MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Detailed programme description

Academic Year 2016-2017
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The Master of Science in Public Policy and Management (PUMA) programme is a Master’s Certificate programme provided by the Department of Public Policy and Management of the Faculty of Economics at Corvinus University of Budapest.

The programme is the English language equivalent of the Department’s flagship program, the EAPAA-accredited Hungarian language MSc. in Public Policy and Management. The EAPAA is a high-prestige European accreditation agency; so far it has accredited only 26 institutions in Europe.

The PUMA programme has a double degree programme with Romania’s largest, public university, the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj. Enrolled students acquire a second full MA degree with no additional time or cost.

Corvinus University of Budapest is a member of the EMPA network involving many of the most renowned European universities of the field\(^1\). Thanks to this, our PUMA students can take a one-semester ‘top-up’ option to their studies at no additional cost. This option can be taken as well as by the eligible students of our EMPA network partners. This option results in an EMPA certificate issued and signed by all of the EMPA network members.

**PROGRAMME AIMS**

The aim of the PUMA programme is to train graduates who can apply their practical and theoretical knowledge in economics, social sciences, management, and law to solve and analyze issues in public policy and state administration. The programme is focused on the comparative analysis of questions of public administration, public policy and public management in EU and non-EU countries in the context of processes of internationalisation, Europeanisation and European integration. The programme is designed to provide a comparative understanding of public sector structures, policies and processes, as well as a methodology for analysing and dealing with different structures and processes of public sector management, guidance and control.

Additionally to this the primary objective of the European Master’s in Public Administration (EMPA) programme is to stimulate the development of European Master’s in Public Administration by internationalising the existing postgraduate degree programmes of the participating institutions. For this purpose, the institutions have developed a common framework for scheduling and organising a one-year study programme on the basis of mutually agreed course requirements, curriculum elements, cross-national and common examination standards and well-structured and closely supervised student exchanges.

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\(^1\) The EMPA programme is offered by a network of leading European universities. Besides the Corvinus University of Budapest, the following institutions are involved:

- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium),
- Deutsche Hochschule für Verwaltungswissenschaften, Speyer (Germany),
- Institut d’Études Politiques de Paris (France),
- Institut d’Études Politiques de Lyon (France),
- Tallin University of Technology (Estonia),
- University of Liverpool (the United Kingdom),
- University of Vaasa (Finland),
- Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam (the Netherlands),
- University of Geneva (Switzerland),
- Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium)
- University of Limerick (Ireland).
MAJOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Graduates of the PUMA programme are qualified to understand major theories that support government policies in decisions for changes

- apply multidisciplinary approaches towards public issues,
- understand governance and public management and their applications,
- have an advanced knowledge of the formulation and analysis of public policy and its delivery through programmes and projects,
- have extensive knowledge of the institutions, processes and problems of modern government and policy making,
- reflect on how and why similar policy issues are framed differently in different countries as problems and solutions,
- understand key organisational changes in public sector as well as to evaluate outcomes of policies,
- analyse and work out various local, regional, national, and international policy issues,
- be equipped with the skills that are essential for translating policies into tangible programmes,
- use the right methodological approaches,
- submit results with acceptable academic content and format,
- apply these knowledge at solving or evaluating concrete problems.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The courses taught in the PUMA programme are divided into core courses, catch-up courses, module courses and elective courses. All courses are taught in English.

During the first year, the programme provides catching-up courses in Public Economics and Public Policy Analysis, while also introducing students into Advanced Microeconomics, Advanced Macroeconomics and Econometrics.

Students can choose specialization courses from the following modules:

- Analytical Tools for Policy Decisions
- Public Management
- Policies for Human Development

Each module consists of three courses. A typical student would choose four module courses (24 ECTS), thereby completing one module. Those successfully completing one or more modules receive a diploma supplement indicating the name(s) of the module(s) completed.

The main feature of the EMPA-Budapest programme is the same. It offers a structure of core and elective courses which focuses on Hungarian and Central European characteristics. This strategy provides detailed information for different approaches and questions regarding our public policies. The curriculum is taught entirely in English. In addition to the courses, it includes the execution of a directed research programme on a comparative public administration topic, which should result in a dissertation of not more than forty pages and at the level of a journal article. The project might include field research/internship in another country. The dissertation should preferably be written in English.

Students choosing to register at Corvinus University take the first part of the programme (first semester) at this university. The courses are taught in English. The second part (second semester) of the programme may be taken at one of the other institutions in the network. At this part the language of instruction is generally English, but it is German in Speyer and French in Paris. This means that graduating students get an MSc in Public Policy and Management from the Corvinus University and a certificate jointly signed by these EMPA partners.
STRUCTURE OF STUDIES

4 academic semesters
Academic credits altogether: 120

ACADEMIC CONTACTS

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COURSES

The detailed description and requirements of all courses are available at the following website: http://economics.uni-corvinus.hu
Please note that all course descriptions are subject to change and it is always the course syllabus handed out in the first class of the given course that is valid for the given semester!