

TAKE ON THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CHALLENGES

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND POLICY



Master of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy:

ABOUT THE PROGRAM



Columbia University's one-year Master of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy (MPA-ESP) prepares future environmental sustainability leaders to address the most serious and complex environmental problems the world faces. Founded two decades ago, it is the world's premier program of its kind.

It is offered jointly by Columbia's acclaimed Earth Institute, including the internationally renowned Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, and the highly ranked School of International and Public Affairs. The Earth Institute and its Observatory are now part of the newly created Columbia Climate School, which will provide the scholarship needed to tackle climate change and its related challenges.

The program seamlessly integrates science with environmental policy and management, providing students with the practical knowledge and training to become leaders in this rapidly growing area. The program's visionary curriculum emphasizes applied environmental science and sustainability, general and financial management, economics and quantitative analysis, and policy and decision making so that students can thrive in the job market. Graduates hold key positions in important organizations worldwide in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

The increasing complexity of environmental problems that organizations face creates an urgent need for effective environmental decision makers who have strong interdisciplinary training.

The coursework combines environmental science, policy, and management with classes in state-of-the-art sustainability practice.

The program attracts students with both science and non-science backgrounds, from diverse educational and cultural backgrounds, with varying levels of professional experience, and a range of professional interests. Admission is based on academic excellence, professional experience, dedication to sustainability and to the goals of the program, and letters of reference.

Graduates transform how organizations do business by formulating and implementing innovative and comprehensive environmental long-term strategies. They know how to design sustainability studies that are methodologically rigorous and defensible within the constraints of available resources.

The program is intended for those who wish to turn their passion for environmental protection into real, tangible change. Students learn how to foster and manage organizational innovation, how to optimize group work and deal with group conflict, and how to both manage the work of scientists and explain science to non-scientists. Graduates understand the relationship of sustainability programs to organizational management and management to finance.

In addition to obtaining a world-class education, degree recipients receive the knowledge, training, and tools to tackle our most complex and disruptive environmental and natural resource problems, with the goal of establishing a sustainable world.

– Steven Cohen, Director
MPA in Environmental Science and Policy



Our unique one-year program prepares students to tackle the most pressing issues facing the planet.

IN THIS MASTER'S PROGRAM YOU WILL...

- **Receive practical training** that will prepare you for leadership roles in science, management, and policy analysis.
- **Turn your passion for environmental protection** into real, tangible change.
- **Learn how to manage** organizational change and innovation.
- **Understand the vital role** of public and environmental ethics.
- **Connect policy intent**, program design, organizational capacity, and political feasibility.
- **Understand the relationship** of sustainability programs to organizational management and finance.
- **Design sustainability studies that are methodologically rigorous** and defensible within the constraints of available resources.
- **Learn how to optimize group work** and deal with group conflict.
- **Practice professional communication**, including written, electronic and spoken communication: From mass to social media.
- **Learn how to both manage the work of scientists** and explain science to non-scientists.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Basic applied environmental science forms the foundation for the study of policy analysis and management. Courses emphasize the practical skills that sustainability professionals need to make a difference in the world. Students complete a total of 54 points over three semesters – summer, fall, and spring – progressing through the program as a cohort. The curriculum includes three electives, and opportunities for team and individual research projects.

The summer semester, which begins in late May or early June, features the fundamental science of Earth systems and conservation biology, as well as an introduction to environmental policy and management issues. In the fall and spring semesters, students delve deeper into the formulation and management of public policy.

CURRICULUM AND COURSE SCHEDULE

Summer

- ENVP U6111 Principles of Ecology
- ENVP U6112 Urban Ecology
- ENVP U6115 Climatology
- ENVP U6116 Hydrology
- ENVP U6220 Environmental Chemistry
- ENVP U6221 Risk Assessment and Environmental Toxicology
- ENVP U6241 Earth Systems and Environmental Politics, Policy, and Management
- ENVP U6246: Analytics for Environmental Science
- ENVP U9229 The Workshop in Applied Earth Systems Management I

Fall

- ENVP U6225 Ethics, Values, and Justice
- ENVP U6234 Sustainability Management
- ENVP U6310 Quantitative Techniques and Systems Analysis in Policymaking and Management I
- ENVP U8213 Microeconomics and Policy Analysis
- ENVP U9230 The Workshop in Applied Earth Systems Management II

Spring

- ENVP U8201 Financial Management
- ENVP U8213-U8216 Microeconomics and Policy Analysis II
- ENVP U9232 The Workshop in Applied Earth Systems Policy Analysis



OUR FACULTY

Courses are taught by the world's foremost sustainability academics and researchers, along with leading sustainability practitioners in New York City.

OUR STUDENTS

The program attracts students with diverse educational and cultural backgrounds, varying levels of professional experience, and a range of professional interests. Students with both science and non-science training can excel in the program. Each year, students typically represent more than a dozen countries. For all of their differences, however, the students share a strong commitment to environmental protection. They come to the program seeking the knowledge and skills to turn their passion for the environment into real change. Over the year that they study and learn as a cohort, students form strong bonds that serve them throughout their careers.

OUR ALUMNI

Graduates join a network of more than 900 alumni, who hold leading sustainability positions around the world. They work across the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors. Alumni employers include Apple, the City of New York, Natural Resources Defense Council, the San Francisco International Airport, the Sierra Club, KPMG, the United Nations, the U.S. Department of State, the Vornado Realty Trust, and The World Bank.

FELLOWSHIPS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The MPA ESP program awards the Dean's Fellowship in Environmental Science and Policy – a full-tuition grant and Earth Institute Internship, valued at over \$90,000. The program also awards numerous fellowships, which typically range from \$5,000 to \$25,000, but can be as high as \$40,000. All fellowships are applied as a tuition discount, evenly divided across the three semesters. All fellowship awards are based on academic merit and financial need. Fellowships are awarded without regard to citizenship, so international students are also eligible. Students who apply by one of our two fellowship deadlines — November 1 and January 15 — are automatically considered for fellowship funding. Our online admissions application includes a section to express your interest in fellowship funding, so there is no separate application to fill out. Students are notified if they have received a fellowship as part of the Admissions Decision.

Please visit our website, www.mpaenvironment.ei.columbia.edu/tuition-and-financing, for information on other funding opportunities, including:

- Earth Institute Internships
- Course Grading Assistantships
- The Yellow Ribbon Program for U.S. veterans (up to \$20,000)
- The Shardashish Interschool Fellowship for students from India

ADMISSIONS

Who Should Apply

The program admits students who demonstrate the aptitude and dedication to learn what it takes to take on the world's biggest challenges. Prospective students apply online to the School of International and Public Affairs, selecting the "Summer" term option and the "MPA-ESP" program. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or evidence of equivalent preparation. Some math and science preparation is helpful, but it is not required to succeed in the program. We advise those applicants who lack basic knowledge of calculus, chemistry, and biology to study these subjects before entering the program.

How to Apply

For complete information about how to apply to the program, please visit:

mpaenvironment.ei.columbia.edu/admissions-apply

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- **November 1:** Early application deadline with fellowship consideration. Applicants will receive notification by early December.
- **January 15:** Fellowship consideration deadline.
- **February 15:** Final application deadline.

FINANCIAL AID

More than half of students receive fellowships based on academic merit and financial need. Applicants to the program who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents are also typically eligible for federal Stafford student loans, as well as Work Study. All interested applicants must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is available online at www.fafsa.gov. The School's Title IV code is 002707. Students are strongly encouraged to submit their FAFSA forms at the beginning of January. Information about additional sources of financial aid to international students, including external fellowship support and private educational loans, is available on the website of the School of International and Public Affairs.

For more information, please contact SIPA's Office of Financial Aid:

<https://sipa.columbia.edu/admissions/financial-aid>

FAST FACTS



Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory is

RANKED FIRST

worldwide in the Earth Sciences, and is the scientific home to the largest concentration of academic earth and climate scientists in the United States. It was the first to develop a computer model to predict an El Niño weather event, and the first to reveal the ocean's role in triggering abrupt climate change.

Graduates have access to

COLUMBIA'S UNPARALLELED RESOURCES

and network of sustainability professionals, along with its global alumni base.

Columbia offers more than 200 environmental and sustainability courses each year,

MORE THAN ANY OTHER UNIVERSITY.

The Columbia Climate School's Earth Institute is

THE LARGEST

university-wide research organization dedicated to sustainability research, practice, and education.

COLUMBIA'S GLOBAL ALUMNI NETWORK

includes over 2,000 graduates associated with the Earth Institute's education programs.

Lamont-Doherty administers

THE VETLESEN PRIZE,

"the Nobel Prize in Earth Sciences."

The National Research Council ranks the graduate programs in Earth Science at Columbia

NUMBER ONE

in the United States.

NEW YORK CITY

serves students as a living laboratory for developments in sustainability practice, and as a source of many employers who hire program graduates.

"Columbia's ESP program is perfect for people looking to jump-start a career in sustainability. It is designed to give you practical skills so you can help governments, non-profits and companies make better decisions about climate, energy usage, water consumption and more. The best part about the program is that you gain exposure to many environmental problems and have the opportunity to think strategically about real-world solutions"

– Alana Miller, ESP '12, Climate Advisor, City of Denver

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