For-Credit Summer Graduate Course

Applied Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation
Real-World Decision Making

June 5-16, 2023
Paris, Brussels, and Luxembourg

The University of Maryland School of Public Policy will offer an in-person, for-credit international graduate course where students will learn the tools of policy analysis and program evaluation. Classroom instruction will be provided by course instructors and guest faculty---complemented by meetings with senior officials of the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD]).

Classes will be held in Paris, France from June 5-16, 2023 at the OECD and other Paris locations, with field trips to the European Commission and European Parliament offices in Brussels and the European Court of Auditors, European Investment Bank, and Eurostat in Luxembourg.

This course is a three-credit, stand-alone course for doctoral, master's level, and advanced undergraduate students studying social policy-related subjects such as economics, education, international development, political science/governance, public administration, public health, public policy, social welfare, sociology, and urban planning. Mid-career professionals may also take the course.

There is also a non-credit option for mid-career professionals who are interested in learning the material and attending classes, but who do not want to complete the graded coursework.

Course Summary

For sound policy making, governments, multinational organizations, NGOs, and funders need to make informed assessments of the strengths and weakness of programs. Hence, program evaluation is an essential element of their work. And this, in turn, creates a demand for staff able to apply the tools of systematic policy analysis and program evaluation.

The course seeks to advance the knowledge and careers of participants by helping them understand and apply those tools. Students will learn how to:

- *Conduct policy analyses in different political environments* (including defining the problem, identifying and assessing options, and making recommendations)

- *Apply evaluation methodologies to assess program effectiveness* (including qualitative, pre/post, interrupted time series, comparison group, and econometric studies as well as randomized control trials and natural experiments)

- *Summarize and synthesize research and evaluations* (including literature reviews, systematic reviews, and meta-evaluations)

- *Consider political and cost factors, as well as social and ethical considerations*

- *Make real-world recommendations* using an explanatory decision-making matrix

In addition to course instruction, the class will also visit specialized units of transnational organizations that conduct policy analyses and program evaluations--- including the European Commission and the European Parliament (in Brussels); the European Court of Auditors, the European Investment Bank, and Eurostat (in Luxembourg); and the OECD (in Paris). Students will meet with senior officials of these organizations to discuss and compare their approaches.

A preliminary syllabus will be available on the course web page.

The course will culminate in the preparation of a policy brief/analysis. Students will select topics of interest to the OECD, the European Commission, or, with the instructors' permission, themselves. Likely topic areas include the future of social

safety net programs---and the response to economic and social changes and long-term trends in work and income inequality. Possible final papers could cover aging and pensions, education, employment and the labor market, the environment, families and children, health, housing, migration, and social welfare generally.

Final policy briefs/analyses will be due at the end of August 2023.

Post-course internships. Interested students will also have the opportunity to apply for post-course internships with two offices at the OECD: (1) the Directorate for Employment, Labour, and Social Affairs and (2) the Economics Department. If there is a suitable project in which the student can be effectively involved, the internship can be offered. The internships generally last for two-to-three months (to be worked out between the student and the OECD and the student would be paid (about 700 Euros per month). Students who are interested in this opportunity should inform the course instructors at the time they apply for the program. The course instructors will then provide them the necessary information to apply.

Classes will be in English.

Faculty

The core faculty will be:
- *Douglas J. Besharov*, Professor, University of Maryland, College Park (Program Director); and
- *Douglas M. Call*, Lecturer, University of Maryland, College Park

The faculty will be augmented by a number of guest faculty who are luminaries in the field of program evaluation:
- *David Myers*, President and CEO, American Institutes for Research;
- *Anu Rangarajan*, Senior Vice President and Managing Director, International Research Division, Mathematica Policy Research (ret.);
- *Stefano Scarpetta*, Director of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD; and
- *David Seidenfeld*, Vice President, International Research and Evaluation, American Institutes for Research

Course Schedule and Facilities

Prior to the class meetings in Paris, a preliminary online meeting will be held to discuss the course syllabus and other arrangements. In Paris, the course will meet daily from 9:00-13:00, except for the days that the class visits Brussels and Luxembourg.

As mentioned above, final policy briefs/analyses will be due at the end of August, after students leave Paris.

Eligibility

The course is open to all potential students, including individuals enrolled in accredited graduate and undergraduate programs as well as professionals who are seeking additional training and education. Students who are not enrolled at the University of Maryland are eligible to enroll in the program.

Students who are currently enrolled in a graduate program must be in good academic and judicial standing and must not have any registration blocks. The minimum GPA for this program is 3.0 (unless otherwise approved by the program director).

Professional and non-credit students must have, at the minimum, a bachelor's degree or equivalent experience.

Course Credit

Students will receive three credits from the University of Maryland upon successful completion of the course. Non-UMD students should confirm the transferability of credits with their home academic departments.

Participants in the non-credit version of the course will receive a "citation of participation."

Course Cost

Standard program fee: 3,500 USD.

Enrollment Fee: 75 USD (for non-UMD students only; non-refundable)

The program fee includes registration and administration, tuition, course related activities, and teaching services. Students are responsible for transportation (including to and from Paris, as well as travel to and from Brussels and Luxembourg), lodging, meals, and other incidental expenses.

A non-credit version of the course will also be offered (at a cost of 2,200 USD).

Application Deadline

Applications will be accepted through April 2, 2023.

Because space is limited, early application is encouraged. Students will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Application

Prospective students can apply for the program here. Students who are not currently enrolled at the University of Maryland will also need to apply to UMD through the Graduate School. (Please contact Professor Call for instructions.)

Accommodations

Students will be responsible for arranging their own accommodations in Paris. In the past, students have stayed at the United States dorm on the campus of Cité International Universitaire de Paris, but there are many other possibilities.

Additional Information

Further information regarding the course format, travel, and other course logistics will soon be available on the course web page.

Contact

For any specific questions regarding the course, please contact: Douglas Call (dcall1@umd.edu) of the University of Maryland.