



<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS – ACCELERATED TUITION SCHEDULE</b>
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 6, 2020</b>

Forwarded on the Recommendation of the President

**APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION**

Santa J. Ono, President and Vice-Chancellor

<b>DECISION REQUESTED</b>	<b>IT IS HEREBY REQUESTED that the Finance Committee grant approval for an accelerated full-time tuition schedule with a minimum of four instalments for the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs program.</b>
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<b>Report Date</b>	September 11, 2019
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**Presented By** Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver  
 Pam Ratner, Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President Enrolment and Academic Facilities  
 Gage Averill, Dean, Faculty of Arts  
 Shashi Enarth, Program Director, Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) is a professional degree program currently offered in a 20-month full-time format by the UBC School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA). Following a curriculum review in 2018-2019, SPPGA is proposing offering accelerated format options of the program for students with extra years of professional experience. The condensed options would be as follows:

- 16 months on campus or
- 12 months on campus, final 4 months off campus.

In addition to the core classes, students in the condensed formats would complete a few electives during their first year and the remainder during the summer or first term of the second year. Summer courses would be completed in place of completing a co-op or internship program, which would allow for accelerated completion without a significant addition to the students’ workload.

Students in the accelerated options would complete the same number of course credits and receive the same level of faculty and staff support as those in the regular format. Therefore, it is proposed that the same program fee be assessed for all three options (i.e., for the 20-months option and the two accelerated options), but spread out over four instalments for the accelerated formats and over five instalments for the current, regular 20-month format (the latter having been approved by the Board of Governors in December 2018).

**Attachments**

1. Appendix 1 – Tuition and Fee Assessment Details
2. Student Tuition Consultation Report

**STRATEGIC CORE AREAS SUPPORTED**

- People and Places       Research Excellence       Transformative Learning       Local / Global Engagement

**DESCRIPTION  
& RATIONALE**

The Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) is a professional degree program in global public policy that provides students with the inter-disciplinary skills and substantive knowledge necessary to deal with complex problems of the 21st Century, across local, national, and global levels. It offers the acquisition of multi-disciplinary policy analysis skills through a sequence of core courses, plus concentrated study in one of three streams: Development and Social Change; Resources, Energy, and Sustainability; and Global Governance and Security. The program takes advantage of UBC's strengths in these areas and its substantial faculty and program resources concerning contemporary Asia. Students have opportunities for field-based learning and a client-based global policy project. The program is delivered by the UBC School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA).

Currently the program is offered in a 20-month full-time format. The MPPGA program conducted a curriculum review in 2018/19. Program duration was one of the items that was reviewed as part of this process. A survey of prospective students highlighted that the full-time, 20-month program length is "just right" for 75% of senior undergraduates interested in public policy programs. This approval rating dropped to 60% for mid-career professionals with the remainder interested in shorter programs. Additional research with employers found that, of those offering educational leave, only 20% offered leave over 12 months. Finally, only 11% of those surveyed were interested in a part-time program.

SPPGA is proposing offering accelerated format options for those entering the program with extra years of professional experience. The condensed options would be as follows:

- 16 months on campus or
- 12 months on campus with the final 4 months off campus.

In addition to the core courses, students in the condensed formats would complete a few electives during their first year and the remainder during the summer or first term of the second year. Summer courses would be completed in place of completing a co-op or internship experience, which would allow for accelerated completion without a significant addition to students' workload. Those completing the on-campus portion in 12 months would complete their final Global Policy Project remotely and would have the option to return to work at that time.

Because students who join the accelerated options will have more professional experience, in comparison with the rest of the cohort, their need for co-op or internship experience may be reduced. Students in the accelerated option would undertake a one-term, 6-credit, domestic-focused Global Policy Project or a remote one rather than the year-long, 6-credit project with international fieldwork required of the 20-month students.

Taking into account the above, students in the accelerated option would complete the same number of course credits with the same level of faculty and staff support as those in the regular program. Therefore, it is proposed that the same program fee be assessed for all three options (i.e., for the 20-months option and the two accelerated options), but spread out over four instalments for the accelerated formats and over five instalments for the current, regular 20-month format (the latter having been approved by the Board of Governors in December 2018).

**FINANCIAL**  
Funding Sources,  
Impact on Liquidity

If approved, the change would not result in an increase in fees for the MPPGA program, but would allow students more flexibility in choosing the duration of their studies. The table below shows a sample calculation using the approved 2019-2020 instalment rates for the existing regular full-time stream and the proposed instalment fee for accelerated students.

Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs	Domestic Instalment Rate	International Instalment Rate	Minimum # of Instalments
Current instalment fee for students beginning in 2019S/W	\$ 9,308.91	\$ 15,228.24	5
Program fee equivalent	\$ 46,544.55	\$ 76,141.20	
Proposed instalment fee for accelerated full-time students	\$ 11,636.13	\$ 19,035.30	4

**SCHEDULE**  
Implementation  
Timeline

Anticipated start date for students in the accelerated program options is September 2020.

**CONSULTATION**  
Relevant Units,  
Internal & External  
Constituencies

The Office of the Vice-President Students, in partnership with the Faculty of Arts and School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, conducted a student consultation regarding the tuition proposal (as per Policy 71). The AMS and GSS were invited to participate. The e-consultation was conducted from August 6, 2019 to September 6, 2019. A submission responding to the tuition proposal was received from the AMS.

**Previous Report Date** December 4, 2018

**Decision** The Board approved 2019/20 fees for the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs program at the following instalment rates with 5 minimum instalments:

- \$9,308.91 per instalment for domestic students
- \$15,228.24 per instalment for international students beginning in 2019S or later
- \$15,081.81 per instalment for international students who began between 2016S and 2018W
- \$14,646.79 per instalment for international students who began in 2015W or earlier

**Action / Follow Up** N/A

## Appendix 1 – Tuition and Fee Assessment Details

**Program Description:** Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (Accelerated Full-Time)

**Anticipated Start Date:** September 2020 (proposed fees below based on September 2019)

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per instalment – Note 1	\$11,636.13	\$19,035.30
Minimum No. of Instalments	4	4
Continuing Fees per Instalment (assessed after 4 instalments) – Note 1	\$760.80	\$2,925.58
Application Fees – Note 2	\$106.00	\$168.25
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit – Note 3	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00

Note 1 – Proposed tuition is based on approved 2019/20 tuition rates for the regular stream of the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs and will be subject to annual increases as established by the university. Tuition and student fees are charged in three equal instalments payable in January, May and September.

Note 2 – This is the current fee for the 2020W application cycle and is subject to Board of Governor approved increases.

Note 3 – The non-refundable acceptance deposit will be applied towards the first tuition instalment.

# MASTERS OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## STUDENT TUITION CONSULTATION REPORT

The Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the UBC School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, conducted a student consultation regarding the tuition proposal for the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs. This report outlines the consultation process and summarizes student feedback including the student representatives' submission verbatim in Appendix 2.

### Student Representative Bodies Invited to the Consultation

- Alma Mater Society (AMS)
- Graduate Student Society (GSS)

### Mode of Consultation

The consultation consisted of an e-consultation and a face-to-face meeting. Student representative groups were invited to the consultation through email, and asked to distribute the invitation to their constituents as they felt appropriate. Student representative groups were also offered a face-to-face meeting to discuss the tuition proposal. A meeting was not requested by student representatives.

**Basis of Consultation:** The consultation was based on a tuition proposal and rationale document created by the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs. Please see Appendix 1 for the invitation and tuition rationale document.

**Timelines:** The e-consultation was conducted over the period of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019 to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

**Summary of Student Feedback:** A submission was received from the AMS. The verbatim submission is in Appendix 2.

Organization	Summary
	<p><b>VALUE IN ACCELERATED PROGRAM</b></p> <p>“The AMS appreciates the need for an accelerated version of the MPPGA program, allowing the opportunity for a variety of professionals to access the program length that fits their needs. We appreciate the consideration of students needs in deciding to offer an accelerated program rather than a part-time offering. We see the value in an accelerated program that will appeal to professionals and some students eager to quickly re-enter their employment and the industry.”</p> <p><b>CONCERN REGARDING HIGH TUITION COST</b></p> <p>“However, we do remain concerned at the MPPGA tuition as a whole being one of the highest costs for a public policy program in Canada. While this is not within the scope of our solicited feedback, we would be remiss to not acknowledge the financial barriers to enrolment that pre-date this particular consultation.”</p>

No individual student submissions were received.

## APPENDIX 1: INVITATION TO CONSULTATION AND TUITION RATIONALE DOCUMENT

Good afternoon,

There is a proposal by the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs to create a condensed format for the Masters of Public Policy and Global Affairs.

In order to inform the program leads and the Board of Governors with regards to the **tuition proposal** for this program, the University is undertaking a consultative process to get your comments as student representatives, and provide an opportunity for students to provide individual comments on the tuition proposal if they wish. **Please note: the scope of this consultation process is limited to the tuition proposal.**

The consultation will consist of:

### 1. e-consultation

Please find attached a document which outlines the details of the tuition proposal, including:

- an overview of the program,
- the student consultation that has happened to date,
- the tuition rationale for the program, and
- the proposed tuition.

Please share the document and this email as you see appropriate. **Comments on the tuition proposal and student organization submissions can be provided confidentially to Natasha Moore - Analyst, Vice President Students Office ([natasha.moore@ubc.ca](mailto:natasha.moore@ubc.ca)).**

### 2. Face to Face meeting

If requested by student representatives, we can arrange a face-to-face meeting with the program leads regarding this tuition proposal. Please advise as soon as possible if you would like us to arrange a meeting.

**THE CONSULTATION PROCESS WILL END ON FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2019**

### Confidentiality

Comments will be collected by the Vice-President Students Office, and only analysts within that office will know the identity of individual students submitting comments. At no time will anyone outside of the Vice President Students Office know the identity of individual students who submit comments to this consultation. Your comments will only be used for the purposes of the tuition consultation.

Comments from individual students will be stripped of any identifying information to ensure confidentiality, but otherwise will be provided to the responsible program leads and Board of Governors verbatim.

Comments received from student organizations will be reported as coming from those organizations, and provided to the responsible faculty and Board of Governors as received. There will also be a summary report of the consultation developed for the Faculty and Board of Governors.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Natasha Moore ([natasha.moore@ubc.ca](mailto:natasha.moore@ubc.ca)).

Please let me know if you have any questions about the process.

Thank you

Natasha

## TUITION PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTATION

### MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS

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#### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) is a professional degree program in global public policy that provides students the inter-disciplinary skills and substantive knowledge necessary to deal with complex problems of the 21st century across local, national, and global levels. It offers the acquisition of multi-disciplinary policy analysis skills through a sequence of core courses, plus concentrated study in one of three streams: Development and Social Change; Resources, Energy, and Sustainability; and Global Governance and Security. The program takes advantage of UBC's strengths in these areas and its substantial faculty and program resources concerning contemporary Asia. Students have opportunities for field-based learning and a client-based global policy project. The program is delivered by the UBC School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA).

Currently the program is only offered in a 20-month full-time format. We are proposing offering accelerated format options for those coming into the program with extra years of professional experience. The condensed options would be as follows:

- 16 months on campus
- 12 months on campus, final 4 months off campus

In addition to the core classes, students in the condensed formats would complete a few electives during first year and the remainder during the summer or first term of 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Summer courses would be in place of doing a Co-op or internship which allows for accelerated completion without a significant addition to workload. Those completing the on-campus portion in 12 months would do their final Global Policy Project remotely and would have the option to return to work at that time.

#### STUDENT CONSULTATION DURING THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

This program option was developed as part of an overall curriculum review process for MPPGA. MPPGA students in both years were invited to attend focus groups on the curriculum changes including the new duration options. A representative of the MPPGA Students Association was also a member of the Curriculum Committee that was responsible for making the recommendations on the changes.

#### TUITION AND FEES RATIONALE

The MPPGA program conducted a curriculum review in 2018-2019. Program duration was one of the items that was reviewed as part of this process.

A survey of prospective students highlighted that the full-time, 20-month program length is "just right" for 75% of senior undergraduates interested in public policy programs. This number dropped to only 60% for mid-career professionals with the remainder interested in shorter programs. Additional research with employers found that, of those offering educational leave, only 20% offered leave over 12 months. Finally, only 11% of those surveyed were interested in a solely part-time program.

This data led us to the decision to offer accelerated options for the program rather than a part-time option. High opportunity cost of leaving paid employment without leave for 20-months along with the high cost of living in Vancouver makes it difficult for mid-career professionals to participate in our program in its current format. Having accelerated options can make the program more financially feasible to mid-career professionals while still offering a rigorous curriculum and cohort feel of the on-campus program.

Additionally, having more students with significant professional experience greatly enriches the learning experience for all those in MPPGA.

Students in the accelerate option would forgo the completion or shorten their Co-op or internship placement in the summer between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year in order to take summer classes. As students who join the accelerated options will have more professional experience in comparison to the rest of the cohort, their need for Co-op/internship experience may be reduced. Students in the accelerated option would also undertake a one-term, 6-credit, domestic-focused Global Policy Project or a remote one instead of the year-long, 6-credit one with international fieldwork.

Taking into account the above, students in the accelerated option will still complete the same number of credits with the same level of faculty and staff support as those in the regular program. Therefore, we plan to charge the same amount of tuition as the regular tuition schedule but spread it out over four payments instead of five to align with the accelerated format. We feel that the experience, quality, and support will be of the same standards for both the accelerated options and the regular format, which justifies the same tuition.

## PROPOSED TUITION AND FEES

### Current MPPGA Tuition Schedule

#### Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (Regular Full-time)

Instalments per year: 3

Minimum # of instalments for program: 5

Program entry year	Domestic fee per instalment	Domestic continuing fee per instalment	International fee per instalment	International continuing fee per instalment
2019S or 2019W	\$9,308.91	\$760.80	\$15,228.24	\$2,925.58
2016S to 2018W	\$9,308.91	\$760.80	\$15,081.81	\$2,925.58
2015W or earlier	\$9,308.91	\$760.80	\$14,646.79	\$2,925.58

Note: Continuing fee is assessed after instalment 5.



## Proposed Additional MPPGA Tuition Schedule

Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (Accelerated Full-time)

Instalments per year: 3

Minimum # of instalments for program: 4

Program entry year	Domestic fee per instalment	Domestic continuing fee per instalment	International fee per instalment	International continuing fee per instalment
2019S or 2019W	\$11,636.13	\$760.80	\$19,035.30	\$2,925.58

Note: Continuing fee is assessed after instalment 4.

Tuition will be subject to increases as approved by the Board.

Students in the accelerate payment schedule will also be subject to the same non-refundable acceptance deposit of \$1000 as regular stream students, effective for individuals applying to start the program in the 2020-2021 academic year.

**APPENDIX 1 – TUITION AND FEE ASSESSMENT DETAILS****Program Description:** Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (Accelerated Full-Time)**Anticipated Start Date:** September 2020

	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>International</b>
Tuition fees per instalment – Note 1	\$11,636.13	\$19,035.30
Minimum No. of Instalments	4	4
Continuing Fees per Instalment (assessed after 4 instalments)	\$760.80	\$2,925.58
Application Fees – Note 2	\$106.00	\$168.25
Supplemental Application Fees	\$0	\$0
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit – Note 3	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Other Faculty and Course Fees – Note 4	\$0	\$0

Note 1 – Proposed tuition is based on approved 2019/20 tuition rates for the regular stream of Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs and will be subject to annual increases as established by the university in alignment with the same program. Tuition and student fees are charged in three equal instalments payable in January, May and September.

Note 2 – This is the current fee for the 2020W application cycle and is subject to annual increases.

Note 3 – The non-refundable acceptance deposit will be applied towards the first tuition instalment.

Note 4 – These are the Faculty and Course Fees approved for the 2019/20 academic year and are subject to annual increases.

## APPENDIX 2: STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

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There was a submission from the AMS.



### **Submission to the UBC Board of Governors regarding the Tuition for the Alterations to the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs Program**

September 6th, 2019

Dear Board of Governors,

This submission is made on behalf of the Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver (AMS) in response to the feedback request from the Vice President Students Office on tuition for the alternations proposed on the original two-year Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs Program (MPPGA), by the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA).

The AMS appreciates the need for an accelerated version of the MPPGA program, allowing the opportunity for a variety of professionals to access the program length that fits their needs. We appreciate the consideration of students needs in deciding to offer an accelerated program rather than a part-time offering. We see the value in an accelerated program that will appeal to professionals and some students eager to quickly re-enter their employment and the industry.

As the course content for accelerated offerings is consistent with the original two-year program, the AMS understands the tuition of the MPPGA program must also be consistent across the varied program lengths. However, we do remain concerned at the MPPGA tuition as a whole being one of the highest costs for a public policy program in Canada. While this is not within the scope of our solicited feedback, we would be remiss to not acknowledge the financial barriers to enrolment that pre-date this particular consultation.

The AMS supports the implementation of these alterations to the MPPGA program and looks forward to being updated on bursaries and scholarships for this program to continue ensuring its accessibility to students of all income levels.

The AMS thanks the University for soliciting student input in this process. We look forward to the implementation of these two alterations of the MPPGA program in allowing the flexibility needed for more mid-career professionals to partake in this program.

Sincerely,

**Christopher Hakim**  
President  
AMS Student Society of UBC Vancouver  
president@ams.ubc.ca

**Julia Burnham**  
Vice President Academic and University Affairs  
AMS Student Society of UBC Vancouver  
vpacademic@ams.ubc.ca