

Master of Social Policy and Program Evaluation

كلية السياسات العامة
College of Public Policy

جامعة حمد بن خليفة
HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY



Master of Social Policy and Program Evaluation (MSPPE)

The Master of Social Policy and Program Evaluation (MSPPE) is a full-time two-year degree offered by the College of Public Policy at HBKU. The program provides advanced analytical and substantive knowledge of social policy and program evaluation to educate professionals for careers in the public, private, and non-profit sectors on issues of local and global importance.

The program also supports Qatar's national development by providing evidence-based and ethically informed social policies, supporting policy and program evaluation and building national capacity in social policy and evaluation.

The MSPPE offers students a unique opportunity to develop the evaluation skills needed to inform programs and policies with reliable evidence, support communities and drive organizational change across a range of sectors and activities. The program aims to prepare graduates to shape the strategic direction of social policy and program evaluation in Qatar and beyond.

Program focus

The MSPPE offers a combination of theory, social policy analysis, and policy research and evaluation methods courses using a variety of analytical methods, as well as the opportunity to gain real-world, practical experience. Since the objective of social policy is ultimately human and societal well-being, students will be challenged to reflect on and assess the ethical foundations of social policy interventions.

This interdisciplinary degree draws from multiple fields of study, including economics, political science, sociology, psychology, education, law, applied ethics, and public health. Classroom learning for the MSPPE is supplemented by applied social policy and evaluation research through lab and internship opportunities in public policy.

Graduates of this program will be equipped to:

- ▶ Function effectively as leading practitioners or senior managers, policymakers, policy analysts, and policy and program evaluators in government, private sector, NGOs, and international organizations, designing, improving, leading, and implementing efficient social policies.
- ▶ Provide solutions to social problems that account for economic, ethical, and societal considerations as well as professional standards, by applying acquired social policy knowledge.
- ▶ Apply their broad social policy and program evaluation education to effectively evaluate policies and programs to improve outcomes and impact.



Curriculum

A 36-credit program taught over two years that includes:

- ▶ **Two foundation courses (6 credits)**
 - ▶ Foundations of Social Policy
 - ▶ Foundations of Evaluation

- ▶ **Two core courses (6 credits)**
 - ▶ Social Policy Analysis
 - ▶ Research Methods

- ▶ **Three specialization courses (9 credits)**
Students can choose between two distinct concentrations that enable them to focus on either social policy or program evaluation. In addition to the core courses students will take courses from the following two concentrations:

- ▶ **Concentration in Social Policy (9 credits)**
 - ▶ Welfare of Children and Families
 - ▶ Health Policy
 - ▶ Education Policy

- ▶ **Concentration in Program Evaluation (9 credits)**

- ▶ Advanced Methods for Program Evaluation
- ▶ Benefit-Cost Analysis for Program Evaluation
- ▶ Program Evaluation Planning and Designs

- ▶ **Two elective courses (6 credits)**

- ▶ Students have the option of two elective courses offered within the College of Public Policy, or from other HBKU programs (with approval).

- ▶ **Thesis (9 credits)**

All students are required to complete a master's thesis worth 9 credits. All theses must address an appropriate research topic relevant for Qatar, the Middle East, or globally, which includes a defined field of research and a number of researchable questions to investigate. These should demonstrate a good knowledge of the literature in the field of social policy or program evaluation; contribute to the study of the field through original research and/or by relating the subject studies to the broader academic literature; and demonstrate analytic ability through the careful and critical use of relevant concepts and approaches.

Admission and Application Requirements

Applicants seeking admission to the Master of Social Policy and Program Evaluation should have a bachelor's degree with a strong academic record (minimum 3.0 GPA out of 4.0) from a recognized university. Applicants from all fields are welcome to apply, including engineering, natural sciences and humanities, but preference will be given to those with an academic background in political science, public administration, economics, communications, or other social sciences.

Applicants are required to submit an IELTS score of 6.5 or a TOEFL score of 79 to demonstrate their proficiency in English.

Further details about the language proficiency requirement and the process to seek exemption (where this is an option) are available on the website: admissions.hbku.edu.qa

Application requirements

A completed online application form:
admissions.hbku.edu.qa

Academic transcripts

Official electronic copies of transcripts should be submitted as part of the online application. Final transcripts and graduation statements are required for all previous university studies. All transcripts submitted should include an explanation of the grading system. For those who have not completed their current studies, transcripts must include results from the last completed semester of coursework. Transcripts in languages other than English or Arabic must be accompanied with an official translation. Applicants who are admitted to the program based on copies of or incomplete transcripts will be required to provide original transcripts upon enrollment in order to register for courses.

Standardized test results

Official copies of standardized test results must be sent directly to HBKU. Please refer to the institutional codes below:

- ▶ TOEFL: 4981
- ▶ IELTS: No code required. Students should ask the IELTS center where they tested to send the IELTS TRF to Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

Letters of recommendation

Two letters of recommendation, at least one of which must be from an academic referee. Letters that are not directly written for this program, or are incomplete, will not be accepted.

Personal statement of interest

Applicants should submit a personal statement as part of the online application. The statement should explain why the candidate is applying to the program, and how their studies will contribute to the achievement of their personal objectives, including information about the applicant's research interests and achievements (minimum of 300, maximum of 500 words).

Resume/Curriculum vitae

Applicants should submit a copy of their current resume or curriculum vitae as part of the online application.

Identification document:

All applicants should submit an electronic copy of their passport as part of the online application. Nationals and residents of Qatar should also submit their valid Qatari ID.

Student funding

The College of Public Policy provides opportunities for funding on a competitive basis. Further information will be provided to applicants who are admitted to the program.

Admission inquiries

admissions.cpp@hbku.edu.qa