PROGRAMME: MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Programme code	Degree code	Academic Plan code	Credits
B6740	67401	BC674040 (Structured)	186

The programme information provided here should be read in conjunction with the relevant rulebook of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, and academic rules of the University of the Free State.

Information

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) is an established career-focused postgraduate programme aimed at high-level management in the public sector. It is intended for graduates who have not necessarily had an undergraduate background in public administration or management but have gained relevant career experience in the public sector or related areas and want to strengthen their management abilities.

Admission requirements

Admission to the programme is subject to approval by the departmental chair. To be admitted to the Master's programme an applicant should have:

- Any Honours degree or Postgraduate Diploma at NQF level 8.
- Obtained an average of 65% for his/her qualification or equivalent.
- Five years of proven management experience in the Public Sector (on Assistant Director - or Middle Manager levels or above).
- Passed a proficiency assessment at the level determined by the department.

The proficiency assessment comprises two rounds of selection. The first selection round evaluates whether an applicant meets the admissions requirements. During the second selection round, applicants who meet these requirements are invited for an online written discipline-specific assessment. Assessments are developed and assessed by the Department of Public Administration and Management.

Prospective students must apply for admission to the programme in writing before 30 September of each year, prior to registration in the following year. Applications are submitted on the university's website at https://apply.ufs.ac.za/Application/Start. The following documents should accompany an application.

1. Certified copy of ID/passport.
2. Academic record.
3. Certified copies of academic qualifications.

4. A curriculum vitae providing evidence that an applicant has at least five years of proven management experience in the public sector.

5. A letter from an applicant's employer's human resources department confirming his/her appointment status and rank.

6. In a research proposal, presenting the applicant's basic field of interest in 4000 words, discuss:

   i. Background and reason for the study

   ii. Literature review

   iii. Research problem

   iv. Aim and objectives

   v. Research methodology (Approach, method of data collection, and sample strategy – which public sector institution or unit of analysis is the target).

Research areas

The Department of Public Administration and Management provides research supervision in the following areas, focusing on the public sector. Applicants should select a research topic relevant to these areas.

Financial management
- Fiscal decentralization
- Intergovernmental fiscal relations
- Municipal financial management and service delivery
- Public financial management reforms and service delivery
- Supply chain management
- Agile and lean supply chain management

Governance
- Ethics and integrity
- Good governance and local good governance
- Human resource accountability
- Leadership accountability
- Public sector management accountability
- Risk management
- Strategic Management

Service delivery
- Citizen participation in the governance of local government service delivery
- Service delivery systems

- Sustainable service delivery (water governance and solid waste management)
- Sustainable development and sustainable energy development
- Social innovation / transformative social innovation in local government service delivery

Political-administrative interface

- Political-administrative dichotomy
- Coalition politics and local government formation(s)
- Complex local government ideological coalition formations/types

Public policy

- Public policy formulation and implementation
- Contemporary public policy challenges

Curriculum

A student in the MPA Programme must be registered for a minimum of two years. The programme comprises the following core modules.

Module name	Semester 1	Semester 2
First academic year		
Public Human Resource Management	EPAH7914	
Public Policy Management & Service Delivery	EPAP7914	
Public Financial Administration and Management	EPAF7914	
Research Methodology in Public Administration		EPAR7924
Organisational Analysis & Inter-Governmental Relations		EPAO7924
Project Management for Public Managers		EPAP7924
Second academic year		
Mini-dissertation in Public Administration	EPAR7900	
Structured module credits	48	48
Research credits	90	
Total credits	186	

NB: Applications with outstanding supporting documents will be regarded as incomplete and will not be considered.

For programme-related inquiries contact the programme coordinator as per the details provided here. Alternatively, you may also contact the Head of the Department.

Programme Coordinator

Dr Tafadzwa Maramura

Senior Lecturer

Department: Public Administration and Management

Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Tel: 051-401 2435

Email: MaramuraTC@ufs.ac.za

Head of Department

Dr Maréve Biljohn

Head of Department: Public Administration and Management

Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Tel: 051-401 7185

Email: BiljohnMIM@ufs.ac.za

Department of Public Administration & Management
T: +27(0)51 401 2435
F: +27(0)51 401 3947
E: MasiloaneM@ufs.ac.za

205 Nelson Mandela Drive
Park West
Bloemfontein 9301
South Africa

PO Box 339
Bloemfontein 9300
South Africa
www.ufs.ac.za