

## MA (Hons) in Public Policy

The Department of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai houses MA (Hons) Public Policy as a full-time programme. Public policy is a well-established discipline in the United States of America and in several European countries. The entire emphasis of governance—which includes social initiatives, economic reforms and administrative catalysism—is largely affected by the public policy frameworks that are dynamic in nature.

As part of the Public Policy programme at the University of Mumbai, students are trained to become policy interventionists for the larger good of the society. The MA (Hons) Public Policy is a professional programme which encourages its pupils to get actively involved in understanding policy processes. Some of the students who have been a part of the programme have interned with the State Election Commission of Maharashtra, Tribal Development Department of Government of Maharashtra, some consulates and the like. While working in different consulates, students were engaged in understanding the economy of different countries viz-a-viz India. While working with the State Election Commission of Maharashtra, our students have contributed immensely by interpreting electoral data, providing policy inputs and suggestions for local body electoral reforms. During the 2019 elections to the Lok Sabha and the Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly, students from the programme participated in an initiative as part of which election manifestos of prominent parties were analysed from a policy perspective. The overall assessment and the report compiled by students for the Lok Sabha election was used by the Times of India's Mumbai edition as part of its election coverage in the newspaper.

A significant policy intervention that has been carried out in 2014 is a study suggesting re-election to local bodies if None of the Above (NOTA) option secures the majority votes. The study was conducted by Mr. Sanjay Patil and Dr. Mrudul Nile and the recommendations stated that if NOTA wins,

1. There should be a re-election and
2. The contestants who were rejected by the people during such election shall not be allowed to contest the re-election announced subsequently.

While the State Election Commission of Maharashtra accepted the first recommendation, the State Election Commission of Haryana adopted these changes in its policy.

An ongoing significant policy intervention is that of 'Hunger and Poverty Mapping in Mumbai'. The project is led by *Khaana Chahiye*, a non-governmental venture and the academic input and data collection part is headed by Professor Mrudul Nile, Coordinator of the course.

The course invites professionals from various walks of life, researchers from think tanks, academics from reputed institutions like IIMs, TISS, Institute of Science and several senior

bureaucrats who have first-hand experience of policy making to enrich the understanding of students in policy studies.

The course demands that the students take up internships with government organizations, civil society organisations, autonomous agencies under the government and think tanks.

Those interested in the course may register online on-  
<https://mu.ac.in/department-of-civics-and-politics>

For any queries you are requested to write on [publicpolicy@mu.ac.in](mailto:publicpolicy@mu.ac.in)

**Faculty (including professionals and academicians) engaged in teaching the course:**

1. Professor Mrudul Nile, Department of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai and Officer on Special Duty, State Election Commission.
2. Dr. Selby Jose, Professor, Department of Mathematics, Institute of Science, University of Mumbai.
3. Dr. Harshad K Bhosale, Department of Political Science, Kirti M Doongursee College, Dadar, Mumbai.
4. Dr. Chandramohan Joshi, Department of Economics, Kirti M Doongursee College, Dadar, Mumbai.
5. Dr. Chandrasheel Tambe, Department of Political Science, C.H.M. College Ulhasnagar, Thane
6. Mr. Rajagopal Devara, Principal Secretary, Financial Reforms, Government of Maharashtra.
7. Mr. Sanjay Patil, PhD Scholar, University of Mumbai.
8. Professor, Tej Pratap Singh, Banaras Hindu University, Uttar Pradesh.
9. Dr. Amitabh Singh, Associate Professor, SIS, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
10. Dr. Aravind Yelery, Associate Professor, HSBC Center of Management, Peking University, PRC.
11. Dr. Jabin Jacob, Associate Professor, Shiv Nadar University, New Delhi and former Assistant Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi.
12. Ms. Ankita Bhatkhande, TISS alumna and currently Senior Correspondent with Hindustan Times.
13. Mr. Sudhir Shetty, Independent researcher and founder of a think tank on climate and environment.
14. Ms. Tanzeel, Research Scholar, IIT-Bombay