



Online short courses in government and public policy

Study from anywhere, anytime, and help to create a world better led, better served and better governed.

In partnership with





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Reimagining Oxford's leadership education for the 21st century

The Blavatnik School of Government is a global school committed to improving the quality of government and public policymaking worldwide. Founded in 2010, we are one of the newest and most vibrant departments at the University of Oxford. We combine the academic rigour of the top-ranked university in the world (The Times Higher Education World Rankings, 2023) with an applied, real-world focus towards government and public policy training.

Our research is proudly independent and relevant to public policy and our academic programmes, courses and workshops bring this latest research right into the classroom. Plus, through our outreach activities, we provide pathways to smart policy solutions for governments and decision-makers in business and civil society.

Since 1096, the University of Oxford has been educating leaders from around the globe. Over its history, it has educated nearly 60 heads of state and government.





Economics for Public Policy

Course overview

In the context of your role in a public sector organisation, it is highly likely that you will come across professional economists and their reports. This course aims to prepare you for these interactions by introducing you to the language and concepts of economics for public policy and encouraging you to become a critical consumer of economic analysis.

Throughout the eight weeks on our **Economics for Public Policy** programme, you will explore foundational principles of economics and learn how to apply them when formulating policy, empowering you to make better-informed policy decisions.

Upon completion of the course, you will receive a certificate that will support your career progression and enhance your resume. You will have developed practical skills and solutions that you can take into your workplace, where they will have an immediate impact on your organisation. This programme is also certified by **CPD UK**.

Learning outcomes

On this online course, you can expect to achieve the following:

- be able to explain what ‘mainstream economics’ is, identify relevant applications, and appreciate the limitations of this approach;
- understand the economic rationale for government intervention in a variety of global settings, and critically appraise specific policy responses;
- appreciate the challenges associated with the design and finance of public policy, both in theory and practice.

“The Economics for Public Policy course afforded me the opportunity to understand and gain insights on economics-based considerations. Through the course, I have gained competencies that would enable me to communicate economic concepts, feasibility and analysis to stakeholders in a clear and understandable manner.”

Oyinola, course graduate

Course details

Type:
Online short course

Who for?
Professionals who wish to enhance their understanding of how economics can be applied to public policy

Length:
Eight weeks (three to five hours of study per week)

Fees:
£1740 (Inclusive of VAT)*

Entry requirements:
None

For dates of our upcoming intakes, please **visit our website**.

**Discounts available to alumni and those working in the public sector (evidence required). See page 15 for more details.*

Modules	
Module 0	Getting started
Module 1	How (micro) economists think
Module 2	What markets can achieve
Module 3	Why markets can fail I
Module 4	Why markets can fail II
Module 5	Why markets can fail III
Module 6	What to tax and why
Module 7	Going macro
Module 8	Submission of final assignment

Economics for Public Policy

Faculty



Dr Clare Leaver

Professor of Economics and Public Policy

Dr Clare Leaver is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, and a Fellow of University College, Oxford. She studies careers and incentives in the public sector, with a focus on education sectors in low and middle-income countries. Clare is Research Coordinator for the Research on Improving Systems of Education (**RISE**) Programme, Co-Academic Director of **DeliverEd**, a research programme which seeks to build evidence on delivery approaches for learning reform, Co-Academic Director of the **People in Government Lab**, and a Fellow at CEPR. She holds a PhD from the University of Bristol.



İrem Güçeri

Associate Professor of Economics and Public Policy

İrem Güçeri is an Associate Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government and Governing Body Fellow of St Antony's College. She studies the ways in which government policies can promote growth and productivity, as well as issues surrounding efficient policymaking in the field of taxation. İrem is an International Research Fellow of the **Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation**, and an affiliate of the CESifo Network in Public Economics. She received her MPhil and DPhil degrees in Economics from Oxford University, after having obtained a BA in Economics from Koc University and an MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics.

Values and Public Policy: Political Philosophy in Practice

Course overview

What is the purpose of government? This is the fundamental question you will critically examine when studying this ground-breaking short course.

Our **Values and Public Policy: Political Philosophy in Practice** programme promotes careful and critical evaluation of the thinking that should underpin good policy decisions and reflects on the moral complexities that policymakers must engage with. It explores practical dilemmas that occur when the idea of governmental purpose comes into conflict with fundamental values.

If you need to interact with, understand or interpret policy as part of your role, this course will allow you to do this more effectively, while also ensuring you are considering important moral and ethical issues in your policy decisions.

Upon completion of the course, you will receive a certificate that will support your career progression and enhance your resume. You will have developed practical skills and solutions that you can take into your workplace, where they will have an immediate impact on your organisation. This programme is also certified by **CPD UK**.

Learning outcomes

Throughout this online course, you will:

- identify where the moral and political meet, recognising when issues of public policy are not solely technical but involve fundamental values and conflicts between these values;
- enhance your understanding of the key-value concepts that should inform public policy;
- develop skills of reasoning about and resolving ethical dilemmas and be able to communicate their conclusions and rationale;
- critically scrutinise your own ethical and political assumptions, and reflect on the moral complexities of policymaking scenarios that you have or may find yourself in.

“The support from our course Facilitator was wonderful and helpful... I also want to shout out the outstanding work of my Enrolment Advisor, who was a significant support and ultimately instrumental in getting me to apply and enrol.”

Kelly, online course graduate

Course details

Type:
Online short course

Who for?
Professionals who need to interact with, understand and interpret policy as part of their public service job

Length:
Eight weeks (three to five hours of study per week)

Fees:
£1740 (Inclusive of VAT)*

Entry requirements:
None

For dates of our upcoming intakes, please [visit our website](#).

**Discounts available to alumni and those working in the public sector (evidence required). See page 15 for more details.*

Modules	
Module 0	Getting started
Module 1	Introduction to foundations
Module 2	The common good
Module 3	Distributive justice: property, tax and welfare
Module 4	Distributive justice: social justice
Module 5	Authority and resistance: democracy, its rivals and its pathologies
Module 6	Authority and resistance: human rights and civil disobedience
Module 7	Philosophy in public life
Module 8	Submission of final assignment

Values and Public Policy

Faculty



Jonathan Wolff

Alfred Landecker Professor of Values and Public Policy

Jonathan Wolff is the Alfred Landecker Professor of Values and Public Policy and Governing Body Fellow at Wolfson College. He was formerly Blavatnik Chair in Public Policy at the School, and before that Professor of Philosophy and Dean of Arts and Humanities at UCL.

He is currently developing a new research programme on revitalising democracy and civil society, in accordance with the aims of the Alfred Landecker Professorship. His other current work largely concerns equality, disadvantage, social justice and poverty, as well as applied topics such as public safety, disability, gambling, and the regulation of recreational drugs, which he has discussed in his books *Ethics and Public Policy: A Philosophical Inquiry* (Routledge 2011) and *The Human Right to Health* (Norton 2012). His most recent book is *An Introduction to Moral Philosophy* (Norton 2018).



Tom Simpson

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Public Policy

Tom Simpson is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, and a Senior Research Fellow at Wadham College.

At the Blavatnik School he co-directs the Master of Public Policy, and directs the Military Leadership and Judgment Programme. He works particularly on trust and issues at the intersection of technology and security. For an overview of his research,

[see this broadcast with ABC.](#)

He joined the School from Cambridge, where he was a Research Fellow at Sidney Sussex College and was also educated (BA, MPhil, PhD).

Between degrees he was an officer with the Royal Marines Commandos for five years. He served in Northern Ireland; Baghdad, Iraq; and Helmand Province, Afghanistan.



Evidence in Public Policy

Course overview

Now more than ever, it’s imperative that governments and public bodies worldwide use objective evidence to inform policy decisions. This intensive eight-week course will teach you to put the science of evaluating policy into practice, ensuring that the policy you are involved in is built on solid foundations.

Our **CPD UK** certified **Evidence in Public Policy** online programme gives you the unique opportunity to hone the critical skills needed to design and implement policies informed by facts rather than opinion or instinct.

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to evaluate the impact and implementation of policies within the context of your own role – an ability which will have an immediate impact on your career and organisation. You will also receive a certificate that will support your career progression and enhance your resume.

Learning outcomes

- Throughout this course, you will learn:
- how to use evidence to evaluate the impact(s) of policy;
 - how to apply evidence to policy decisions;
 - how policymakers gather and generate evidence in practice;
 - about the demand for evidence-based policy evaluation and why it should be a greater priority in public policy organisations, globally.

“I loved how the course illustrated that using intuition in policies isn’t pragmatic and showed us the road to becoming a critical evidence consumer to create robust policies.”

Eslam, course graduate

Course details

- Type:**
Online short course
- Who for?**
Professionals who need to be able to evaluate the impact of policies
- Length:**
Eight weeks (three to five hours of study per week)
- Fees:**
£1740 (Inclusive of VAT)*
- Entry requirements:**
None

For dates of our upcoming intakes, please [visit our website](#).

**Discounts available to alumni and those working in the public sector (evidence required). See page 15 for more details.*

Modules	
Module 0	Course welcome and narrative
Module 1	Introduction and key concepts
Module 2	Causality and randomised control trials
Module 3	Causality without randomised control trials
Module 4	Wrapping up the methods
Module 5	Aggregating and finding evidence
Module 6	External validity and applicability of evidence
Module 7	Practicalities: designing monitoring systems and impact evaluations
Module 8	Submission of final assignment

Evidence in Public Policy

Faculty



Martin Williams

Associate Professor in Public Management

Martin Williams teaches and conducts research on the roles of evidence, context and external validity in policymaking. His research is on policy implementation, public service delivery and bureaucratic reform, mostly in low- and middle-income countries.

Prior to joining Oxford University, Martin was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Economics, University College London, and completed his PhD in the Government Department at the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Julien Labonne

Associate Professor in Economics and Public Policy

Julien Labonne's research focuses on issues of clientelism, electoral politics and social networks. He carries out field experiments, designs household surveys and uses large-scale datasets to test models of voter and politician behaviour in developing countries.

Prior to joining the Blavatnik School, Julien was an Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Economics) at Yale-NUS College in Singapore and completed his PhD in the Economics Department at the University of Oxford. Julien previously worked at the World Bank and has consulted for the Asia Foundation, the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the OECD.



Cyber Security for Public Leadership: Planning, Policy and Strategy

Course overview

Cyber security professionals may stand on the frontline, but they are not the only ones who hold responsibility for looking after our data and technology. If you are a manager or leader within the public sector, in a private company providing public services or beyond, keeping your organisation and your customers safe from cyber incidents is now a vital duty.

This non-technical **Cyber Security for Public Leadership** online short course will teach you how to consider a cyber security strategy as an integral part of your operations, policies and planning, keeping your organisation, and its customers, secure with the latest knowledge and practices.

Upon completion of the course, you will receive a certificate that will support your career progression and enhance your resume. You will have developed practical skills and solutions that you can take into your workplace, where they will have an immediate impact on your organisation. This programme is also certified by **CPD UK**.

Learning outcomes

After taking this course, you will be better equipped to:

- identify appropriate cyber risks for your organisation;
- make well-informed decisions when procuring new technologies;
- accurately assess the levels of security risk facing your organisation;
- work with technology experts to develop and implement strategies to mitigate cyber threats;
- respond effectively and efficiently to cyber security incidents.

“I’ve found this course to be incredibly useful in helping me learn how to better safeguard my own data and the data of others. Now, protecting my organisation and its customers from cybercriminals is a major part of my job.”

Sami, course graduate

Course details

Type:
Online short course

Who for?
Non-technical leaders who need an understanding of cyber security

Length:
Eight weeks (three to five hours of study per week)

Fees:
£1740 (Inclusive of VAT)*

Entry requirements:
None

For dates of our upcoming intakes, please [visit our website](#).

**Discounts available to alumni and those working in the public sector (evidence required). See page 15 for more details.*

Modules	
Module 0	Getting started
Module 1	Cyber insecurity: The harms caused by malicious cyber activity
Module 2	The basics of technology and its misuse
Module 3	Who is hacking, and why?
Module 4	Building the cyber defences of an organisation
Module 5	A real-life cyber security incident response exercise
Module 6	Public policy and cyber security
Module 7	Cyber security in times of tension and crisis
Module 8	Submission of final assignment

Cyber Security for Public Leadership

Faculty



Ciaran Martin

Professor of Practice in the Management of Public Organisations

Ciaran Martin is Professor of Practice in the Management of Public Organisations. Before joining the Blavatnik School of Government, Ciaran was the founding Chief Executive of the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), part of GCHQ. He has had a 23-year career in the UK civil service, during which he held senior roles within the Cabinet Office, including Constitutional Director (2011–2014) and Director of Security and Intelligence at the Cabinet Office (2008–2011).

Ciaran led a fundamental change in the UK's approach to cyber security, successfully advocating for a wholesale change of path towards a more interventionist posture. This approach was adopted by the UK government in the 2015 National Security Strategy, leading to the creation of the NCSC in 2016. For the British public, this approach gave them clear and prompt advice on responding to cyber incidents, and it provided companies with the ability to defend themselves from cyber attacks more effectively. The NCSC model has since been studied widely and adopted in countries like Canada and Australia.

Ciaran's work led him to be appointed CB in the 2020 New Year's Honour's list.



Dr Noran Fouad

Dr Noran Fouad's research is focused on cyber security governance and she has helped design and teach on many executive education programmes and postgraduate courses on digital governance and cyber security.

Noran completed her PhD in international relations at the University of Sussex, in which she examined the socio-political construction of cyber security discourses and practices in the USA (2003-16) through an analysis of the peculiarities and agency of digital information. Her previous research has spanned across topics such as cyber security, internet governance, digital activism, and Middle East politics.

Noran was also an Assistant Lecturer of Political Science at Cairo University, Egypt, as well as an Academic Assistant and Executive Editor of two academic journals published by the university's Faculty of Economics and Political Science.

Our multi-course pathway and discounts

Public sector leaders require a range of skills to create policies and make decisions that are both effective and comprehensive. To reach the next level in your career, you must become an expert who can bring these skills together to address every aspect of a challenge or task that comes your way.

Each of our online courses focuses on a core topic, but all share the same objective: to empower future leaders to help create a world that is better led, better served and better governed.

Following our multi pathway, and taking two or more of our programmes, will better prepare you to consider and navigate everything at stake when making policy decisions. It aims to enrich your skillset and maximise your ability to make an impact and drive change in your professional role.

On the next page is our suggested pathway if you are looking to make a real difference in public policy. However, you can take as many of our courses as you like, in any order. To discover which learning pathway may be best for you, your career and your professional goals, [email us](#) and we will be happy to advise.

Pay less to make a bigger impact

We want to support you in progressing your development and your career. That's why, when you complete any of our online short courses in government and public policy, we can offer you a **25% discount** on your next programme.*

Or, if you purchase more than one of our courses **together**, you can benefit from an even bigger discount on your learning.*

Contact us to find out more about our full range of discount schemes that could benefit you – from multiple course purchases to corporate discounts.

**Terms and Conditions apply. Contact our Enrolment Team for our full T&Cs.*



Our suggested multi-course pathway

Economics for Public Policy

The reality of modern government and business is that most of the evidence we deal with is economic. The **Economics for Public Policy** course will enable you to communicate effectively with economists. Through an introduction to economics for public policy, you will develop the ability to critically analyse economic findings, becoming a discerning consumer of economic analysis.



Values and Public Policy: Political Philosophy in Practice

Any policy decision is about values – even in the most technical or economic decisions, a value judgement has already been made. The **Values and Public Policy** course will help you to understand the key moral and ethical value concepts that should inform public policy.



Evidence in Public Policy

Values alone, however, are at times not enough. Good judgements in public policy require reliable evidence (including economic evidence). Bringing together everything you may have learned previously, the **Evidence in Public Policy** course will enable you to hone the skills needed to design and implement policies informed not only by morals and ethics but also by concrete facts.

Enhance your leadership skills even further...

After completing our other courses, you may also be interested in our more specialist programme, developing your skillset and your career even further.

Cyber Security for Public Leadership: Planning, Policy and Strategy

If you are a non-technical leader who is involved in projects with a cyber aspect and needs a better understanding of cyber security strategy, this course will enrich your leadership skills beyond what you may have already achieved on the previous three courses. It will help you develop the expertise needed to integrate robust cyber security policies into your organisational planning, strategy and operations.



Your learning experience

Course requirements

We want to ensure that everyone has the chance to upskill in order to create a better future for themselves, their organisation and wider society. For this reason, there are no specific entry requirements for any of our courses.

However, the courses will take a certain level of commitment. Learners are expected to dedicate three to five hours a week to their studies, with all activities and tasks taking place online.

Teaching methods

These 100% online courses will bring theory to life, using practical examples and activities that you can apply to your own day-to-day role. These include:

- case studies;
- interactive simulations;
- knowledge checks;
- discussion forums;
- practical exercises.

Course Facilitators

In addition to learning from our world-leading academics, you will also benefit from access to a course Facilitator. An academic expert in their field, your Facilitator will provide support throughout your learning journey.

The Facilitator will:

- be present in weekly discussions on specific topics;
- provide guidance on all project tasks;
- give comments and feedback on assessments.

Some of our courses will also offer you the opportunity to attend live sessions with your Facilitator and fellow students. These may include introductions to peers on the course, Q&As, module discussions and more. All sessions are optional. If you cannot attend (for example, due to work commitments), you will have access to recordings to watch at a time that suits you, so you never miss out on valuable learning.

Networking with global policy influencers

By studying alongside peers from across the globe, you can expand your network and cultivate valuable connections long after the course is finished. These connections could mean access to enhanced knowledge and wider perspectives.

Certificate of completion and CPD certification

After completing any of our online short courses, you will receive a certificate of completion that will showcase your new skills in government and public policy in real terms.

All of our programmes are also certified by **CPD UK**. Learners will be able to request their CPD certificate after successfully finishing their course, using their certificate of completion as proof of eligibility. The courses have an estimated 40 hours of learning, equating to 40 CPD points.

Note, the onus is on students to request these CPD certificates at the end of their studies. The University and partners accept no responsibility, and cannot be held responsible, for the claiming or validation of hours or points.

“The weekly interactions and forums between and among the cohort provided deeper value and understanding of the public policy sphere and decision-making in different contexts and situations.”

Kenny, course graduate





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Fees and funding

We know that funding your personal development is a big commitment. In this section, we've provided more information about fees and how we may be able to support you in paying for our online short courses. However, if you have further questions or concerns about funding your studies, please do not hesitate to [send us an email](#) or [book a call with our advisors](#).

How much does the course cost?

Our online short course costs £1,740 (including VAT).

Can I pay a deposit?

Yes, it is possible to pay a deposit of £200 and reserve a space on the course before paying the full fees. [Get in touch with our team](#) to learn more.

Are there any discounts available?

Yes – financial support schemes and discounts are available to students who meet certain criteria. These include:

- students from certain geographical regions;
- Oxford alumni;
- public sector employees;
- students purchasing more than one online short course or who have taken a short course with us previously, as part of our multi-course pathway.

Evidence may be required to prove eligibility. To find out more, [contact us](#).

Can my employer sponsor me?

Yes. In fact, many of our online short course students have been fully or partially funded by their employers. This is a great option if you think taking one of our programmes would directly benefit your organisation but you need financial support to study. Speak to a member of our team for advice on how to best approach them.

Who can I speak to about fees and funding?

Our dedicated team is here to answer any questions you have. Get in touch [by email](#) or [book a call with our Enrolment Team](#) and we'd be happy to help.

“One of the main reasons I chose online courses is financial: it lowers the cost of my studies.”

Sami, Course graduate



Contact us

If you have any questions about any of our online short courses, please feel free to [email us](#) or [book a call](#) with our Enrolment Team at a time that suits you.

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