



**UNIVERSITÄT
ERFURT**

Willy Brandt School
of Public Policy

MASTER (MPP)

Master of Public Policy

**DEGREE**

Master of Public Policy
(MPP)

DURATION

4 semesters

COURSEWORK

120 ECTS

BEGIN OF STUDIES

Winter semester

LANGUAGE

English

TUITION FEES

EUR 2,100 / semester
(2026/27)

EUR 2,225 / semester
(2027/28)

THE BRANDT SCHOOL

The Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt is *one of Germany's leading policy schools*.

- We train future leaders in government, civil society, and private enterprise in addressing the complex public policy challenges of our time.
- We are home to cutting-edge research on key areas in sustainable development, climate change, inequality, digitalization and AI, peace, and geoeconomics.
- We generate impact by feeding results back to politics and society to inform evidence-based policy making.

The Brandt School is uniquely located in Thuringia's capital *Erfurt*, in the very center of the unified Germany. This is a region that left its mark on historical turning points, from the Reformation to the Weimar Republic, and maintains close infrastructural and intellectual ties to important metropolitan areas such as Berlin, Frankfurt, Prague, and Brussels, to name but a few.

THE MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

The Brandt School's Master of Public Policy (MPP) is a two-year *practice-oriented, international, and interdisciplinary graduate degree program*. It is designed for young professionals who wish to pursue a career in public service, including government agencies, international organizations, and the non-profit sector.

Drawing from *political science, economics, sociology, public administration* and *law*, the MPP curriculum equips professional policy analysts and future decision makers with the knowledge and practical skills they will need to advance the public interest and make sound evidence-based policy decisions.

Throughout the coursework, research, and practice experience, students *develop a deep understanding of the involved institutions and actors as well as the processes that structure policy outcomes*.



Through the school's interdisciplinary approach, we learn a lot from different fields and get the knowledge we need to solve the problems of tomorrow in an entrepreneurial way.

Tassilo Scalera,
MPP alumnus from Germany



PROGRAM STRUCTURE

MPP candidates study two years full-time, earning a total of **120 credit points** (ECTS). The first three semesters are dedicated to course work and the practical modules. During the fourth term, students write their thesis.

The core curriculum consists of the following mandatory modules:

Core Modules

- Fundamentals of Public Policy – an interdisciplinary introduction to the study of public policy, drawing on political science, economics, and law.
- Ethics in Public Policy – addressing normative questions and value trade-offs in policy design and administration
- Research Design – building the pathway to independent scholarly work, and preparing individual thesis projects.



In addition, students may choose two out of three elective subjects:

Core Electives

- Comparative Public Policy – theories, methods and approaches in comparative policy studies
- Public Administration – bureaucracy, governance and public sector management for public service delivery
- Economics – policy economics, cost-benefit analysis and performance assessment in public policy

Specializations

- Global Public Policy (with an emphasis on energy and the clean transition)
- Sustainable and Inclusive Development
- Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management
- Peace and Conflict
- Digital Policy and Artificial Intelligence

Language Module

Students improve their language competencies within several language modules. They may choose from a wide variety of languages. Basic German is compulsory for all students without prior knowledge of the language.

Practical Training Modules

Bridging the gap to the policy world is an important part of our teaching philosophy. MPP students work with *external professional partners* and *solve real-world policy challenges* as part of a policy internship and a Capstone project.

The internship – completed between the second and third semester – is an essential component of the master's studies. It allows students to apply what they have learned in the classroom, gain a practical perspective on policy analysis and public management, and explore professional fields that match their interests and strengths. Students have completed internships at institutions such as *the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Inter-American Development Bank, UNESCO, Mercedes-Benz, SAP*, and many others across the public, non-profit, and private sectors.



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I like the MPP program's practical approach. Through the mandatory internship and the project group, we get the opportunity to work with international organizations and other interesting employers. We get exposure to a very hands-on and experienced way of practicing the things that we are learning in the classroom.



Andrea Robles,
MPP alumna from Mexico

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CAPSTONE PROJECTS

During their third semester, MPP students implement a Capstone project under the supervision of an academic staff member. They **work in teams** to address a tangible public policy problem for an external ‘client’, thus **creating impact** already during their studies.

Past clients include development agencies such as the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), climate consultancies like adelphi, state agencies like the Thuringian Agency for Digitalization, non-partisan and charitable organizations such as Transparency International, international institutions including the European Investment Bank and the European External Action Service, and philanthropies such as the Open Society Foundations.

MAKE THE MOST OF IT

- **Build your network during the program**

Meet academics and practitioners through courses, guest talks and short trainings, and make friendships with fellow students from around the globe.

- **Improve your soft skills**

Benefit from expert trainings on topics such as leadership, diversity, negotiation, and communication.

- **Learn outside the classroom**

Boost your digital literacy through our Digital Learning Lab, join excursions, and work with partners to learn through pro bono consultancies.

- **Make an impact**

Turn your project ideas into practice through our Social Impact Campus, publish your findings on the Brandt School's Bulletin blog, or advance policy solutions through your Capstone projects.

- **Have a say**

Join the Brandt School's Student Government or the university wide Student Council to represent your fellow students in relevant matters.

- **See the world from another perspective**

Change perspective through our context-sensitive curriculum, the interaction with your fellow international students, or a semester abroad.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The program prepares students for *careers in state-level and national governments, public administration, international organizations, civil society, think tanks*, and private companies, including consultancies.

Mainly training policy analysts and future leaders, the MPP has also paved the way for many alumni to work as social entrepreneurs, diplomats, development experts, politicians, journalists, managers, and researchers.



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- higher education entrance qualification (i.e., high school diploma)
- college or university degree (i.e., Bachelor, Master, Diploma, state exam, etc.) with a duration of at least six semesters, ideally in subjects from the social sciences, economics, or law
- professional work experience (minimum of one year)
- above-average grades or above-average professional performance
- strong analytical skills and pronounced interest in solving political problems
- excellent English language proficiency (TOEFL iBT: minimum 90 points, IELTS: minimum of 6.5 points in all disciplines, Cambridge CAE or CPE)



APPLICATION

The online application portal opens each year on *January 1*. We strongly recommend submitting your application by the Priority Deadline of *February 28* to maximize your chances for early admission.

For applicants requiring a student visa, the non-priority (visa-relevant) deadline is *April 30*. Applicants from EU/EFTA countries or those not needing a visa prior to arrival may apply until *July 15*, which is the final deadline for admission. The MPP programme officially begins on *October 1*.

You can find all information on deadlines, required documents and enrollment on our website www.brandtschool.de/admission or reach out to our admissions team at admissions-mpp@uni-erfurt.de.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☒ Curriculum Vitae
- ☒ Statement of Purpose
- ☒ Certified Copies of Diplomas, Degree Certificates and Transcripts
- ☒ Proof of Professional Work Experience
- ☒ Proof of English Proficiency

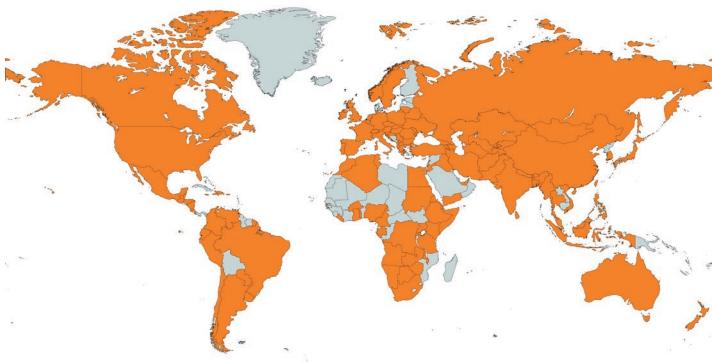
GLOBAL, DIVERSE AND INNOVATIVE

Since 2004 more than *1000 students from all over the world* have graduated from our MPP.

Our *alumni hail from more than 100 countries* and a global cross-section of students study together for their MPP. Their insights are key for the learning experience, as peers and faculty share in the collective learning effort in class.

At the Brandt School, diversity is a fact – and to us, this is an invaluable asset. Diversity is reflected in our community members' origins, ages, professional and academic backgrounds, as well as in their worldviews and faiths.

Where Brandtians come from





With classmates coming from so many different countries, the Brandt School offers a truly international and diverse learning environment. I treasure every exchange with my fellows. It deepens my perspective and reminds me of my blind spots, making me a more understanding and humble person – a better world citizen.

Clara Tak Yan Law,
MPP-alumna from Hong Kong

CONTACT

✉ publicpolicy@uni-erfurt.de

FURTHER INFORMATION

- 🌐 www.brandtschool.de
- in [linkedin.com/school/brandtschool](https://www.linkedin.com/school/brandtschool)
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CONTACT

University of Erfurt

Willy Brandt School of Public Policy

Nordhäuser Straße 63

D-99089 Erfurt

www.brandtschool.de



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