

PhD

PhD in
Public Policy

If you want to reach your goals and dreams, you cannot do it without discipline.

- Lee Kuan Yew



Lee Kuan Yew
School of Public Policy



PhD in Public Policy

Gain analytical skills and knowledge to generate, evaluate and communicate research in public policy.

Our four-year, full-time PhD in Public Policy trains the next generation of thought leaders for positions in academic institutions, international organisations, governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with significant research commitments.



Class Profile

The typical PhD Cohort comprises candidates with exemplary academic record and high potential for excellence in teaching and research in public policy.



Admissions Criteria

The PhD in Public Policy programme is a very competitive programme. The PhD Admissions Committee takes into account various considerations including academic excellence. Please visit www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/graduate-programmes/phd-in-public-policy/admissions-criteria for a full list of admission criteria.

Required Documents

- Online application form
- Degree scrolls and academic transcript (including grading description)
- Curriculum vitae or resume
- GRE test score
- Research proposal
- Statement of intent
- One writing sample
- Two letters of references (Academic)



Core research areas

- > Policy Studies, Public Management and Governance
- > Social Policy
- > International Relations and Global Governance
- > Economic Development and Competitiveness





Reasons to pursue a PhD

Knowledge

Students will expand and hone high-level theoretical, methodological, and substantive expertise in public policy, as well as the communication skills necessary for successful careers in teaching and research.

Skills

Students will develop skills in empirical research to analyse policy problems. This enables students to apply various research designs in conducting rigorous policy research in their chosen fields, as well as develop the ability to critically evaluate policy research outputs.



My experience at LKYSPP was transformative, providing me with a strong foundation in public policy and a global perspective. The rigorous academic training and the connections I made with a large global network of peers and mentors have been pivotal in shaping my approach to teaching and research, and my career as an academic.

Dr Altaf Virani,
Associate Professor of
Public Policy and Management,
Monash University, Indonesia,
PhD 2021



The PhD training at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy provided greater possibilities for my career development. Teaching and research experience, mentorship from faculty members, and opportunities to participate in high-quality seminars, events, and conferences, helped nurture me to become the economist that I am today.

Dr Cheng Ruijie,
Economist (Young
Professional cohort 2021),
The World Bank,
PhD 2021



Curriculum

The PhD programme at LKYSPP provides students with a thorough and interdisciplinary understanding of public policy, emphasising rigorous training in policy analysis, research methods, governance, and policy implementation. Requirements for graduation include the completion of the following:

- > Five Core Courses
- > Four Elective Courses
- > Two Common Courses for NUS Graduate Research Students
- > PhD Qualifying Examination
- > PhD Thesis and Oral Defence

Core Courses

Core courses provide an examination and analysis of the literature, perspectives and theories of public policy, along with the necessary skills to design and implement advanced research.

- > Foundations of Public Policy
- > Economics Analysis for Public Policy
- > Research Methods in Public Policy 1
- > Political Institutions and Public Administration
- > Doctoral Seminar in Public Policy

Common Courses for NUS Graduate Research Students

All students must complete the following Courses:

- > Academic Communications for Postgraduate Researchers
- > Research Ethics for Graduate Researchers

Elective Courses

Students Must complete Four Electives:

- > One elective must be a method course in either programming, data analytics or data visualisation
- > Three electives in student's selected disciplinary tracks. The three tracks are Economics Analysis, International/Global Affairs or Public Administration/Management

Please visit www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/graduateprogrammes/electives for the full list of electives.



Fees and Funding

AY2024 tuition and other compulsory fees are outlined below. AY2025 fees are anticipated to be published between April and June 2025 on www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/graduate-admissions/fees-and-funding

PhD Tuition fees for AY2024 intake	AY2024	AY2025	AY2026	AY2027	AY2028
Singapore Citizens (SC) (Subsidised Fees) ¹	S\$11,000	S\$11,000	S\$11,000	S\$11,000	S\$11,000
Singapore Permanent Residents (SPR) (Subsidised Fees) ¹	S\$12,400	S\$12,400	S\$12,400	S\$12,400	S\$12,400
International Students (IS) (Subsidised Fees inclusive of GST) ²	S\$18,550	S\$18,550	S\$18,550	S\$18,550	S\$18,550
Non-subsidised Fees ³ (inclusive of GST)	S\$37,900 (SC)	S\$37,900 (SC)	S\$37,900 (SC)	S\$37,900 (SC)	S\$37,900 (SC)
	S\$40,300 (SPR & IS)	S\$40,300 (SPR & IS)	S\$40,300 (SPR & IS)	S\$40,300 (SPR & IS)	S\$40,300 (SPR & IS)

¹ Fee amounts quoted here for Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents are exclusive of prevailing GST. The applicable GST is subsidised by the Ministry of Education, MOE.

² Fee amounts quoted here for International Students are inclusive of prevailing GST. International Students will have to bear the prevailing GST (currently 9%) levied on the fees payable by them.

* Students who have previously enjoyed government subsidy or sponsorship by a Singapore government agency (such as scholarships offered by the Ministries, Public Service Commission and Statutory Boards) in a graduate programme will not be eligible for Ministry of Education (MOE) subsidy in another graduate programme at the same or lower level. Instead, such students will be liable to pay "Non-Subsidised Fees", inclusive of prevailing GST. For example, students who had previously enjoyed subsidies/scholarship in a Master programme and had attained the Master degree will not be eligible for subsidies in another programme at Master or lower level. For more details, please visit www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/administrative-policies-procedures/graduate/graduate-fees

Unless you are on a full scholarship, you should ensure that you have sufficient funds to cover the costs of your travel from your home country to Singapore and return, accommodation in Singapore and other living expenses. While all students are eligible to join the School's medical insurance plan, a co-payment element is applicable. You are advised, therefore, to make provision for medical expenses.

For more information on MOE's financial assistance, please visit their website at www.moe.gov.sg/financial-matters/financial-assistance

Other Fees

Please note the fees below are applicable if you are accepted into the PhD programme.

Student Service Fee (per semester): S\$170.00

Health Service Fee (per semester): S\$132.50

Fees shown above are inclusive of prevailing GST and are subject to change.

Please visit our website for an estimate of the monthly living costs in Singapore, as well as more information on other fees and financing options: www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/graduate-admissions/fees-and-funding



Scholarships

Generous scholarships, in addition to access to a range of teaching and research assistantships, are available.



496C Bukit Timah Road,
Oei Tiong Ham Building,
Singapore 259772

All information stated in the brochure is correct at the time of publication (June 2024) and subject to change without notice.



Application period

Applications open on 1 August and close on 10 December every year.

Please visit www.lkyspp.sg/gda3 to start your application or scan here!



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The PhD in Public Policy at LKYSPP equipped me with the right tools to thrive in the global academic job market. It offered a rigorous interdisciplinary training, very generous funding, and a productive network with leading scholars of the public policy field. While the PhD can be a solitary process, I never felt isolated because of the tight-knit academic community at LKYSPP. I continue to be good friends and collaborators with many of my PhD colleagues and professors.

Dr Kidjie Saguin,
Lecturer in Public Policy (Management),
School of Social and Political Sciences,
The University of Melbourne,
PhD 2021



Contact Us

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(Whatsapp message only)

Scan the QR code for more information on our PhD Programme or to ask us any questions!

