

The Practicum Placement in the Master of Political Management: Information for employers

The Clayton H. Riddell Master 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 MPM is a mandatory Practicum Placement, worth 1.0 credits in the 5.0 credit degree.

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

MPM students studying full-time will generally start their practicum in the Spring, after courses end in the Winter term (generally in early April).

Students work with the Practicum Co-ordinator, a faculty member, to identify an appropriate placement and to set learning goals for their experience. Those learning goals are spelled out in [a learning agreement](#) that is a tripartite agreement between the student, the MPM program, and the host employer. The learning goals are meant to be tailored to the individual aims of the student, and to reflect the outcome of a discussion between the student and their Practicum host.

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. Where students are bound by workplace confidentiality or other rules, the paper can always be structured to accommodate.

Throughout the Practicum Placement process, the faculty Coordinator is available to both the student and the employer to support the placement and address any questions.

While not an expectation of the MPM, many employers have reported that the Placement has been an important source of new talent. To learn more about what past Practicum hosts have said about working with MPM students, visit <https://carleton.ca/politicalmanagement/practicum/>

To find out more about the MPM Practicum and how your organization can get involved, please contact the MPM Program Director and Practicum Co-ordinator, Prof. Jennifer Robson at jennifer.robson@carleton.ca.

To find out more about the MPM Program, please contact us at mpm@carleton.ca.



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