

## **The Practicum Placement in the Master's of Political Management: Information for employers**

The Clayton H. Riddell Master's of Political Management (MPM) provides an intensive professional education that prepares its graduates for positions of responsibility and authority in electoral, legislative, and advocacy politics. **The capstone to the degree is a 1.0 credit Practicum Placement.**

Before starting the capstone, students receive graduate training in political institutions, ethics, communications, policy analysis, professional writing, and much more. The Practicum allows students an opportunity to integrate their studies with workplace learning, culminating in a major paper.

MPM students studying full-time will **generally start their practicum in the Spring**, after courses end in the Winter term. Students work with a faculty member to identify an appropriate placement and to set learning goals for their experience. Those goals are spelled out in a **learning agreement** that is a tripartite agreement between the student, the MPM program, and the host employer.

To receive credit for their placement, students must complete **at least 375 hours of eligible work**, under a learning agreement in a participating workplace. The work may be paid or unpaid and the MPM program does not set scheduled wage rates or participate in wage discussions. We do find that the majority of our students are offered paid positions.

**During the placement**, employers are asked to provide work assignments that match the learning agreement, to provide the student with support and supervision to be successful in the placement, and to verify the student's hours and performance in the role at the end of the term. Students are responsible for providing employers with copies of the two key documents – the draft learning agreement and the supervisor evaluation – for their review and approval.

The final paper is an academic assignment that is only read and evaluated by supervising faculty. MPM students must produce an independent, graduate-level paper that demonstrates research, critical analysis, and reflection on their individual learning.

Throughout the Practicum Placement process, the faculty Coordinator, Dr. Jennifer Robson ([jennifer.robson@carleton.ca](mailto:jennifer.robson@carleton.ca)), is available to both the student and the employer to support the placement and address any questions.

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