



Welcome

The Willy Brandt School of Public Policy (Brandt School) opened its doors to students from all over the world in 2002. Since then, we have been committed to training a group of talented students for management and leadership positions in the public and non-profit sector.

Our goal is to prepare students for the demands and challenges of today's complex political world. Going beyond legal and administrative knowledge that is not sufficient to meet these challenges, we strive to teach skills that "can be taught and that are not easily learned on the job" (Aaron Wildavsky). Our Master of Public Policy (MPP) combines the theoretical and methodological rigor of policy analysis with systematic practical training.

Our students appreciate the innovative and stimulating atmosphere of a young program, an interdisciplinary and international academic environment, and the atmosphere of a campus university in a beautiful and lively city.

We want to work with people who are willing to commit themselves and to assume responsibility.

We invite you to join us.

Prof. Dr. Dietmar Herz, M.P.A.

Deputy Minister of Justice, Free State of Thuringia

Chairman of the Board of Overseers, Willy Brandt School of Public Policy

The Master of Public Policy Curriculum

The objective of public policy studies is to contribute to the solution of political problems by analyzing their causes and developing possible remedies. Public policy draws on theories and methods from political science, economics, sociology, public administration, ethics and law.

Public policy offers professional training for those who want to work in the public or non-profit sector. The Willy Brandt School's philosophy is to offer a thorough and rigorous Master of Public Policy program that integrates classroom courses and practical training in one curriculum.

The curriculum has seven modules, each consisting of a set of courses. The mandatory courses in the Policy Analysis Module (1st semester) and the Management and Leadership Modules (2nd and 3rd semester) make up the core curriculum (see diagram on the right side, the core curriculum is orange). According to personal interests and professional needs, courses can be chosen in the Specialization Modules and in the Basics and Language Module.

By choosing two out of four Specialization Modules – each of which offers a variety of courses – students develop their individual profiles.

Most courses deal with real-world applications, yet the specifically practical part of the program is the Practical Training Module. A mandatory internship at a public policy institution, usually between the second and third semester, as well as work in a project group in the third semester gives students the opportunity to apply what they have learned in the classroom.

The fourth and final semester is allocated to the completion of the Graduation Module. Overall, 120 credits (ECTS) are necessary.

Academic calendar
The University of Erfurt has a semester schedule. Fall term classes begin in mid-October and run until mid-February (with a two-week break for Christmas/New Year). The lecture period of the summer term runs from mid-April to mid-July.

"I came here for academic purposes, but I later realized that Erfurt is an ideal place for my personal growth. I got involved in the project 'Strangers become Friends' and tremendously enjoy being included in my German host family's life."

HASNAIN BOKHARI, 25, FROM PAKISTAN



SEMESTER 4

30 credits

GRADUATION MODULE

Students finalize the MPP program by writing a master's thesis, dealing in depth with a specific problem of public policy. Aided by a colloquium and assisted by two supervisors, students conduct a study on a particular policy issue with a distinct practical orientation.

SEMESTER 3

15 credits

PRACTICAL TRAINING MODULE

The two components of this module make practice an integral part of the academic program:

Project Group: Supervised by a practitioner, small groups of students work on solutions for a specific real-world problem.

Internship: Students work at a public policy institution and analyze their experiences in an internship report.

12 credits

LEADERSHIP MODULE

Policy-makers need leadership and negotiation skills, and they need to be mindful of the ethical questions involved. Respective training and reflection is the subject of two courses:

- Political Advocacy and Leadership
 - Ethical Questions in the Public Sector
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SEMESTER 2

12 credits

MANAGEMENT MODULE

Getting the analysis right is an indispensable intellectual task, but it's still not enough. The two courses in this module teach the skills required to make things happen:

- Public Administration and Management
 - Financial Management
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SEMESTER 1

24 credits

POLICY ANALYSIS MODULE

This module introduces students to the "art and science" of policy analysis by focusing on theories and methods. It comprises four courses:

- Introduction to Public Policy
 - Quantitative Analysis and Empirical Methods
 - Economic Analysis and Modelling
 - Comparative Public Policy
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SEMESTER 1-3

18 credits

TWO SPECIALIZATION MODULES/ AREA OF CONCENTRATION

Students choose two out of four Specialization Modules:

- European Public Policy
- Public and Non-profit Management
- International Affairs
- International Political Economy

Or they choose the Conflict Studies and Management Program (CSMP) as a double-intense area of concentration.

In each specialization module, there is a variety of different courses to choose from.

See our website for a detailed list of courses, as well as for information on special admission requirements to the CSMP.





The University of Erfurt: Reform and Student Life

The University of Erfurt was established in 1392. It attained a reputation rivaling the universities of Paris and Oxford, and some of Germany's greatest thinkers studied there. Martin Luther famously said, "If you want to study well, go to Erfurt." Unfortunately, after a period of decline, the old university was closed in 1816.

In 1994, the University of Erfurt was re-established following German reunification. Founded to serve as a model for university reform, the new University of Erfurt was among the first institutions of higher education in Germany to introduce BA/MA degrees throughout all its departments. English is an officially recognized language of instruction.

At the undergraduate level, the University of Erfurt is basically a liberal arts college with a concentration on the humanities and the social sciences. At the graduate level, the university offers a range of research-oriented master's and doctoral programs as well as professional degrees.

With a total student body of just about 5,000, Erfurt is a small university. There is a sense of intimacy and community on campus, proximity being a major asset of Erfurt and its university.

Modern teaching facilities, a state-of-the-art library and modern and affordable dormitories are grouped around a small park, making the campus the heart of academic and student life.

The University is family-friendly and has its own kindergarten. Associations such as special interest clubs, sport clubs, friendship and partnership programs as well as several choirs and bands provide opportunities to be active and make friends.

Rankings – as published e.g. by Germany's independent Center for Higher Education Development (CHE) – show that students are highly satisfied with what they get at the University of Erfurt. After being re-founded in 1994, the University of Erfurt has again gained a national and international reputation for excellent teaching quality and for innovative programs such as the MPP.





Study in the Heart of Germany

Erfurt is the capital of Thuringia, one of Germany's sixteen states or "Länder". With 200,000 inhabitants, the city bears witness to more than 1,250 years of history.

Privileged by its location on the old "Via Regia" and fuelled by the industry of a hard-working population, the town, founded in the 8th century, developed into a prosperous trade center by early medieval times.

Since then, Erfurt has seen considerable changes of political circumstances, but luckily, the city has never been destroyed. Storehouses, mills and other evidence of the medieval economy, which was developed with a shrewd eye for business and great acumen, can be found everywhere in the city with its carefully and lovingly restored houses.

Today, Erfurt is considered one of Germany's most beautiful cities. But as justified as its pride in its historical heritage may be, the city is not mired in the past. There is a wide array of international restaurants, bars and shops. A modern opera house and several theaters attract locals and visitors alike to Erfurt's downtown area. A charming blend of medieval and modern architecture and beautiful squares provide an ideal setting for student life.

Enjoy the proximity of history, culture and nature. Thuringia offers a multitude of historical treasures, including numerous UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as the Wartburg Castle where Martin Luther translated the Bible into German. Eisenach, the birthplace of Bach, and Weimar, the picturesque city of Goethe and Schiller and the Bauhaus, are both in close proximity to Erfurt.



"My favorite part of this program is the concept of combining knowledge acquired in the classroom with gathering hands-on experience in an internship. My work for a Member of the European Parliament in Brussels provided me with excellent insights into how European public policy is made. At the Brandt School, I was able to reflect upon what I had done in Brussels."

ILIANA TZANOVA, 34, FROM BULGARIA

Furthermore, there are many locations marking the classical era in literature throughout the Free State of Thuringia. In fact, it would be difficult to find another region that offers as many culturally interesting venues in such a small area.

Numerous music and art festivals take place in various locations over the course of the year, such as the open air opera festival on the cathedral steps in Erfurt. Other events are the internationally renowned "Kulturarena" in Jena and the Art Festival of Weimar.

Nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts alike treasure Thuringia for its multifaceted landscape: The Thuringian Forest and the famous "Rennsteig" trail provide ideal locations for hiking and biking in the summer as well as countless tracks for cross-country skiing and sites for any other winter sport.

Besides the forests which give Thuringia its nickname "Germany's Green Heart," the countryside is also dotted with lakes, creeks and enchanting castle ruins. The hospitality of the Thuringian people has been legendary for generations and the famous "Thüringer Bratwurst," the "Thüringer Klöße" (dumplings) or a sample of the delicious traditional pastries are always worth a culinary stop.

**Martin Luther
(1483–1546)**

Martin Luther came to Erfurt in 1502 to attend what was then one of the greatest universities in Germany. He became its most illustrious student and Erfurt became the young Luther's spiritual home.







Public Transportation A modern and comfortable public transportation system connects the city's most important sites. It takes only minutes from the university campus to the downtown shopping area and to the long-distance train station at the airport.

Cultural Life in a Medieval City The historical setting provided by the medieval city center with its cathedral, churches, towers and bridges creates the perfect back-cloth for international theatre events and other cultural festivals.

Located in the Green Heart of Thuringia Alongside vibrant city life and culture, Erfurt has numerous green areas for relaxation and recreation. In various parks, gardens and other beautiful spots you can enjoy the delightful natural surroundings.



Application

Your qualifications

Admission requirements

- Higher education entrance qualification (high school diploma or equivalent)
- College or university degree (BA, MA, "Diplom", state exam, etc.), minimal duration of 6 semesters
- Above-average grades
- Pronounced interest for political problems and analytical talent
- Strong proficiency in the English language (e.g. TOEFL internet min. 90)

Deadlines to remember

Admission deadlines and program start

- The application period starts January 2 each year.
- Incoming applications are evaluated by the MPP Admissions Committee on a rolling basis from February to September.
- For international applicants from non-EU countries, the application deadline is July 1.
- For applicants from EU countries, the application deadline is September 1.
- The MPP program starts every year on October 1.

What to submit

Admission documents

- Application form
- Curriculum vitae
- Certified or notarized copies of relevant degrees and certificates
- Academic transcript
- Two letters of recommendation
- Statement of purpose
- English proficiency certificate

Check our website at www.brandtschool.de for more details on how to apply, and to download Willy Brandt School's application form.

"I was disappointed in the lack of ideas and vision in political campaigns in my home country. That was my incentive to apply for the MPP program: to learn more about state-of-the-art political strategies and the European experience in order to adapt them to the situation in my country."

LUIS PUIG VASCONCALES, 25, FROM MEXICO



The cost of the program

Tuition and fee

Tuition fees are 1,500 EUR per semester or 6,000 EUR for the entire program (four semesters).

In addition, a general service fee of roughly 200 EUR must be paid each semester. The service fee includes entitlement to free public transportation within and around the city of Erfurt.

The cost of living in Erfurt

Living expenses

With an estimated average cost of living of 600 EUR per month, studying in Erfurt is comparatively affordable. Please see our website for further details, such as health insurance and the cost of course materials.

Ways and means of financing your studies

Scholarships/ financial aid

Admission for our program is need-blind. Yet we are aware that students may require financial assistance. The Willy Brandt School itself offers a limited number of (partial) scholarships to students which are distributed before the program starts. An invitation to apply for them follows the admission process. Of course there are also various external sources for financial support, and chances to qualify are quite good. A high percentage of our students have received a scholarship to study in our program.

Inter alia, the following institutions have provided scholarships to MPP students in the past:

- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- Haniel Foundation
- Friedrich Ebert Foundation
- Konrad Adenauer Foundation
- Heinrich Boell Foundation
- Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
- Hanns Seidel Foundation
- Marga und Kurt Möllgaard Foundation
- Governments of Malaysia, Mexico and Romania



The Profile of an MPP Student

We seek to attract highly talented and motivated applicants, with a passion for and commitment to public policy. But how do you figure out whether you are a good candidate for us?

A strong interest in policies and politics is a must. But are you also eager to go beyond common sense and the obvious, and willing to look at things from an analytical point of view, seeking to discover the best solution to a political problem?

Successful candidates for our program possess strong analytical skills, curiosity and a probing mind, and a commitment to understanding and solving problems. Students with a wide range of backgrounds can fulfill these criteria. Some enter the program directly after their undergraduate degree, while others have several years of professional experience. Although most public policy students have graduated from the social sciences, we do not expect you to have a specific academic education.

It is mainly about the kind of person you are: If you have an analytical mind and an entrepreneurial mindset, are a political animal, a strategic thinker, a go-getter, who has – last but not least – a sense of humor, then we look forward to receiving your application.

MPP Average-Class Profile 2011–2013

Number of students:	53
Average age:	25.5
Average years of work experience:	2.9
Ratio of male to female students:	55:45
Percentage of students holding scholarships:	58
Number of countries represented:	26
Number of students from:	
Europe	11
Central Asia	15
East Asia	13
Africa	5
America	9





Ten reasons for joining Willy Brandt School:

1. You get high academic standards without an “ivory tower” perspective – we have real-world applications in mind.
2. An excellent student-faculty ratio ensures that staff and faculty are always approachable to assist you with developing your individual research interests and your career plans.
3. You will be instructed by high-ranking public servants, analysts and decision makers in the classroom.
4. The M.P.P. is accredited (ACQUIN).
5. Our MPP was the first offered by a German university. We remain innovative and continuously strive to improve our educational services.
6. The Brandt School has developed a substantial network of agencies and organizations that host interns and employ graduates.
7. The Brandt School is internationally well-connected and offers opportunities to participate in activities with other public policy schools.
8. Studying with people from all over the world is a stimulating experience that will enhance your intercultural skills.
9. The University of Erfurt has modern learning facilities and is a campus university with everything in close reach.
10. Erfurt is in the heart of Germany and Europe. Its geographic location enables you to reach Europe’s major cities within just a few hours.

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