Master of Arts in Public Policy and Governance 2019-21

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES
Developing Leaders for Social Change
About the University

Azim Premji University was established under the Azim Premji University Act 2010 of the Government of Karnataka. Azim Premji Foundation, the sponsoring body set up the University as a fully philanthropic and not-for-profit entity, with a clear social purpose.

The availability of trained professionals in education, development and allied social sectors in India is grossly inadequate, given the scale, complexity of issues and the wide range of competencies required to work in these areas. Azim Premji University’s key mission is to address this significant talent gap and prepare competent, motivated, socially committed graduates and enable them to engage with social sector.

The University started in 2011 and since then has admitted over 2000 students. It currently offers four postgraduate programmes; M.A Education, M.A. Development, M.A. Public Policy and Governance & LL.M. in Law and Development. We offer Undergraduate Degrees in Social Science, Science, Humanities and a Dual Degree in Science and Education. Six batches of postgraduate students have graduated and consistent with our social purpose, almost all of them work in the social sector.

The University conducts several continuing education programmes, in collaboration with many state governments, for functionaries in the Education and Development domains. Research is an important area of emphasis and the University Research Centre is currently engaged in several research projects in the Education and Development domains. In addition, the University also hosts national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, public lectures and brings out resource material and publications in English, Kannada and Hindi as a contribution to India’s school education.

In a very short span of time, the University has built a team of 200 dedicated people engaged in teaching, research and administration.
Master of Arts in
Public Policy and Governance

The Master of Arts in Public Policy and Governance is a 2 year full time degree programme that systematically and critically explores the nature and practice of complex public problem solving in a developing constitutional democracy.

We aim to equip our graduates to make purposive, pragmatic, ethical and humane interventions in response to pressing problems based on a critical and rigorous understanding of the institutional environment and grammar of public action.

The programme draws on the disciplines of law, economics, history, philosophy, politics and anthropology to devise an interdisciplinary curriculum that encourages deep ethical reflections on public choice, sophisticated empirical analysis of policy choice and programme implementation and field engaged insight into the experience of the everyday Indian state.

Through a carefully designed curriculum the programme aims to prepare students to:

- Critically understand public problems and purposively contribute to their solutions.
- Professionally evaluate policies and programmes
- Reflectively engage with public affairs through careers in the government, development organizations, social enterprises, think tanks, the media and other agencies involved in public affairs.
Programme Design

The M.A. Public Policy and Governance is a full-time two-year year, four-semester programme of 72 credits with credit distribution as follows

i. Twelve core courses 36 Credits – In Semester I, II, III
ii. Seven Electives 21 Credits – Semesters III and IV
iii. Field practice 11 Credits – All semesters and semester breaks
iv. Two Open courses 4 Credits – may be taken in any semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER I</th>
<th>SEMESTER II</th>
<th>SEMESTER III</th>
<th>SEMESTER IV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Politics and Democracy in India</td>
<td>Everyday State in India</td>
<td>Programme Evaluation</td>
<td>Elective 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State and Governance in India</td>
<td>Legal Foundations of Public Policy</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Approaches for Public Policy</td>
<td>Elective 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The State, Market and Economy</td>
<td>Values and Ethics in Public Affairs</td>
<td>Elective 1</td>
<td>Elective 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Policy in India</td>
<td>Policy Analysis</td>
<td>Elective 2</td>
<td>Elective 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data, Research Design and Descriptive Methods</td>
<td>Causal and Inferential Methods</td>
<td>Elective 3</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Course 1</td>
<td>Open Course 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Field work:
Policy & Governance Hub (4 Credits) – during the term time & the first winter break between I and II semester. Internship 1 (3 credits) during the break between II and III semesters. Internship 2 (4 credits) during the break between III and IV semesters.

Core Courses: Core courses adopt a multi-disciplinary approach to understand and examine policy and governance in India and build methodological capacity to analyze and contribute to these domains. They draw from disciplines such as Anthropology, Economics, History, Law, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, and Statistics which are foundational to the understanding of Public Policy and Governance domains. They cover the various facets of Public Policy and Governance to prepare students with the knowledge, skills and temperament to subsequently engage with specific sectors and themes. Concurrently, methodological courses equip students to identify and define problems, examine underlying causal and interpretive processes and use sophisticated techniques for policy and governance research. All 12 core courses are worth 3 credits each.

Electives: All electives are in the second year and will allow students to extend their understanding of the foundation disciplines, deepen their methodological training as well as develop domain expertise in particular fields. An illustrative list of electives will comprise courses on urban/rural governance, e.g. governance, gender, health, education, environment, budgeting, taxation, public finance, strategic planning, machine
learning for public policy etc. Students will have to take 7 electives (21 credits) offered across the third and fourth semester.

**Dissertation:** Students who are interested in academic pursuits in the field of public policy may choose to write a dissertation for six credits in lieu of two of the seven elective courses. The aim of the dissertation is to build students’ ability in analytical thinking and academic writing. Through the dissertation writing process student are also expected to demonstrate their ability to apply and integrate knowledge obtained from the courses and the field. The dissertation writing process will consist of a proposal submission, and the writing and defence of the final dissertation.

**Independent Study:** Students can choose to do a faculty-guided independent study, in the fourth semester, in lieu of one elective course. This gives students the freedom to go beyond the syllabus and explore a topic of their interest, in depth. They will have the freedom not just to define the topic of their study but also to shape the course work and the parameters for evaluation. However, students who have opted for dissertation will not be allowed to do an independent study.

**Open Courses:** Students are required to do two courses from a wide range of subjects such as literature, arts, cinema, epics, science, history, dance etc. based on their interest. About 10-15 open courses are offered each semester.

**Field Practice:** Rigorous field-engagements and internships have been designed as part of the programme to help students learn by observing how policy works in practice. The field engagement, comprising 11 credits, will have the following components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Practice Units</th>
<th>Duration / Timing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law and Policy Hub (4 credits)</td>
<td>10 Wednesdays through the first and second semester and 5 weeks in the first winter break.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Internship (3 credits)</td>
<td>6 weeks between Semester II and III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Field Project (4 credits)</td>
<td>8 weeks between Semester III and IV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Law and Policy Hub—**

Through the hub projects students will learn to identify and understand a real-world public problem according to a theoretically-informed protocol. The objective of this unit is to provide students with sufficient and systematic immersive exposure to the nature of public problems and the sites of public problems, which would include both institutions of the state and points of interface between the citizens and public institutions. Having got their exposure to the site of public policy students will also identify and understand a real-world policy intervention and study it in-depth. This is expected build their understanding of how policy interventions work in the real-world situations.
Internships-

(a) The six-week-long first internship will be in a range of organisations which work on policy and governance issues. The students will choose their organisations in consultation with the field co-ordinators from SPG and the field team of the University. The field co-ordinator will work with the organisations to ensure that the students get to work on specific tasks so that they can “learn by doing” in a real-world, work-life situation. Students will submit a report reflecting on their learning during the internship which will be evaluated. Structured feedback based on this evaluation will help prepare students for the second internship which will be for eight weeks during the second winter break (between third and fourth semester).

(b) The objective of the second internship help them build on the learnings from the first internship by providing an opportunity to learn by applying what they have learnt in the class-room and the field-engagements in an organisational set-up. Further, the second internship also aims to connect students with the networks of policy practice and organisations. As such the second internship is largely student-driven and is for 4 credits.

Faculty: Our faculty come from disciplines such as Political Science, Law, Economics, and Anthropology besides Policy Studies, and have engaged with governments and multilateral institutions in the areas of land governance, local governance, policy evaluation, institutional reforms and other areas in Public Policy. Students will also benefit from the University’s close association with Azim Premji Foundation which has been working with six State Governments in shaping and implementing policies and programmes in the primary education sector. Detailed profiles are available at: http://azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/faculty-SPG

Career Opportunities: Governance and Public Policy are recent professional domains that provide wide ranging career opportunities. Our former students are engaged in challenging careers in areas such as but not limited to programme evaluation, research, policy analysis, programme management, advocacy and other aspects of programme operations and governance.

Click here to read more about our career opportunities and placements.

Click here to listen to Students’ vignettes
Unique Learning Environment

The teaching and learning processes at Azim Premji University are designed to ensure that students and faculty engage each other in dialogue and discussions so that students develop deep critical thinking, self-learning abilities and capabilities for social action. We offer a unique and vibrant environment with multiple opportunities for learning beyond the classroom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundational understanding of the domain through core courses and over 100 electives for students to choose from. Open courses in art and craft, music, cinema, Literature, Science etc. to expand the students’ horizon.</td>
<td>The faculty team of 130 comes with extensive experience in teaching, research and field practice. The teacher-student ratio of 1:10 enables close support, mentoring and feedback. Click here for details on faculty profiles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Integrated Field Practice</th>
<th>Vibrant Environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A mix of field experiences spread across all semesters consisting of immersion visits, organizational internships, faculty-mentored research projects and independent field projects.</td>
<td>An engaging classroom experience with interactive pedagogic tools. Learning opportunities through various events - weekly colloquiums, national and international conferences, workshops etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learning from Diversity
Students come from almost all states of India with different educational and socio-economic backgrounds, fresh undergraduates and those with work experience. Over 50 percent of our students are women. We value and encourage this diversity and you will enjoy and learn with this experience.
ADMISSIONS

We strive hard to ensure that students from disadvantaged economic, social, regional backgrounds can access quality higher education. This inclusion and diversity is important for us to realize our vision and purpose.

- Admission tests and interviews in various locations, providing easy access
- Socio-economically disadvantaged students are given additional scores in the admission process

Register now for our Programmes. Admissions are through a National Entrance Test, followed by a personal interview by faculty for shortlisted students. The University may also decide to accept other entrance tests/conduct more entrance tests if required.

Eligibility: Undergraduate degree in any discipline. Applicants completing their undergraduate degree by September can also apply. We actively encourage applicants with prior work experience and provide additional weightage in the interview process.

Financial assistance: Azim Premji University has an explicit commitment towards supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds. We offer need based scholarships (both full and partial) and facilitate education loans for students.

Working professionals are encouraged to apply and we provide 50% tuition fee waiver for candidates with 3 years of work experience

Apply now at www.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/mpg

Contact Us

Website: www.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in
E-mail: admissions@apu.edu.in; Call 1800 843 2001
Address: Pixel B, PES Campus, Electronic City, Hosur Road, Bangalore