

# Master of Public Administration (MPA)

## Akamai University

Hawaii, United States of America

Dr. Ben Lee and Dr. Douglass Capogrossi

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The Akamai University MPA Program has been carefully designed to be convenient, relevant and to build upon the student's past work experience in civil service and current professional pursuits. Rather than interrupting our students' careers, this MPA Program is designed to enhance them, providing greater knowledge and understanding, new skills and qualifications, fully engaged with their professional pursuits. Students are guided in conducting employment related research for the purpose of improving civil service systems and strategies. This is a highly cost effective way to gain new insights and skills, the latest information and competencies, and valuable qualifications.)

### ABOUT AKAMAI UNIVERSITY, HAWAII, USA



[Akamai University](#) is legally established by corporate charter in 2002 and operating in good standing as a non-profit degree-granting institution under the laws and regulations of the United States of America and the State of Hawaii. Akamai operates as a federal and state tax-exempt institution of higher learning for the purpose of providing advanced studies, research and community service worldwide. Akamai is an international university with academic, corporate, and community service affiliations in many nations.



Akamai is internationally accredited by the Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges and Universities (ASIC). Akamai has been designated as an ASIC Premier University for demonstrating several quality areas of strength and good practice. ASIC is a member of the British Quality Foundation (BQF), sits on the Quality Standards Group of UK NARIC, and is one of a number of international accrediting bodies listed in the international directory by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) in the USA and is a member of the CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG). ASIC is an approved accrediting body in compliance by the UK Border Agency (UKBA). ASIC Accreditation provides reassurance to the UK Border and Immigration Agency that the college meets their strict requirements for overseas students and, in general, does not harm the perceived quality of the United Kingdom education provision.

[ASIC Premier University Certificate of Accreditation](#)

[Akamai University Listing in ASIC International Accredited Colleges Directory](#)

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### ABOUT EDS BUSINESS SCHOOL, MALAYSIA



EDS Business School, founded by Dr. Ben Lee in 2002, is internationally recognized as a premier training and executive development organization, and world-class nurturer of talent, satisfying a rapidly growing demand for skills development training among educational leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs and executives in the Asia-Pacific Region. EDS operates world class advanced management trainings and networking activities in Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Hong Kong, China, USA and Macedonia, Eastern Europe, and is best known for providing state-of-the-art training in management principles and leadership practices through a unique Executive Open Learning Programs.

EDS Business School is established to meet the rapidly growing demand for skills development training needs by academia, NGO leaders, professionals, business owners and executives in the Asia-Pacific Region to provide up-to-date management knowledge and leadership practices through its unique (Executive Opening Learning) training model.

EDS has initiated formal training associations with universities and colleges in the Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Macedonia, Ghana and the USA. Further, EDS served as the catalyst in the establishment of an international open learning consortium in the Philippines, bringing higher learning institutions into cooperation, expanding access to educational opportunities, providing for capacity-building, and upgrading university and college teaching faculties toward earning higher academic qualifications. For further details on EDS, [please visit http://www.eds.my/](http://www.eds.my/)

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Participants seeking entry to the Master of Public Administration (MPA) should verify the following qualifications:

- Bachelor Degree or equivalent professional qualification with two years of working experience,
- In lieu of the Bachelor's degree, applicants will be considered with a recognized Business Diploma (Associate Degree) and a minimum of five years of progressively more responsible working experience. Such applicants will be required to submit appropriate letters of recommendation from high level offices in Myanmar Union Civil Service, verifying they have the necessary capability and motivation to successfully complete the program within the allotted time span. Applicants accepted in the absence of the Bachelor's degree will be required by the University to add missing foundational elements to the minimum program, as deemed appropriate by EDS Business School, as a condition for admission.
- English ability equivalent with TOEFL 500 points or verification they have previously completed college level studies in the English language.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER OF LEADERSHIP IN CIVIL SERVICE

Minimum Duration: 20 months

The minimum credit requirement for a MPA Degree is 40 credits beyond the Bachelor level, as outlined below. Students are required to attend all of the tutorial seminars and successfully

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complete all the coursework assignments within a timely manner, achieving a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better.

MPA participants complete 40 graduate credits in coursework comprising 12 academic classes with focus upon the foundational competencies in theories, principles, and practices, and the social-cultural implications of the discipline for civil service leaders, plus a thesis project of moderate composition.. The thesis project includes a proposal phase, the project itself and review of manuscript and oral review. These modules represent the essential elements, which define the field of public administration for civil service leaders and establish the underlying foundations upon which participants may base their advanced professional development.

### **Master of Public Administration (40 credits)**

Akamai University shall offer the MPA program in collaboration with its faculty under the administration of the award winning EDS Business School (Malaysia) and according to an approved 40 credit curriculum. The MPA includes ten instructional modules plus a Master's Project focusing upon leadership in the civil services to cover the required 40 credits. Each instructional module is delivered in a three-day seminar period.

- MPA501: Public Policy Implementation (3 credits)
- MPA502: Public Finance and Budgeting (3 credits)
- MPA503: Public Administration, Technology and Innovation (3 credits)
- MPA504: Public Service Leadership (3 credits)
- MPA505: Good Governance and Ethics Management (3 credits)
- MPA506: Decentralization, Governance & Sustainable Development (3 credits)
- MPA507: International Political Economy (3 credits)
- MPA508: Economic Development (3 credits)
- MPA509: Myanmar Economic Development (3 credits)
- MPA510: Social and Heritage Development (3 credits)
- MPA511: Research Methods in Public Administration (3 credits)
- MPA512: Field Studies in Public Administration (3 credits)
- MPA 895 Master Thesis (4 credits)

### **Module Grading**

Each module will have a five-part grading scheme:

- Class attendance and punctuality - 5 marks
- Depth and extent of participation in the seminar activities – 15 marks
- Summarization and comment on case studies – 20 marks
- Assigned scholarly readings and submission of essays in reply to questions– 20 marks
- Written scholarly paper of 2,000 words on an approved topic for the module.  
The assignment must include full references to the academic literature that has informed the paper.– 40 marks

### **Attendance Required**

Students are required to attend all support seminars and to submit assignments in a timely manner. A maximum 60 days is allowed for submission of all assignments following the

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residential seminars. Should students experience health problems, work-related issues, or family emergencies, they may request a 30-day extension in writing by email, fax, or post, to be received at EDS within seven days before the assignment due dates.

Students receiving approval for extensions must submit completed assignments for the modules, to be received by EDS prior to the expiration of the extension or receive a grade of non-completion (NC) for the module. Should a student not submit assignments in the 60 day time allotted and fail to submit in writing for the extension as stated, EDS is required to submit a letter of academic probation. The letter of academic probation shall require the students submit the late assignments within 14 days or receive a grade of non-completion (NC) for the module. A grade of non-completion (NC) will require the student to re-enroll and retake the module, to remain in good standing toward their degree.

### Standard, Minimum-Maximum Degree Periods

The standard degree period is two years for Master program. The minimum required enrollment period for Master program is one full calendar year from the date of initial registration. The maximum periods allowed for program completion is four years for Master program.

### PROGRAM FACULTY

Prof. Dr. Premkumar Rajagopal, PhD

Prof. Dr. Lee Karling, PhD

Dr. William Wong, PhD

Dr. Arivalan Ramaiyah, DBA

Dr. Harwindar Singh, PhD

Dr. Balakrishnan Muniapan, DBA

### MODULE DESCRIPTIONS (MPA)

.....**class descriptions must be fully edited before final approval will be granted**

#### MPA 501: Public Policy Implementation (3 credits)

This module examines the formulation of public policy, and the implementation, and evaluation of public policy and leadership at all government levels. This course helps students understand the dynamics of the political environment, and develop strategies to effectively engage with it.

#### MPA 502: Public Finance and Budgeting (3 credits)

This module will help students to understand the concepts and practice of leadership and develop a better knowledge of public service. Students will be exposed to insights and best practices, with emphasis on the public service and learn the skills to develop into a capable leader. Students will learn to lead, anticipate the future, make decisions, know their bias, build teams, motivate, communicate, understand the public interest and become better leaders.

#### MPA 503: Public Administration, Technology and Innovation (3 credits)

Understanding the interplay of Public Administration, Technology and Innovation is the object of this course, and its aim is to stay at the “top of the game” and therefore to be capable of

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dealing with this key aspect of the public sphere today. What is the relationship between PA and Technology – which drives the other, what are the motives and interests involved, does cultural context matter, are there any choices, and is the specific PA model relevant? Should the bureaucracy innovate itself or promote business innovation? And should the focus be on the future or on the present?

### **MPA 504: Public Service Leadership (3 credits)**

This module will help students to understand the concepts and practice of leadership and develop a better knowledge of public service. Students will be exposed to insights and best practices, with emphasis on the public service and learn the skills to develop into a capable leader. Students will learn to lead, anticipate the future, make decisions, know their bias, build teams, motivate, communicate, understand the public interest and become better leaders.

### **MPA 505: Good Governance and Ethics Management (3 credits)**

This module introduces students to the nature, institutions, and problems of ethical governance. Topics examine the concept of good governance and explore the principal institutions and organizations of such governance and the basic institutional. Also included is the study of problems of global governance, including the role of ethics in international relations, the continued value of state sovereignty, the politics of intervention, and the complex relationship between economic, security and humanitarian institutions of global governance.

### **MPA 506: Decentralization, Governance & Sustainable Development (3 credits)**

Today, a number of local governments and communities are expected to play vital roles in improving people's lives. This module introduces normative theories and timely real-world cases pertinent to decentralization and local governance. These are discussed in relation to topics of government efficiency, equity, corruption, conflict management, democratization, and sector-specific issues in education, health, and environmental and disaster management. Students will learn theoretical and empirical approaches to studying the topics and acquire analytical skills to address the challenges faced by localities and decentralizing states. The module is multidisciplinary, drawing on views from economics, public administration, and political science.

### **MPA 507: International Political Economy (3 credits)**

Public managers need to master the skills of not only managing organizations but also managing projects, programs, and particularly larger-scale policy reforms. Good understanding of the political economy embedded in policy and administrative reforms are thus essential. This course examines the political-economic dynamics embedded in the reform process from various institutional perspectives. It is a master-level course designed for practitioners in the field of public administration and public policy. It discusses strategies for achieving and enhancing reform outcomes. Studies and practices from different policies written by both academics and practitioners will be drawn on as reading materials and learning resources for the class.

### **MPA 508: Economic Development (3 credits)**

This course addresses the sustainability of current development paths. Topics evaluate the importance of natural resources, social-cultural influences, new technologies, and policy directions for sustainable development. Students examine mathematical growth models,

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fundamental principles of development, policy issues relative to the growth performance in developing countries.

### **MPA 509: Myanmar Economic Development (3 credits)**

The module examines the current and projected economic growth patterns in Myanmar and compares the data with other developing countries across Southeast Asia. Topics examine the launching new economic policies in Myanmar, new health and education sector strategies, new priorities for nutrition and rural development, and accelerated efforts for the peace process. Students will research the opportunities for Myanmar to further deepen reforms, create shared prosperity for all, and for the country to resume its place as one of the most dynamic economies in Asia.

### **MPA 510: Social and Heritage Development (3 credits)**

This module in social and heritage development defines the modern market-centered approach to historic preservation. This seminar explores the larger issues that surround the evolving concepts of tourism and heritage corridors. Implicit in "social and heritage development" is the presentation and interactions with people different than ourselves, as shared among the people of a community or culture and embodied in their artifacts. Social and heritage development depends upon authenticity for its results and this module seeks to explore the formulas for representing heritage in an authentic experience to the wider public as crucial to presenting the objects of the past and the public industry that seeks to employ heritage as a tourism engine.

### **MPA511: Research Methods in Public Administration (3 credits)**

This course inspects the foundational techniques of scholarly research in public administration. Topics explore sources of scholarly research literature, proper methods for evaluating research reports, fundamentals of qualitative and quantitative research, as well as participatory action research methods. A scholarly paper discussing a methodology for a research project is expected.

### **MPA512: Field Studies in Public Administration (3 credits)**

The goal of the field study in public administration is to investigate a core aspect of public administration within the public environment through close contact with practitioners and "real world" situations. Topics in the class include a field visit to a Penang Government Department and UNESCO World Heritage Site, to understand the quality of their operation and discuss their understandings with fellow students on site. All students prepare a reflective paper discussing the experience for submission to the class instructor.

### **MPA 895 Master Thesis (4 credits)**

This course governs the conduct of the thesis project for the Master's level student. The thesis project is a demonstration of mastery of a concentration within public administration and an original contribution to the field. Usually approximates 75 pages in length, the final project may take any of several forms, depending upon the expectations of the thesis committee. This may be quantitative or qualitative research, participatory action research, or a major project demonstrating excellence. Through this class, Master's students complete a proposal review, conduct the research, prepare the manuscript and participate in the VIVA reviews.

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