

"There isn't a society in the world that doesn't want its government to work better. We believe that the Blavatnik School of Government can improve the quality of government and public policymaking world-wide, so that citizens can enjoy more secure and fulfilled lives." - Professor Ngaire Woods, Dean

The Blavatnik School of Government is committed to excellence in leadership and public policy education through three core priorities:



Teach

We offer degree programmes and executive courses for current and aspiring leaders with a commitment to public service and better government.



Research

We undertake deep, academically excellent research with a promise to help address real-life policy challenges.



Engage

We forge and facilitate networks that enable policy leaders to learn from each other and from top scholars to generate solutions and share best practice.

Our history

The Blavatnik School of Government is one of the youngest and most vibrant departments of the University of Oxford. Founded in 2010, thanks to a £75 million donation by businessman and philanthropist Leonard Blavatnik, we admitted the first 38 students for the Master of Public Policy programme in 2012. Our doctoral programme (DPhil in Public Policy) was established with first students admitted in 2014.

Our home

"This is a modern cathedral of learning that at the same time stimulates, soothes and excites." – Royal Institute of British Architects

Designed to support the School's mission of inspiring and promoting better government around the world, our award-winning building was developed by architects Herzog & de Meuron. After becoming operational at the end of 2015, the building was officially opened by HRH the Duke of Cambridge in May 2016.



www.bsg.ox.ac.uk
enquiries@bsg.ox.ac.uk
+44 (0)1865 614343



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BLAVATNIK SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

A global school pursuing a vision of a world better
led, a world better served and a world better
governed.



Teaching for public leadership

The Master of Public Policy (MPP) is an intensive, one-year graduate degree designed to provide the academic knowledge and professional skills required to address some of this century's most complex public policy challenges.

The Doctorate (DPhil) in Public Policy is a three-year, full-time research degree with an emphasis on public policy analysis. It provides robust training for understanding particular policy problems and for evaluating, devising or implementing policy solutions.

The Executive Education courses for senior professionals and policymakers are designed in partnership with governments and specialist organisations to provide intensive training and expert insight on a range of public policy and leadership challenges.

Research for policy impact

Our wide-ranging research relies upon meeting the highest standards of academic excellence while aiming to provide the evidence, analysis and insight to address some of the most urgent problems facing governments and societies. Many of our academics are leaders in their field and regularly called upon by governments and global institutions to offer their expertise for designing effective policy solutions.

Some recent examples of research:

- The RISE Programme on improving education systems and learning outcomes for all.
- The Government Outcomes Lab (GO Lab) in partnership with the UK Cabinet Office on public sector commissioning and outcomes-based commissioning.
- Evaluating evidence around HIV interventions in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Assessing the ethical implications of lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS) and how governments can effectively regulate their development and deployment.
- Examining national contexts of climate actions taken by non-state actors.

Engaging to make a difference

We develop innovative and productive collaborations with governmental and non-governmental organisations, including the private sector, that help us stay connected with real-world challenges and provide pathways to impact from our research. We are also working hard to engage more donors in our mission, so that we can be sure that no student, no matter what their financial circumstances, is ever turned away because of the costs of study with us.

We run a dynamic programme of events throughout the academic year, many of which are open to the public. Ranging from major public lectures with heads of state to seminars with academics and senior practitioners to our flagship annual conference on the Challenges of Government, these events provide an important forum for knowledge exchange and networking.

