

EXECUTIVE MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

1. Background

The Executive Master of Public Administration (Executive MPA) is the primary offering of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, a collaborative venture of five governments (Australia, New Zealand, NSW, Victoria and Queensland) and nine tertiary education institutions (Melbourne (plus Melbourne Business School) Monash, ANU, Canberra, Sydney, UNSW, Queensland, Griffith, and Victoria University of Wellington), all of whom are members of the company which owns ANZSOG, established under Heads of Agreement signed by all the participants.

The Executive MPA will be a multi-disciplinary, multi-modal degree with the core subjects provided by ANZSOG and the electives offered by the participating universities. Students will be high potential public servants nominated and funded by participating governments subject to university selection processes. They will enrol in and receive the degree from their home university. The first intake of students will occur in May 2003.

2. Necessity and demand for proposal

The initiative for establishing ANZSOG came from the Victorian Government, which involved the University of Melbourne in its deliberations from the outset, and other governments and universities subsequently. Participating governments have identified a significant need for renewal of policy and management capacities in the public sector. A study partly funded by the University and conducted by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in 2001 (before the idea of involving NZ had been raised) stated that:

‘Government CEOs interviewed in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and federally identified a set of common, high priority, high potential development problems that were resulting in insufficiently deep successor pools. They also identified a gap in executive development program offerings. An Australian Graduate School of Government could help to address both these issues. Strong supporters for the AGSG concept exist in governments and elsewhere around Australia... There is market demand for potential AGSG offerings...’ (BCG 2001, 5).

The Boston Consulting Group study conducted an extensive survey across Australia and internationally of best practice in the field of public policy and management education, including close examination of the top ten schools in the field in the USA. The process of designing the curriculum has drawn on the expertise of public sector practitioners and academics, through: (1) a workshop of 20 government department heads and 20 professors from around Australia, held in Sydney in May 2002; (2) an expert committee of senior academics in the field, held in Melbourne in July 2002; and detailed work by ANZSOG core faculty, who are leaders in the field and in close contact with developments at leading schools overseas.

3. Course/Program Objectives

The Executive MPA program will bring together the best emerging public sector leaders from Australia and New Zealand with outstanding teachers and practitioners to enhance participants’ knowledge and capability to improve public sector performance. The course will develop students’ knowledge of fundamental theory underpinning effective performance in public sector management and policy development, and their ability to:

- understand the roles and influences of structure, organizations, leadership, human nature, values and bounded rationality in government;

- work with ambiguity and changing objectives;
- distinguish real problems from symptoms;
- apply theories and learnings from a range discipline streams to practical policy and management problems;
- understand the motivations of groups and individuals working in or with government;
- manage people effectively;
- identify and manage risk; and
- understand the distinctive and evolving characteristics of Westminster-type systems of government.

4. Entry Requirements

The Selection Committee will evaluate the applicant's ability to pursue successfully the course using the following criteria:

- a Bachelor's degree in any discipline at an Australian or New Zealand university or equivalent; OR
- evidence of qualifications equivalent to the degree through extensive practical, professional or scholarly experience of an appropriate type; AND
- at least five years' documented work experience in the public sector.

The Selection Committee may conduct interviews and tests and call for referees reports and employer references to elucidate any of the matters referred to above.

Before enrolment the candidate will have been accepted for the degree by the Australia and New Zealand School of Government and the University of Melbourne.

5. Course/program structure

The Executive MPA will be a 10-subject qualification that requires completion, on a part-time basis over two years, of:

- a core curriculum of 6 subjects
- a required subject on public sector financial management (to be taken from partner universities)
- 2 electives chosen strategically to enhance the core curriculum and individual students' development needs, to be taken in participating universities; and
- a substantial work-based project.

Given that the core curriculum of six subjects, plus the Work Based Research Project have been designed specifically for the Executive MPA program, credit will not normally be given for any of these subjects. In addition, if credit is given for the additional required subject 333-817 Public Sector Financial Management, then another elective must be substituted for it.

All teaching will be face-to-face: 60% will be on-campus, and 40% off-campus.

Core subjects

- Delivering Public Value
- Designing Public Policies and Programs
- Government in Market Economy
- Decision Making Under Uncertainty
- Governing by the Rules
- Leading Public Sector Change
- Work Based Research Project

Additional required subject

- 333-817 Public Sector Financial Management

Elective subjects

Electives may be chosen from offerings of partner universities. Students can select electives to:

- bridge their past study and experience and the core curriculum;
- enhance their knowledge in a specific discipline area, such as law, economics, finance or management; or
- enhance their knowledge of a specific policy area, such as health, education, environmental or international policy.

Each student will require approval of their program by the Academic Director of ANZSOG according to:

- the student's wishes;
- needs identified by their sponsoring agency;
- the overall course objectives; and
- extent of overlap with core subjects.

At the University of Melbourne, electives will be drawn from the Faculties of Arts, Economics and Commerce, Law and the Melbourne Business School. Indicative offerings are:

Economics and Commerce electives

306-669 Strategic enterprise Systems
306-661 Electronic Commerce
316-802 Public Sector Macroeconomics
316-663 Environmental Economics and Strategy
316-680 Government and International Business
316-662 Economics for e-Commerce
316-681 Asian economies

Arts electives

XXX-XXX Business and Government
191-520 Compliance, Regulation and Crime

Law electives

730-856 Comparative Constitutional Law
730-683 Australian Environmental Law: Rights, Regulation and Sustainability
730-801 Principles of International Law
730-691 Principles of Public Law
730-698 Privacy Law

MBS electives

351-652 Incentives and Contracts
351-618 Outsourcing and Privatisation / 351-734 Managing Regulation (half-subjects)
351-836 Project Management
351-621 Business and World Trade
351-613 Managing Innovation

Because the program involves students from five participating jurisdictions, its delivery will occur in different locations and in varying configurations of class size throughout its duration. An expected benefit from this is that participants will build links and networks across, and acquire greater knowledge of, the participating governments. It is therefore part of the rationale of the program that some subjects are taught outside Victoria, that is, on an 'off-campus' basis.

6. Budgetary Consequences

ANZSOG will reimburse the University as follows for Australian and New Zealand students:

- in 2003: \$1700 per student enrolment
- in 2004:

No. of subject enrolments	0-50	51-100	101-200	201+
Charge per enrolment	\$2000	\$1700	\$1550	\$1450
- in 2005: as for 2004, indexed by 4%.

International student enrolment fees are 20% greater.

7. Availability of course to fee-paying overseas students

For the first three years (i.e. intakes beginning 2003-2005), all students will be nominated and paid for by sponsoring governments. Prior to the end of that period, ANZSOG members will have reviewed the program and determined the shape of offerings in future. Any changes will be subject to a fresh application for approval from participating universities.

Executive Master of Public Administration

The Selection Committee will evaluate the applicant's ability to pursue successfully the course using the following additional criteria –

1. a Bachelor's degree in any discipline at an Australian or New Zealand university or equivalent; **or**
evidence of qualifications equivalent to the degree through extensive practical, professional or scholarly experience of an appropriate type; **and**
2. at least five years' documented work experience in the public sector.

The Selection Committee may conduct interviews and tests and call for referees reports and employer references to elucidate any of the matters referred to above.

Before enrolment the candidate will have been accepted for the degree by the Australia and New Zealand School of Government and the University of Melbourne.