Graduate Programs in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership

Producing leaders for philanthropy and the nonprofit sector.

The Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership (MPNL) prepares graduates to be innovators and leaders in nonprofits, social enterprises, philanthropic foundations, development offices, and in the governments, financial institutions and businesses that interact with them. It is designed for full-time students preparing to be change-makers in this field, as well as experienced professionals studying part-time. The program, administered by the School of Public Policy and Administration, has a flexible format involving intensive summer institutes at Carleton and interactive online learning. A shorter Graduate Diploma in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership enables working professionals to upgrade their knowledge and skills to meet the challenges of the complex and rapidly changing world of philanthropy and leadership in this sector.

Faculty associated with the program are engaged in a wide range of collaborative and individual research projects, providing students with great opportunities for engagement and supervision.

Degrees Offered
MPNL, Graduate Diploma

Career Options
Graduates of the MPNL program will be innovators, leaders and makers of social change. Students can tailor the program for leadership positions in nonprofits, charities and social enterprises; advocacy organizations and international NGOs; grant-making foundations; resource development and fundraising in universities, hospital foundations and other nonprofits; governments that develop policy or collaborate in service delivery with the nonprofit sector; and financial institutions and other corporations working on corporate social responsibility and impact investing.

Summer Application Deadline
January 15, to be considered for funding

Admission Requirements
A bachelor’s degree, with a wide variety of disciplines with an average of B+ or higher.

Upon admission, experienced professionals may qualify for the Professional Entry option which reduces program requirements.

In special circumstances, mid-career applicants who do not have an undergraduate degree but have a minimum of five years of professional experience in the nonprofit/philanthropic sector will also be considered for admission.

In meetings full of professionals from the public, private and third sector, I am pleased to find myself confidently utilizing knowledge and analytical skills that I learned in my MPNL program. While many of my peers have invaluable experience, none are walking around with the focus and rigour of Canada’s pioneering graduate degree in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership. Our access to experts and critical thinkers in class has greatly enriched my working world experience.

— Gonzalo Duarte, MPNL/16