

Certificate Programme in Policy Analysis & Clinic 12 Weeks Online Course

Application Open: July 6, 2026

Last date to Apply: July 26, 2026

Course Begins: August 3, 2026



Programme Overview

Public policy shapes the lives of citizens through laws, regulations, programmes, and institutional interventions. This certificate programme equips participants with the analytical tools, practical skills, and writing competencies required to understand, evaluate, and design public policies.

The programme adopts a practice-oriented approach, combining theoretical foundations with real-world case studies, supervised policy projects, and structured writing workshops. Participants will work under the guidance of policy experts and researchers to produce publishable policy outputs.

The course is divided into three phases:

Phase I (Weeks 1–6): Foundations and Case Studies

Phase II (Weeks 7–9): Supervised Policy Project

Phase III (Weeks 10–12): Policy Writing and Publication Training

Why You Should Take This Course

It Teaches a Practical Skill Rather Than Just a Subject: Identify policy problems, Analyse public programmes, Evaluate policy outcomes, Draft policy recommendations, Write for policymakers and the public, Produce publishable research.

It Creates a Portfolio of Work: By the end of the programme, every participant must produce, One Policy Project Report, One Policy Brief, One Newspaper Article/Op-Ed, One Academic Research Paper. This means participants do not leave with only a certificate; they leave with evidence of their analytical abilities. For employers, a policy brief or research paper is often more valuable than a certificate alone.

It Provides Mentorship: A major strength is the supervised policy project. Participants receive, Individual mentoring, Expert supervision, Project review meetings, Editorial guidance. This resembles a miniature version of a graduate public policy programme.

It Teaches Policy Writing: Most graduates can write essays, very few can write: Policy briefs, Policy memos, Legislative briefs, Impact assessments, Op-eds. The final phase of the programme specifically trains participants in these forms of writing. These are highly valued in professional policy environments.

It Develops Analytical Thinking: The programme covers, Cost-Benefit Analysis, Cost-Effectiveness Analysis, Regulatory Impact Assessment, Stakeholder Analysis, Policy Evaluation Frameworks. These analytical tools are useful even outside public policy, including consulting, development sector work, and corporate strategy.

Career Opportunities After Completing This Course

Policy Analyst with Think tanks, Policy research institutes, Government advisory bodies, Legislative research organisations.

Legislative Research Associate with Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies, Legislative research organisations.

Research Associate with Universities, Research institutes, Foundations, Development organisations

Public Policy Consultant with Consulting firms, Development consultancies, Government projects.

Development Sector Professional with INGOs, NGOs Foundations and International development agencies

Policy Communication Specialist with Think tanks, Advocacy organisations, Government communication units.

The programme is especially useful for students planning to apply to: Master of Public Policy (MPP), Master of Public Administration (MPA), Development Studies, Public Administration, Political Science, Public Health Policy, Social Policy, Law and Governance programmes. **The supervised project and research paper can strengthen applications considerably.**

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Learning Outcome



Upon successful completion of the programme, participants will be able to:

Understand major theories and concepts of public policy.

Apply policy analysis frameworks to contemporary governance challenges.

Conduct stakeholder and institutional analysis.

Evaluate public programmes and policy interventions.

Design evidence-based policy recommendations.

Prepare policy briefs and policy reports.

Write newspaper opinion articles on public affairs.

Develop a short academic research paper suitable for publication.

Present and defend policy recommendations before experts.

Phase I: Policy Theory and Case Study

Week 1: Introduction to Public Policy

Week 2: Policy Formulation and Agenda Setting

Week 3: Policy Analysis Frameworks

Week 4: Governance, Institutions and Implementation

Week 5: Sectoral Policy Analysis

Week 6: International and Comparative Public Policy

Week 1: Introduction to Public Policy

What is Public Policy?
Policy Cycle Approach
Policy Actors and Institutions
Government, Market and Civil Society
Policy Success and Failure

Case Study: India's Swachh Bharat Mission

Assignment: Policy Mapping Exercise

Week 2: Policy Formulation and Agenda Setting

Problem Identification
Agenda Setting Models
Evidence-Based Policymaking
Political Economy of Policymaking
Role of Media and Public Opinion

Case Study: National Education Policy 2020

Assignment: Stakeholder Analysis Matrix

Week 3: Policy Analysis Frameworks

Cost-Benefit Analysis
Cost-Effectiveness Analysis
Multi-Criteria Analysis
Regulatory Impact Assessment
Policy Evaluation Techniques

Case Study: Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

Assignment: Comparative Policy Analysis Report

Week 4: Governance, Institutions and Implementation

Governance Theories
Federalism and Decentralisation
Bureaucracy and Public Administration
Street-Level Bureaucracy
Implementation Challenges

Case Study: MGNREGA

Assignment: Implementation Assessment Exercise

Week 5: Sectoral Policy Analysis

Health Policy
Education Policy- Germany
Environmental Policy- Denmark
Social Welfare Policy- Sweden
Digital Governance- Estonia and Singapore.

Case Studies: Ayushman Bharat/
National Digital Health Mission

Assignment: Sector Policy Review

Week 6: International and Comparative Public Policy

Comparative Policy Analysis
Policy Transfer and Diffusion
Sustainable Development Goals
International Development Institutions
Global Governance

Case Studies: Universal Healthcare Models- Cuban Healthcare Model/ Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes- Mexico & Brazil

Assignment: Comparative International Policy Note

Phase II: Supervised Policy Project



Weeks 7–9

Participants will undertake an individual or group policy project under expert supervision. Each participant will be assigned a mentor from academia, government, or the policy sector. The participant will have the option of choosing the Policy Project Topic, however final decision will be of the Project Supervising Committee. Each Candidate/Group will be allotted an expert supervisor.

Week 7: Project Design

Activities:

- Selection of Policy Topic
- Research Question Formulation
- Literature Review
- Research Design
- Data Collection Plan

Deliverable:

Project Proposal (1,000 words)

Mentoring Session:

One-to-One Expert Consultation

Phase II: Supervised Policy Project



Week 8: Field Research and Analysis

Activities:

Secondary Data Analysis
Policy Review
Stakeholder Mapping
Comparative Assessment

Deliverable:

Interim Policy Analysis Report

Mentoring Session:• Progress Review Meeting

Note: Candidates can do fieldwork in their desired location.

Week 9: Policy Recommendations

Activities:

Drafting Policy Alternatives
Feasibility Assessment
Impact Analysis
Recommendation Development

Deliverable:

Final Policy Project Report

Mentoring Session:

Expert Feedback Session

Expected Project Length:

3,000–5,000 Words

Phase III: Policy Writing and Publication

Week 10: Writing for Policymakers

Policy Brief Writing
Executive Summaries
Evidence Presentation
Visualisation and Infographics
Writing Recommendations

Workshop: Drafting a Policy Brief

Deliverable: 1 Policy Brief (1,000–1,500 words)

Week 11: Newspaper and Opinion Writing

Writing for Newspapers
Opinion Editorials (Op-Eds)• Public Communication of Research
Writing for General Audiences
Media Engagement

Workshop: Article Development and Editing

Mandatory Submission: One Newspaper Article/Op-Ed. Length: 800–1,200 Words

Faculty Support: Editorial Review and Feedback.

Assistance will be provided in publication.



Week 12: Academic Research Writing

Structure of Research Papers

Academic Referencing

Literature Reviews

Research Ethics

Publication Strategies

Workshop: Research Paper Development

Mandatory Submission: One Research Paper.

Length: 3,000–5,000 Words

Faculty Support:

Research Supervision and Editorial Guidance



Evaluation Scheme

Component	Type	Time Duration	Marks
MCQ Based Test after Six Week	Online	1 Hours	25 Marks
Descriptive Test after 12 Week	Online	1 Hours	25 Marks
Policy Project Report after Week 9	Take Home	-	10 Marks
Newspaper and Opinion Writing after Week 11	Take Home	-	15 Marks
Research Paper after Week 12	Take Home	-	25 Marks

Certificate Requirements

To successfully complete the programme, participants must submit:

- One Policy Project Report
- One Policy Brief
- One Newspaper Article/Op-Ed
- One Academic Research Paper

All submissions will receive expert review and feedback.

Mentorship and Supervision

Participants will receive:

- Weekly Faculty Interaction Sessions
- Three Dedicated Project Supervision Meetings
- Writing Workshops
- Editorial Support for Publications
- Career Guidance Session in Public Policy

Certification

Joint Certificate from Samaira Policy Research Institute, Dehradun and University of Bologna, Italy.

Participants scoring 50% Marks and above will receive a Certificate of Completion.

Participant scoring more than 50% Marks but less than 75% Marks will receive a certificate of Merit.

Participants scoring 75% Marks and above will receive a Certificate of Distinction.

75% Attendance is mandatory to be eligible for the certificate.

Outstanding policy papers may be considered for publication through institutional channels, policy blogs, journals, or partner media platforms.

Total Number of Seats in the Batch: 20

Placement opportunities will be given to candidates who apply to the placement cell.

Faculty Profile

1. Prof (Dr) Gopinath Pillai, currently Professor of Philosophy at Samaira Policy Research Institute, has previously been a National Fellow at the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, Ministry of Education, Government of India. He has previously also been a Fellow at Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Rashtrapati Niwas Shimla.

2. Prof (Dr) Nidhi Sharma, is the Professor of Economics at Banaras Hindu University, author of Three Books, forty research articles and the recipient of the Prestigious Research Award (2014-16) of UGC. She is also the Executive member of the Indian Society of Labour Economics.

3. Prof Maya Tudor is the Professor of Politics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government and Fellow at St.Hilda's College, University of Oxford. She has previously been a fellow at Harvard University and Stanford University. She has also been the Special Assistant to Chief Economist, World Bank and has also worked with UNICEF and the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee.

4. Prof Richard Craswell is the Professor of Law at Stanford Law School, Stanford University. Previously he has taught at University of Chicago. Previously he has also worked with the U.S Federal Trade Commission.

5. Dr. Atanu Purkayastha, IAS (Retd) is a retired Indian Administrative Officer of 1983 Batch (West Bengal Cadre). He has served as Secretary, Central Information Commission, Joint Secretary in the Department of Agriculture & Coopertaion, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Government of India, Additional Chief Secretary, West Bengal among other assignments. He has also been a consultant to the World Bank.

7.Fr (Dr.) John Kennedy is currently the member of Governing council of Loyola University, Chicago, USA. He has previously worked with University Grant Commission, India.

8.Dr. Nitya Nanda has previously been the Director of Council for Social Development, ICSSR for six years. He has been previously worked with TERI and National Council for Applied Economics Research.

9. Dr. Vedvasyas Kundu is the Program Officer at Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti, Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Samaira Policy Research Institute.

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