

## PUBLIC POLICY, ADMINISTRATION AND LAW MASTER'S PROGRAM - FULL-TIME OPTION

### School of Public Policy and Administration

The School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA) at York University delivers high-quality professional programming for public service leaders. Our mission: *Education for Good Governance*. SPPA offers a Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA), a **Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law (MPPAL)**, a concurrent *Graduate Diploma in Justice System Administration*, as well as other professional certificates. We provide a balanced curriculum spanning law, management, policy analysis and related areas.

Over its 10-year history, **the MPPAL program** has established a **strong track-record of advancing public service careers**. In the past, the program was exclusively offered on a two-year, part-time basis, allowing working professionals to pursue a graduate degree while continuing to work full-time.

We continue to see strong interest from top applicants, who are attracted by the rewarding nature of work in the broader public sector, as well as its competitive compensation. The MPPAL program's solid track record, unique curriculum mix and strong diversity has made it a first-choice among most applicants – many only apply to the MPPAL and no other program.

With the approval of York University's Senate in March 2019, **we are now able to offer a full-time option** to a limited number of junior professionals who wish to study full-time while continuing to work part-time.

### Fast-Track Option for Top Students

An important **entry requirement** for the part-time MPPAL program is at least two years of work experience in the public sector. This feature is important for maintaining the quality of the program. However, in some select cases, the program would like to have flexibility to **admit students with exceptional academic backgrounds but with more limited work experience** who wish to complete the MPPAL on a full-time basis.

These full-time, fast-track students will study alongside the MPPAL program's 90-100 part-time students who are all working professionals. This will create immediate networking opportunities within our downtown and Keele campus cohorts, which will be particularly attractive to high-performing undergraduates with a demonstrated interest in public service but with more limited work experience.

- Candidates must be top tier, high achieving students (i.e. hold an Honours Bachelors degree (or its equivalent), minimum grade point average of A in the final two years),
- *Only candidates who can demonstrate that they have already acquired at least some work experience in the public sector will be considered for admission.*

## Creating Opportunities for Tomorrow's Public Service Leaders

Occupations in education, law as well as social, community and government services have seen a significant decline in the ratio of younger (aged 25 to 34) to older workers (55 and over) from 3.0 in 1996 to 1.3 in 2018. This demographic shift has significant implications for expected retirements. In the Ontario municipal sector, it is estimated that 44 percent (roughly 78,000) of all employees will be eligible to retire by 2021. Among senior staff, this number jumps to over 50 percent.

Given these realities, it is more important than ever for our students to have an **awareness about opportunities within all levels of the public service**. That is why we are committed to providing them with hands on experiences that can help prepare them to fill some of the gaps that will emerge within the public sector in the coming years.

One of these opportunities is a **part-time, paid internship placement** with one of our partner organizations in the broader public sector (or in a private organization with regular and significant interaction with the public sector). Our students also can also participate in the **Ontario Public Service (OPS) Master's level policy co-op** program.



Pairing our full-time students with internship opportunities will, in addition to gaining experience, help them pay their tuition expenses. This is due, in part, to the fact that students in professional programs are not eligible for most of the financial supports offered to traditional graduate students, e.g. teaching assistant positions. Most importantly, they will be **well positioned for the job market not only academically but also professionally**.

## More about our Students and Alumni

Our students and alumni are very engaged with the School of Public Policy and Administration. Many of them are accomplished and award-winning public-sector leaders. Testimonies from alumni, including MPPAL students, are available here:

<http://sppa.laps.yorku.ca/alumni/profiles/>  
<http://sppa.laps.yorku.ca/alumni/profiles/mppal/>

*For more information about the full-time option, please review our admission FAQs:*  
<http://ppal.gradstudies.yorku.ca/faqs/>

**Or contact:**

**Alena Kimakova, PhD**  
Director, School of Public Policy and Administration  
(416) 736 2100 ext. 66066  
[akimakov@yorku.ca](mailto:akimakov@yorku.ca)

**Naomi Couto, PhD**  
Graduate Program Director (MPPAL)  
(416) 736 2100 ext. 22278  
[naomi@yorku.ca](mailto:naomi@yorku.ca)