

## Programme Specification

MA Public Policy (full-time)  
MA Public Policy (part-time)  
MA Public Policy (part-time, modular)

**PFTZPUBPOLHM**  
**PPTZPUBPOLHM**  
**PPTZPUBPOLFM**

**For students entering in September 2018**

**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Awarding Institution  | University of Reading  |
| Teaching Institution  | University of Reading  |
| Length of Programme   | Full time- 12 months, part time 24 months, flexible- 72 months |
| Accreditation         | This programme is not accredited.                              |
| Programme Start Dates | September  |

### Programme information and content

The MA in Public Policy is a multidisciplinary programme that seeks to help graduates develop a deep understanding of the making and impact of public policy across a whole range of institutions at different levels.

It gives students both breadth and depth of understanding of public policy in a systematic way and combines theoretical, methodological and practical issues relevant to the study of public policy. Students will also have a general familiarisation with the full range of quantitative and qualitative research skills. All students will engage both in a sustained piece of independent and critical research within the context of close and supportive academic supervision and also in a placement or capstone project, which will enhance their employability skills. While designed to appeal in particular to students who have a first degree in Politics and/or Economics, applications are also welcomed from other related first degree disciplines who share a desire to work in the wide-ranging public sector and non-profit sector in such employment areas as: government officials, administrators, policy analysts, budget analysts, programme managers or as employees of private sector companies that work to provide social and public services, in education, health, housing to mention only few.

The programme is based around core taught modules, specialist pathways that reflect major public policy challenges, a research dissertation and a choice between applied research project with placement or Capstone module. The core modules provide a range of threshold concepts and key tools for a critical analysis of the Economics of Public Policy and the Politics of Public Policy. Increasingly evidence-based policy and research demands familiarity with key quantitative and qualitative techniques. As a consequence of this, the third core module relates to Research Training. Students will have the option of opting for a qualitative or quantitative focus. The pathways are designed to give students the ability to tailor their studies to reflect personal or national interests as well as provide an issue-based focus for further in-depth analysis. In conjunction with this, students also undertake a dissertation. Students then have the option of choosing between an individual Applied Research project with Placement or a Capstone project, where they work in teams to deliver

a project for an outside organisation, after which they will submit a related individual report. Students complete the required 180 credits by choosing modules from different pathways or choose to specialise in a particular pathway; students should be aware that their final award title will not reflect a specialist pathway.

### Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

#### Compulsory Modules:

| Module | Name                       | Credits | Level |
|--------|----------------------------|---------|-------|
| ECM184 | Economics of Public Policy | 20      | 7     |
| PIM49  | Politics of Public Policy  | 20      | 7     |

Students will be required to take one of the following modules:

| Module | Name   | Credits | Level |
|--------|--|---------|-------|
| PIM85  | Introduction to Qualitative research methods in Politics and International Relations | 20      | 7     |

OR

|       |   |    |   |
|-------|---|----|---|
| PIM86 | Introduction to Quantitative research methods in Politics and International Relations | 20 | 7 |
|-------|---|----|---|

#### AND

Students will be required to take either one of the following modules:

| Module | Name                                   | Credits | Level |
|--------|--|---------|-------|
| PIM92  | Applied Research Project and Placement | 20      | 7     |

OR

|        |                  |    |   |
|--------|------------------|----|---|
| ECM200 | Capstone Project | 20 | 7 |
|--------|------------------|----|---|

#### OR

Students will be required to take:

| Module | Name                          | Credits | Level |
|--------|-------------------------------|---------|-------|
| PIM91  | Dissertation in Public Policy | 40      | 7     |

The remaining credits will be taken from a list of optional modules from the School of Politics, Economics and International Relations, or up to 40 credits from an approved list of modules from across the University.

NOTE: Students already in possession of an economics degree or economics training may, in consultation with and at the discretion of the Programme Director, study ECM607 Econometrics as an alternative core module to ECM184 Economics of Public Policy.

### **Part-time or flexible modular arrangements**

The programme may be studied part-time over two consecutive years with the dissertation being submitted at the end of the second year of study. The programme can also be taken on a modular basis for a period up to but not exceeding 72 months.

### **Additional costs of the programme**

Students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the module convenor before purchasing. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, electronic resources and computer facilities are available through the library and through both the Department of Economics and the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost per A4 page of £0.05 (black and white) and £0.30 (colour). Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework is submitted electronically.

Students will need to bear in mind the potential for associated travel costs if undertaking a placement module.

### **Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of any additional costs associated with the optional modules will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

### **Placement opportunities**

The programme requires students to choose between a Placement module (PIM92) or a Capstone module (ECM200). The first is an individual placement, assessed through an individual submission linked to the work and research undertaken during the placement. The Capstone is a team-based project for an organisation, assessed through an individual submission linked to the project undertaken. The Capstone does not require students to be placed within an organisation.

### **Teaching and learning delivery:**

Teaching methods will vary from module to module but teaching will primarily be by means of lectures and seminars. Certain modules may be partially taught by means of lectures and tutorials

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; contact hours for modules on this

programme range between a 22 and of 50. Detailed information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study

### **Accreditation details**

This programme is not accredited.

### **Assessment**

Students will be assessed in a variety of ways, depending on the modules selected. Assessment may include any combination of the following: formal written examination; essay, project, class test, oral presentation

### **Progression**

#### **Part-time and modular progression requirements**

There are no specific progression requirements that part-time students need to meet before they can progress into the second year.

### **Classification**

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

#### **Mark Interpretation**

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

#### **Failing categories:**

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

#### *For Masters Degree*

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and

- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits;  
and
- (iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits;  
and
- (iv) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

#### *For PG Diploma*

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iii) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits;  
and
- (iii) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits;  
and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

#### *For PG Certificate*

To qualify for a **Postgraduate Certificate**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and
- (ii) students must not have any mark below 40.