPA MASON PROGRAM
mason_program@hks.harvard.edu

Joint and Concurrent Programs
jointconcurrentdegrees@hks.harvard.edu

Executive Education
HKS can transform your capabilities in just a few extraordinary days. Experienced professionals, a world-class faculty, and a dynamic curriculum are brought together in a setting where the common denominator is a commitment to public service. With more than 35 programs addressing critical subjects from economic development and decision making to infrastructure and national security — HKS offers the most comprehensive range of executive education programs in public leadership available anywhere in the world.
617-496-9000 | exed@hks.harvard.edu
hks.harvard.edu/executive-education

Public Policy Leadership Conference (PPLC)
PPLC is held at Harvard Kennedy School each February to inspire talented, driven, and diverse first- and second-year undergraduate students enrolled at U.S. institutions from historically underrepresented and underserved communities to pursue careers in public service. Students are introduced to a graduate school environment focusing on public policy and international affairs, and learn about fellowship opportunities that may help fund their graduate studies.
hks.harvard.edu/pplc

Doctoral Programs
PhD Admissions
Four PhD programs are administered jointly with Harvard's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS). It is important to note that GSAS, not HKS, administers the admission application and deadline. Questions regarding the PhD Program may be directed to the Doctoral Degree Programs office.

DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAMS
Academic questions: phd@hks.harvard.edu
Admissions questions: admit@fas.harvard.edu
www.hks.harvard.edu/phd

PhD in Public Policy
The PhD in Public Policy prepares qualified candidates to shape the direction of public policy research and to train the next generation of leaders, teachers, and researchers for programs in public policy and the social sciences. It qualifies individuals to perform high-level policy analysis and to lead in the public sector.

PhD in Political Economy and Government
The PhD in Political Economy and Government is intended for students interested in academic or policymaking careers that require an advanced knowledge of economics and political science. It is designed for the small number of students whose needs are not met by studying economics, political science, or public policy alone.

PhD in Health Policy
The PhD in Health Policy is designed for students seeking teaching careers in institutions of higher learning and/or research careers in health policy. It is a collaborative program offered by HKS, Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard Medical School, and Harvard Business School.

PhD in Social Policy
The PhD programs in Social Policy award a PhD in either Government and Social Policy or in Sociology and Social Policy. This is a joint PhD program for students who wish to combine the disciplinary depth of a doctoral degree in political science or sociology with a multidisciplinary study of social policy issues.

This booklet was produced in November 2019. Information, policies, dates, and fees are subject to change.

hks.harvard.edu