



# Overview of the Executive Master of Philosophy: Development Policy and Practice

**The School's mission is to promote and inspire strategic public leadership in Africa and to promote peer networks and linkages between leaders in government and in other fields such as academia, business, civil society and the arts.**

The goal of the two-year, part-time M.Phil is to equip participants in the programme with a new set of skills to enhance their capabilities as strategic leaders in the public sector, civil society or international organisations. The School actively targets broad African participation, aiming at 50% representation from beyond South Africa with classes kept to around 25 students. Admission is highly selective, based principally on track record, achievements in the public service (or civil society), and high potential. Applicants must have a four year degree, or its equivalent, with an acceptable baseline of academic performance.

Each semester is divided into two segments: an intensive, face-to-face sixteen day 'block release' segment; and a distance learning segment. During the distance learning, participants (with support from GSDPP faculty) work on assignments designed to draw on perspectives and tools explored during the intensive segment addressing real challenges in students' work settings. In the course of the face-to-face 'block release' segment, faculty work on a one-to-one basis with participants to define and refine the focus of their distance-learning assignments. The principal focus of the M.Phil is on skills which are not conventionally taught within disciplinary programs, but which are key to effectiveness as leaders.



Class graduating in 2015, with GSDPP staff

**Strategic leadership for Africa's public sector**

The **YEAR ONE** focus areas comprise:

- A learning sequence which enhances the skills of participants to better understand, interpret and engage the broader political, social and institutional environment within which the public sector operates, thereby becoming more effective in policy-making and implementation.
- A strongly experiential learning sequence on leadership, which provides an opportunity to reflect on the role of leaders in orchestrating change, the personal attributes which make for an effective leader, and personal challenges in enhancing effectiveness.
- A learning sequence which provides participants with the conceptual and empirical platform needed to engage in evidence-based policy-making. These sessions include an overview of some central themes in development economics, with a baseline of economic, policy and research literacy and numeracy.

Each of these combines lecture/discussion sessions during the two intensive 'block release' segments, with ongoing distance learning.

**YEAR TWO** is, at least on the surface, more conventional. In addition to a continuation of the leadership learning sequence, year two includes a focus on specialist topics. However, every effort is made to address the specialist topics in ways that are aligned with the year one learning – and thus move beyond a narrowly best-practice technocratic paradigm. The minor dissertation builds on work conducted during the distance learning segments - and thus can focus in a strongly applied way on real challenges in the participants' workplaces.

Potential specialist topics include: trade, industrial policy and export promotion; climate change mitigation and adaptation; social policy; results-based public management; labour markets and employment; governance and accountability.

## **FACULTY**

Eminent, globally-recognized faculty bring to the classroom a rich combination of research eminence and practical experience at senior levels of policy-making and implementation. The faculty includes:

Professor Matt Andrews, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard

Professor Chris Breen, School of Education, UCT

Professor Rajen Govender, Department of Sociology, UCT

Professor Alan Hirsch, Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice, UCT

Professor Brian Levy, Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice, UCT

Dr Shadrack Mazaza, Graduate School of Business, UCT

A range of guest lecturers

## **COSTS**

The M.Phil is currently offered as a part-time degree. Fees for 2015 are R70,000 and will escalate by approximately 10% per annum thereafter.