



Training in progress... the MPP programme produces graduates who are able to remain relevant in an ever-changing landscape.

Mastering public policy

> Theories taught are tested in real life contexts

UCSI University's Masters in Public Policy (MPP), a first-of-its-kind programme aimed at increasing the competency level of public policy practitioners, is offered under the university's Faculty of Economic and Policy Science (FEPS).

The coursework of the 18-month programme is both theoretical and practical; theories taught in lectures will be tested in real life contexts through dialogues, field trips to relevant ministries and organisations, visits to the Parliament, and consultations with foreign diplomats.

Dr Ong Kian Ming, lead lecturer for the course, says the programme trains students to be better prepared in analysing, projecting, preparing and communicating issues on public policy.

"Equipped with a strong theoretical basis, graduates of the MPP programme would be able to tackle 'big policy' questions from a public communications standpoint in a way that is convincing."

According to Ong, MPP graduates at UCSI University will not only be able to design, analyse and formulate public policies from the perspective of multiple stakeholders, but to also verbally articulate and communicate these issues and concerns as well.

Ong says it has become a prerequisite in the US for anyone in the government or who wants to sit in higher office to have some sort of

qualification in public policy at a Master's level. This prerequisite is also slowly being implemented in Britain.

In Malaysia, a Master in Public Policy can transcend upgrading oneself for a career movement.

According to Ong, pursuing a Master's degree in the field goes beyond personal gain.

"This is a public service you can deliver. If you were to do an MBA for instance, a lot of the rewards are financial, and it's personalised. But with the MPP, rewards are not just financial; they also benefit society to an extent," he says.

The MPP course, to be conducted on a part-time basis, is a good option for those who need to balance full-time employment while pursuing their Master's degree. Intensive lectures and tutorials are held on Fridays, 3pm to 9pm, and on Saturdays from 9am to 5pm. Students are required to complete six core subjects and six electives, spread over four semesters.

Scholarships are also available to deserving students in the form of a fellowship programme.

For more information, visit the university during its Open Days on May 7 and 8, 10am to 5pm. Course counsellors can be contacted at 03-9101 8880 or visit: www.ucsi.edu.my/onlineenquiry/ Otherwise, visit the UCSI University website at www.ucsi.edu.my.