COURSE SPECIFICATION

MPA PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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Course Title	*MPA Public Administration*
Final Award	*MPA Public Administration*
Exit Awards	*PGDip Public Administration;* *PGCert Public Administration*
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	P2343FTC
Mode of study	*Full time*
Mode of delivery	*Campus*
Normal length of course	*1 year*
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	*From September 2026*
Awarding Body	*University of Portsmouth*
Teaching Institution	*University of Portsmouth*
Faculty	*Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences*
School/Department/Subject Group	*School of Area Studies, Sociology, History, Politics and Literature*
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	*Full URL*
Course webpage including entry criteria	*https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/mpa-public-administration*
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	*None*
Office for Students Conditions of Registration	*https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-providers/registering-with-the-ofs/registration-with-the-ofs-a-guide/conditions-of-registration/*
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	*Level 7*

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.
This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Course and Module Catalogue for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- *To develop students' advanced understanding of public sector organisations, their management and the changing external context, including the political context, in which they operate*
- *Preparation for and / or development of a career in public administration/ public sector management by developing skills at a professional level or as preparation for research or further study in the area*
- *Develop the ability to apply knowledge and understanding of the theories of public administration and public sector management to complex issues, both systematically and creatively, to improve practice*
- *Enhancement of lifelong learning skills and personal development so as to be able to work with self-direction and originality and to contribute to the field of public administration and to society at large*

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

Office for Students Conditions of Registration

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment Methods**
A1	The comparative political, historical and financial context of public administration and public sector organisations giving students a systemic understanding of the sector	*Lectures, seminars, tutorials, individual and group exercises, guided independent study, work based learning*	*Essays, written exams, narrated presentations, portfolios, reports, projects*
A2	*The processes by which public policies are managed, formulated, implemented and evaluated in the public sector.*		
A3	*The options available to deliver public services and the most efficient, effective and economic way of doing so. This is essential in being able to understand the context in which the public sector operates.*		
A4	*The organisational structures and external networks that constitute the modern public sector*		
A5	*The accountability, ethical and democratic issues inherent to the field of study. Social responsibility at local and national levels*		
A6	*Specialist subject knowledge of research in specific fields of relevance to their career. Research and scholarship that enables students to develop the critical perspective necessary so they can apply the theory to real life situations.*		

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment Methods**
B1	*Apply a range of advanced, scholarly theoretical models to a broad spectrum of areas in public administration issues and areas of operation*	*Lectures, discussions, tutorials, individual and group exercises, guided independent study, work based learning*	*Essays, written exam, narrated presentations, portfolios, reports, projects*
B2	*Analyse and critique different theoretical models whilst applying them to real situations*		
B3	*Analyse and critique different methods of delivering public services and organising public sector institution*		
B4	*Analyse and critique relevant to policy making processes*		
B5	*Advanced skills to collate, synthesise and analyse data from a variety of sources using a range of methodologies*		
B6	*Demonstrate general and subject specific research and information retrieval skills, including the ability to gather, integrate and organise material critically to evaluate its significance within appropriate practical frameworks.*		

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
C1	*Understand and contribute to current debates in comparative administration, interpreting the knowledge and skills derived from learning in the course.*	*Lectures, discussions, tutorials, individual and group exercises, guided independent study, work based learning*	*Essays, written exam, narrated presentations, portfolios, reports, projects*
C2	*Be prepared for an advanced professional career in public sector leadership and management, using the full range of creative and innovative skills developed by the course.*		
C3	*Use appropriate methodologies to investigate problems and issues relevant to public sector managers in order to develop policies and strategies for delivering public services to consumers and to advise policy makers.*		

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment Methods**
D1	*Demonstrate advanced literacy and oral and/or written communication skills, including the ability to present a rhetorically effective, coherent, well supported and sustained argument.*	*Lectures, discussions, tutorials, individual and group exercises, guided independent study, work based learning*	*Essays, written exams, narrated presentations, portfolios, reports, projects*
D2	*Structure and communicate complex ideas effectively, interpreting and presenting new knowledge with confidence.*		
D3	*Use information technology to collect and analyse information to apply research in practical situations.*		
D4	*Demonstrate advanced literacy and oral and/or written communication skill, including the ability to present a rhetorically effective, coherent, well supported and sustained argument.*		
D5	*Demonstrate an ability to work independently but seek support when necessary.*		
D6	*Work within a group and recognise the value of other contributions.*		
D7	*Develop interpersonal skills.*		
D8	*Identify and provide credible, well-reasoned and creative solutions to complex problems.*		
D9	*Demonstrate relevant skills and political sensitivity.*		

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations / Partner-Specific Assessment Regulations *(Delete as appropriate - partners will follow UoP regs unless they have specific regulations)* will apply to this course. Approved course exemptions can be found here.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides support within the School through the Personal Tutorial system.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as

represented in our Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

University of Portsmouth Connected Curriculum

- University of Portsmouth Vision
- Office for Students Conditions of Registration
- University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
- Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement - Master's Degrees in Business and Management
- Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Changes to your course/modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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Document Details	
CSD Template date	*July 2025*
Author	*Janet Bryant*
Date of production and version number	*14.01.26 v1*
Date of update and version number	*[Date] [Version number]*
Minimum student registration numbers	*20*