The University of Chicago
Harris School of Public Policy

Social Impact, Down to a Science.
You have a passion for doing good.

At the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, we know that doing good takes more than good intentions.

It takes fearless questioning of conventional wisdom. It takes facing the facts—gathering data on how things are—to make things better. At Harris Public Policy, we teach you how to make a measurable social impact by developing solutions for society that work.

Combining real-world engagement in Chicago and beyond, you’ll look at the world’s problems, challenge the easy answers, and confront the real issues by following the evidence. Whether your background is econ or English, at a food bank or the World Bank, we’ll teach you to make smarter, data-driven decisions that lead to the change you want to see.

At the University of Chicago, one of the world’s great intellectual destinations, you’ll learn from faculty who spearhead the most innovative policy research, faculty who are figuring out how to prevent police misconduct, stop lead poisoning in children, and what makes nations fail. You’ll learn the latest technologies and social science methods for modeling and analysis, uncover new perspectives on enduring issues, figure out what’s best for society—and get it done.

Why Harris Public Policy?

From day one, Harris encourages you to turn your passion into proven results.

Senior Lecturer Paula Worthington instructs students on data collection for an urban parking policy project in Chicago.
Plan a Personalized Path for Maximum Impact

Whether you choose to enter the public, private, or nonprofit sector, Harris Public Policy’s degrees, courses, and career support will help you achieve success on your terms.

Programs and Degrees

Whatever your passion, we’ll guide you toward impact. Harris Public Policy offers several master’s and joint degree programs, as well as a doctoral program designed for an academic or research-oriented career. We also offer several certificate programs to allow students to specialize in a particular area of inquiry, an executive training program, and a non-degree Graduate-Student-at-Large program with credit transferable to degree-granting programs.

Harris gave me confidence in my skills, a quantitative foundation, and the ability to look at my role through a Chicago lens, which is really a disruptive lens. There are so many common themes between the Chicago philosophy and what is expected in Silicon Valley. When I got into leadership roles, that’s when my Harris education really proved to be a huge competitive advantage.”

Hilarie Koplow-McAdams, AM’87
President, New Relic global tech company

In an environment of innovation and risk taking, students build expertise in the policy areas they’re passionate about, including:

- Child and Family Policy
- Cultural Policy
- Economic Policy and Public Finance
- Education Policy
- Energy, Environmental, and Science Policy
- Global Security
- Health Policy
- International Policy
- Politics and the Policymaking Process
- Program Evaluation and Methods of Policy Analysis
- Social Policy and Inequality
- Urban Policy

Immersion

Confront issues arising in Chicago and around the world through internships, practica, international partnerships, and other experiential learning opportunities, from Harris Policy Labs, which develops solutions for client organizations, to one-on-one mentoring with top policy practitioners.

Community

Join a diverse community of students from around the globe who will challenge you and cheer you on, and participate in more than 20 student organizations, from the Asian Policy Forum to Women in Public Policy.

Alumni Network

When you graduate, join a worldwide network of alumni who are leading across fields and nations, creating positive change as economists and analysts, diplomats and CEOs.

Faculty and Research

Faculty at Harris Public Policy work at the forefronts of data collection and analysis, determining policy solutions for the world’s most complex challenges. When will conflicts over territory lead to violence? Do voter participation campaigns really improve election outcomes? How much will people pay for clean air? Harris faculty are tackling some of policy’s biggest questions, collaborating across the University of Chicago and with partners inside and outside academia.

Financial Aid

At Harris Public Policy, we support our students—academically, professionally, and financially—so you can focus on what matters: producing positive social impact. Each year, approximately 50 percent of Harris master’s students receive scholarships or fellowships based on merit. Scholarships range from the Dean’s Scholarship, awarded regardless of policy interest, to scholarships for specific areas of study, including urban policy, energy and environmental science, cultural policy, public service, and more. Additionally, the University provides loan assistance and work-study employment programs to students who demonstrate financial need.

Learn about financial aid at harris.uchicago.edu/admissions-and-aid/financial-aid
Harness the potential of a global city—and connect it to the world.

The city of Chicago provides an ideal setting for innovation, research, and discovery. Harris Public Policy students not only have the ability to study the city in which they live, but are also able to go into the field and make a lasting impact. And with nearly half of all Harris students from outside the US, a global network is a given.

Real-World Preparation

Harris’s Career Development Office has close relationships with many local, national, and global businesses and institutions, granting students access to exceptional resources. As part of our Mentor Program, every Harris student is paired with a successful professional, often a Harris graduate, on the basis of interests, location, employment sector, and career goals. Through internships and experiential learning in our community and throughout Chicago, you’ll learn the methods that empower you to face the world’s toughest problems.

Alumni Network

When you graduate from Harris Public Policy, you join a lifelong network of more than 160,000 University of Chicago alumni living or working on every continent. Connect with 60 alumni clubs and affinity groups across the globe for career and social connections. UChicago alumni know the value of your degree, and the experience it represents. They serve as mentors to current students and hire recent graduates to make meaningful impact at organizations across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

For example, in Harris Policy Labs, an intensive course for MPP students, you will analyze, develop, advocate for, and execute effective policy for an external client organization. And our newest institute, The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts, will allow students to broaden their reach and impact through its Pearson Fellows program, available to MPP students, and Pearson Scholars, for PhD students working in this area.

Careers

Harris Public Policy graduates lead successful careers across sectors, throughout the United States, and around the globe. Recent alumni have become policy advisors, program officers, campaign chiefs of staff, financial analysts and consultants, economists and research specialists, government officers, foreign exchange traders, and directors at major organizations worldwide. The Career Development Office provides resources to help students and alumni refine their professional skills and search for career opportunities, including:

- Individual career counseling
- Workshops
- Employer information sessions
- On-campus recruiting events
- Employment database

Harris gave me the skills, the rigorous training, and the theoretical background to go back to the world and do a better job, to be a better manager, a better administrator, to be a better person.”

Sandeep Ahuja, MPP’06, founder and CEO, Operation ASHA in India, a nonprofit that provides services to more than 6 million people to fight tuberculosis.
If you’re implementing a policy and it’s not helping—or, more dramatically, if it’s making it worse for the people you’re trying to help—then you have to change your policy. That’s pretty obvious, but to do a good policy analysis you have to collect the right data and you need to ask the relevant questions. Harris helped me to know how to do that.”

Jaime Bellolio, MPP’10, Congressman, Chile

Turn your passion for doing good into proven social impact.

Apply today
harris.uchicago.edu