



**MOUNT CARMEL COLLEGE
AUTONOMOUS**

Master of Arts
in Public Policy

**PROSPECTUS
2017-18**

TAKSHASHILA
INSTITUTION

Master of Arts in Public Policy

Overview

As economic growth propels India towards becoming a middle-income country over the next decade, it is imperative that its structures, processes and ideas of governance keep pace. Closing the governance gap requires talented individuals to be equipped with the right ideas, competencies and networks.

The pioneering *Master of Arts in Public Policy* programme is specifically designed to create talented professionals who are well-equipped to engage in the complex arena of public affairs in India.

It will provide a firm understanding of the fundamentals of public policy, economic reasoning, and governance and enable participants to apply them in their professional lives.

The programme is also designed to help participants become more engaged in the policy making process, as analysts, as public leaders, officials, public relations specialists, or indeed, as active citizens.

Outcomes that matter

The *M.A. in Public Policy* equips students with the knowledge of policy making process in India and the factors that influence it. Participants will acquire a range of skills that will help them to actively participate and influence the Government and policy makers in formulating and implementing the right policies for India.

Learning from the best

The faculty is drawn from Mount Carmel College's experienced set of faculty members from different disciplines and Takshashila's global network of academic experts, practitioners and experienced professionals, making for an innovative, exciting and inspiring curriculum that both addresses the basics of the discipline as well as teaches skills that can be readily applied at the workplace.

Who should attend

The *M.A. in Public Policy*, a 2-year, full-time programme, is inter-disciplinary in nature and is an applied programme.

The programme is designed for fresh graduates and professionals with 1-2 years of work experience – from any background – including humanities, sciences, engineering, journalism, law, finance and others.

The programme meets the needs of those engaging in, or seeking to engage in a broad range of professions ranging from the media, civil service, non-government organisations, law, advocacy, regulatory affairs and international business.

Schedule

The second batch is set to begin in June 2017. Admissions are currently open. Regular classes will be held at Mount Carmel College, Bangalore. The students will also get to attend additional guest lectures, both in the classroom as well as online from the best public policy professionals.

Outcomes and Curriculum

A trained, public policy professional

What are the principal policy challenges India faces today? Does the popular discourse frame these problems accurately? Does the political system address the fundamental problems in an efficient and effective manner? How do we evaluate the manifestos, proposals and demands made by political parties, interest groups and civil society? How do we engage as empowered citizens and trained professionals to make a constructive contribution to India's future?

Skills

Through the programme, students would be better able to:

- Identify and understand India's policy environment
- Situate India's role as an emerging geopolitical and geoeconomic power within the context of its developmental challenges
- Apply economic reasoning in analysing public policy challenges
- Engage, negotiate with and partner with government, public and non-governmental organisations
- Acquire the necessary skill set to communicate, persuade, and implement policy ideas.
- Forge effective relationships with policy actors and policy networks

Curriculum overview

Each semester will consist of 16 credits for Core Courses, 4 credits for Allied Courses and 2 credits for Soft Courses.

Core Courses: There are 14 core courses and a dissertation in the final semester. These courses focus on the fundamentals of public policy in India and draws from different subject areas of economics, political science, sociology, psychology, history and communicative English.

Allied Courses: The Allied Courses focus on the essential skills required to become a successful policy professional. The skills imparted include communicating effectively, quantitative and data analysis techniques, policy analysis, media strategy, and political campaigning.

Soft Courses: These courses will focus on specific aspects of public policy that will provide a holistic understanding of the complex systems.

Dissertation and Internship: The final semester includes a Master's dissertation thesis and an internship. The dissertation is an academic paper involving in-depth research into a policy topic that the students will work on through the semester. The internship or attachment is meant to provide students exposure to public policy in practice. Whether they decide to work in a think-tank as analysts or as a campaign manager for a politician, the internship will prove to be an enriching experience.

Assessment: Each course will have assignments and examinations to assess the students' progress. The assignments will be innovative and suited to the current industry needs. Assessment will range from writing essays, blogging, making a short Youtube video to running a simulated election campaign.

Course Outlines

The public policy curriculum was developed under the aegis of a distinguished board of studies. This includes Dr. M Govinda Rao, Member of 14th Finance Commission, and former member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India. The board also includes Mr. Ravichandar, of Bangalore City Connect and a member of the former BBMP Restructuring Committee, who has played a catalytic role behind many innovations in the city. It also included faculty from Mount Carmel College, the Takshashila Institution and Bangalore University.

Semester I:

The first semester will ease the students into the public policy arena with courses such as **Introduction to Public Policy**, the **Indian Political System and Constitution**, and will imbibe the fundamental principles of economics through the **Economic Reasoning for Public Policy** course. In addition, the students will develop the required **Writing Skills for Public Policy**. **Quantitative Techniques and Effective Communication** for Public Policy make up the allied component in the first semester. A soft course on **Book Reading** will expect the students to read and familiarise themselves with a carefully curated set of books, essential to public policy analysis.

Semester II:

An introductory course in **Macroeconomics** is essential to developing a theoretical understanding of the structural issues facing India. **Sociology of Public Affairs** will help students understand the Indian social context in which policy is situated. **History of Modern India** will focus on the defining moments post-independence that explains our current position, prospects, and challenges. **Political Science and Public Administration** aims to introduce the students to political philosophy essential to public policy and further, to explain the present political and bureaucratic structures in India. The **Policy Analysis Workshop** is an exciting three day, intense workshop where the students come up with a policy proposal to tackle a real/simulated problem. Drawing upon the knowledge and skills gained thus far, the students are expected to **Write a Policy Brief** on a specific public policy issue. Students are also exposed to **Alternative Economic Thoughts** that have challenged the traditional economic wisdom.

Semester III:

In the third semester, students are exposed to the important aspects of **Public Finance** in India: understanding government borrowing and expenditure, tax policy, fiscal federalism and local finance. **Behavioural Sciences and Public Policy** will introduce the students to the new and exciting developments in the field of behavioural economics and psychology and its impact on public policy. The course on **Sustainable Development** is aimed to give the students an appreciation of the trade-offs involved in pursuing economic growth and development. A course on **Research Methodology** prepares the students for the upcoming Dissertation in the fourth semester. **Media Strategy for Public Policy** and **Modern Political Campaigning** are hands-on practical courses designed for enhancing the skills required for a professional career in public policy. Finally, **Ethics of Governance** aims to impart frameworks for solving policy dilemmas.

Semester IV:

This semester largely revolves around the Master's **Dissertation**, a 10-12,000 words in-depth research study, that the students will have to submit. The students are taught the required **Analytical Skills** such as data analysis and technical skills such as Excel and other tools that helps in data visualisation. These skills will help the students in the dissertation as well as in their careers. The **Internship** will give practical exposure to students, as they work on a live public policy challenge, as faced by government, private sector, nonprofit, research or other organisations. **Public Policy of Global Issues** and **Current Challenges in Public Policy** are dynamic courses that will dwell into some of the current policy challenges facing India and the world.

Faculty

Combining the teaching resources of Mount Carmel College and Takshashila's global talent network

The course will be taught by Mount Carmel College in collaboration with the Takshashila Institution. Mount Carmel College boasts of a long history of delivering unparalleled education in different disciplines and its rich traditions of teaching and research will be in display for this course.

Over the years the college has grown in strength in terms of variety of programs offered and student strength. Today, the college offers 34 undergraduate programs, 2 B.Voc programs, 18 post graduate programs and doctoral programs

Takshashila's unique networked think tank model connects to the best talent regardless of geographical locations.

Takshashila is guided by a Council of exemplary individuals who provide leadership, corporate governance and ensure robustness of our intellectual output. Councillors are drawn from among those who have made significant contributions to improving public policy in India or have supported Takshashila in extraordinary ways.

Fellows are appointed on an annual basis to conduct policy research on specific areas. They are usually drawn from the ranks of accomplished professionals who have passion and energy for public policy.

Course Faculty

Dr. Suma Singh, Associate Professor & HOD, Department of Economics, MCC
Ms. Shanthi S, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, MCC
Ms. Alice Mathew, Associate Professor, Department of Journalism, MCC
Ms. Juliana Lazarus, Asst Professor & HOD, Department of Journalism, MCC
Ms. Kavyashree Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, MCC

Nitin Pai, Director, Takshashila Institution
Pavan Srinath, Head, Strategy and Programmes, Takshashila Institution
Pranay Kotasthane, Head, Geostrategy Programme, Takshashila Institution
Anupam Manur, Policy Analyst, Takshashila Institution

Guest Faculty

Dr. M. Govinda Rao, Member, 14th Finance Commission
Prof. Rajeev Gowda, Rajya Sabha MP
Narayan Ramachandran, Fellow at Takshashila Institution, Mint Columnist
Dr. Rajan Govil, Former IMF Economist and Fellow at Takshashila Institution
Raj Cherubal, Fellow & Director, Chennai Citiconnect
V Ravichandar, member, BBMP Restructuring Committee

Administration

Admissions Policy

Candidates are expected to be deeply committed to transforming India for the better by engaging in public affairs. It welcomes applicants from any discipline.

Eligibility

Candidates should have a Bachelor's degree (at least 50% marks) in any discipline.

The ideal candidate should have:

- Strong communications skills, especially the ability to write effectively
- Analytical reasoning ability
- An open mind and the ability to acknowledge personal biases and value judgements.
- Undertaken either one or a combination of internship, volunteer activity, extra-curricular engagements or professional work experience.

Additional qualifications:

(These do not determine the selection process, but will give the candidate an advantage during the M.A. programme.

- 1-3 years of work experience
- An ability to work with numbers
- An understanding of the basic principles of economics

Application Process:

The course begins in the second week of June 2017.

Application Deadline: 19 May 2016.

Stage 1: Apply online on takshashila.org.in/mcc-mapp with the supporting documents.

Stage 2: Once you have applied, you will be asked to submit an essay and a Statement of Purpose within 5 days.

Stage 3: Interview round. Interviews can be held remotely, if candidate is not from Bangalore.

Fees

Application Fee: Rs 500

Course Fee: A special introductory offer of Rs 1,00,000 per candidate per year.

Contact

For further information, write to :
mcc@takshashila.org.in

About us

Mount Carmel College, Bangalore

Mount Carmel College, Autonomous is owned and managed by the congregation of the Carmelite Sisters of St. Teresa (CSST). The institution since 1948 has been working towards the cause of “Empowering through Education”.

Over the years the college has grown in strength in terms of variety of programs offered and student strength. Today, the college offers 34 undergraduate programs, 2 B.Voc programs, 18 post graduate programs and doctoral programs.

Affiliated to Bangalore University, MCC was granted autonomous status in 2005. The college has successfully completed three rounds of accreditation by NAAC and was awarded “A” grade in its third round in 2012. It is recognised as College with Potential for Excellence (CPE) by UGC. MCC is ranked among the top twenty colleges in India by India Today and Week magazines.

Vision:

Mount Carmel College, Bangalore, envisions a life-oriented education that empowers the students through a humanising and liberative process, to be agents of transformation and development at different levels of life. Enabled and empowered, they respond pro – actively to concerns and conflicts inherent in today’s reality, especially those of women and persons who are unable to exercise their freedom to be human and work for the integrity of creation.

The Takshashila Institution

Inspiration

The ancient city of Takshashila was the site of perhaps the world’s oldest public policy school. It was the intellectual fountainhead not only of Indian statecraft but indeed of all fields of human endeavour. The Takshashila Institution derives inspiration from that ancient seat of learning in its contemporary objective of building the intellectual foundations of a modern India with global interests.

Institution

The Takshashila Institution is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organisation committed to increasing public awareness and education on strategic affairs, public policy and governance.

Initiatives

Policy Research - covering geopolitics, national security and governance.

Pragati - The Indian National Interest Review, is a monthly publication on strategic affairs, public policy and governance that gives voice to the objectives of Takshashila.

The Indian National Interest - one of India’s best regarded independent online communities on public affairs, centred around blogs and twitter.

Shala

The Takshashila *Shala* has an innovative, informal format that blends scheduled presentations with spontaneous, even ex tempore talks from participants.