



**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

**HARRIS SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC POLICY**

## **FAQ for KDI School of Public Policy and Management**

Feb. 2022

## FAQ

### 1. Brief introduction of University of Chicago and Harris School of Public Policy.

The **University of Chicago** is a private research university in Chicago, Illinois, United States. It was founded in 1890 and has its main campus on Chicago's South Side and seven international campuses and centers throughout the world including London, Beijing, and Paris. University of Chicago is ranked #6 in the 2022 edition in National Universities. In addition to the college, UChicago has postgraduate offerings that include the highly ranked Booth School of Business, Law School, Pritzker School of Medicine, and Harris School of Public Policy.

The University of Chicago **Harris School of Public Policy** is located at the **Keller Center** on the University's main campus in **Hyde Park**. The school is currently ranked as the third best public policy institution globally in the field of economics research by **RePEc**. It offers 14 degree programs and 14 research centers, with over 1,000 current students for the 2021-22 academic year and over 4,000 alumni across the world.

### 2. Number of courses that must be taken throughout the year and requirements for graduation or completion.

The **MA in Public Policy** is a full-time, one-year master's program that provides the fundamental understanding of public policy and analytics to complement students' experience.

Its curriculum consists of 5 courses from the Harris core curriculum and 4 electives, for a total of 9 courses. To meet the graduation requirements, students must complete all 9 courses, receive a grade of C- or better in the core courses, and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.7 for all courses based on a 4.0 scale. Students will also need to complete the math requirement by passing the algebra exam and calculus exam and take no more than 2 reading/research, independent study, or internship courses.

### 3. Can credits be transferred from KDIS? If so, what's the maximum?

No credits can be transferred from KDIS to Harris. GMP students must complete all credits required within the MA curriculum.

### 4. Requirements (Minimum English proficiency score, which English proficiency test, etc.).

International applicants may submit either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) to meet the English language requirement set by the University. Test scores must be sent directly to Harris using code 1849 (a separate department code is not necessary). The minimum score requirements for each exam are as follows:

- TOEFL: overall score of 95
- IELTS: overall score of 7, with sub scores of 7 on each section

Scores are only valid for two calendar years from the test date. For additional information on the English language requirement for the University of Chicago, [please visit this page](#).

## 5. Application Deadline for Admission.

The application deadline for the MA program is as follows:

- Early Action: October 5, 2021 (Decision released in Mid-December)
- Round One: December 1, 2021 (Decision released in Mid-February)
- Round Two: January 20, 2022 (Decision released in Early March)
- Round Three: June 15, 2022 (TBD)

Please note that applications in Round 3 may close earlier if space is no longer available and space will vary by degree program. If you are interested in our full-time degree programs, we recommend applying by the earliest deadline possible.

We anticipate the deadlines for the 2023 recruitment cycle will follow a similar time schedule.

## 6. Housing issues (e.g., average cost of rent per month for a medium-level apartment, whether dormitories support for families).

Harris Public Policy students have multiple housing options available to them on campus, in Hyde Park, and throughout the city of Chicago.

The University owns and manages 1,300 units in 28 [apartment buildings](#) across Hyde Park, offering a rich variety of restaurants, retail shops, schools, playgrounds, and more. These units are conveniently located within walking distance of campus and near public transportation.

You should spend time exploring all of the [neighborhoods](#) available in Chicago. Some popular options for graduate students are South Loop, Wicker Park/Bucktown, and Lakeview. Students who wish to pursue housing options elsewhere in Hyde Park or across the city can contact these apartment search services:

- [Chicago Apartment Finders](#)
- [Mac Properties](#)
- [Apartment People](#)

The [UChicagoGRAD Office](#) also offers several excellent resources, including a series of webinars in the spring and summer to assist incoming graduate student navigate the search for housing. You can [register](#) for these webinars online.

The actual cost of living (housing, food, and other expenses) will vary student-to-student. The University of Chicago uses one standard [cost of living estimate](#) for all graduate students. This rate is also the rate used by the Office of International Affairs for visa purposes. Please note that international students must use the 12-month rate.

You can refer to the following admissions blog posts from our students to learn more:

- [The Cost of Living in Chicago](#)
- [5 Posts You Should Read Before Moving to Chicago](#)

## **7. Local education environment for children (Elementary school to high school)**

The Chicago Public Schools (CPS) network is the third largest school district in the country, and more than 600 public, private, and faith-based schools across the city serve children from pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. Chicago Public Schools provides a high-quality public education for every child, in every neighborhood, that prepares each for success in college, career, and civic life. For the school year 2020-2021, CPS contains 476 elementary schools and 160 high schools. The complete list of CPS schools can be found on [the official website](#).

University of Chicago Office of Civic Engagement provides mentoring, tutoring, and other academic support to help Chicago Public Schools students thrive in high school and prepare for college. They also operate a top-tier neighborhood charter school with three South Side campuses, and we work with educators to improve school quality and achieve better outcomes for students throughout the Chicago Public Schools system.

The list of high schools in the Chicago area, including both private and public, can be found [here](#).

## **8. Are there any language schools (e.g., ESL) for spouses?**

[The English Language Institute \(ELI\)](#) at the University of Chicago serves the linguistic and cultural needs of multilingual students and scholars, empowering them to raise their confidence and English proficiency to new levels. They serve individuals from all facets of the university—from undergraduates to postdoctoral scholars—in every school and division. UChicago affiliates (e.g. partners and spouses) are also eligible to register. For information on course registration fees, [please visit this page](#).

As part of the [Chicago Language Center](#), ELI works closely with [UChicagoGRAD](#) and the [Writing Program](#) to ensure that curricula are relevant, challenging, and tailored to the unique needs of the students.



## 9. Exclusive service for GMP students.

### *Before applying:*

The Harris Student Recruitment and Global Outreach team will provide specific support for GMP students throughout the application cycle. Rebecca Hou, Assistant Director of Student Recruitment ([rebeccah@uchicago.edu](mailto:rebeccah@uchicago.edu)), will be their primary contact. She will assist GMP students every step of the way during the application process including meeting 1:1 with them via zoom and being available on KakaoTalk for instant chats.

### *After being admitted:*

Once admitted, GMP students will be invited to attend a current student panel that the SRGO team is hosting exclusively for incoming students from South Korea. GMP students will have an opportunity to hear from currently enrolled Korean students, learn about their experiences at Harris and in Chicago, ask questions, as well as connect with other incoming Korean students.

Additionally, GMP students will also have access to continuous services and supports that the school is offering to all students:

- Join Admitted Student Week and discover why Harris is the best place to study public policy. This week-long series of Admitted Student Week programming will provide students with an opportunity to connect with current and incoming students, as well as alumni, hear from faculty across policy areas, learn about the student support offered at Harris, and see the unique opportunities to study public policy and gain hands-on experience. More details on the 2022 Admitted Student Week can be viewed [here](#). You can also see past Admitted Student Weeks events [here](#).
- The **Office of International Affairs (OIA)** offers detailed information for admitted students about visa requirements, immigration issues, and travel restrictions as well as information for family members.
- A summer virtual welcome session is available for all international students. The session usually provides an overview from Harris staff, the Office of International Affairs, and information on getting to know the campus.

### *Arriving on campus*

It is very easy to get to campus from the O'Hare Airport. GMP students will receive exclusive Uber/Lyft promo codes if they decide to take a taxi. Other transportation options can be found [here](#).

Before classes start, GMP students can participate in the Student Orientation Programs which are open to all incoming students and they include Jumpstart Program, the Math & Coding Camp, and New student orientation. Information will be shared with students when it's getting closer to the start of the Fall quarter.

### *As your learning journey continues at Harris*

As a Harris student, you will be assigned an **Academic Advisor** who will guide and support you as you work toward the completion of the degree. Academic advisors are here as your first point of contact and support through your academic and personal journey at Harris,

Students can also join the **Mentor Program** and **apply to have a mentor**. Throughout the program, students benefit from programming covering skills and approaches in professional networking. As mentees, you will have the opportunity to interact with mentors (e.g. alumni, policy advocates, and working professionals) to receive their insights and guidance.

GMP students can also visit the Career Development Office as early as during their first quarter. The **Career Development Office** team is dedicated to help students develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to support lifelong career development. The staff offers personalized career guidance to help students define and articulate their abilities, interests, and motivations, as well as help them identify specific job opportunities and organizational settings of interest. Like any other Harris students, you have access to a wide range of resources including workshops, career counseling, career development guides, and career-focused events including, Employer Information Sessions and networking opportunities.

While on campus, GMP students can connect with the **Harris Community** through various ways including:

- Attending Harris Events, ranging from educational events such as professional development workshops with industry experts, lunch-and-learns, and guest lectures, to social opportunities like Harris After Hours and Follies
- Joining Harris **student organizations**. There are more than 20 student organizations, from the Asian Policy Forum to Women in Public Policy. It's a great way for GMP students to make connections, put policy into practice, and develop and refine their leadership, teamwork, and project management skills.
- Participating in University Groups. When joining Harris Public Policy, students join a community of nearly 10,000 fellow graduate students and almost 6,000 undergraduate students. Extracurricular opportunities, including myriad **student organizations**, abound and can strengthen your ties across the University.

### *When it comes to an end of your Harris Chapter*

The SRGO team will be hosting a reception dinner for all GMP graduates to celebrate their graduation from the program. Each student will also receive a special graduation gift to commemorate their graduate's experience at UChicago Harris.

## 10. How are courses conducted due to COVID-19?

The university has returned for the full resumption of activities on campus for Fall 2021 and Winter 2022. At present, we assume that we will be back to fully in-person operations for Fall 2022, with all students expected to attend classes on-campus. While our goal is to have as many functions in person as possible, please know that it is the university's intention to make necessary accommodations for those students facing travel or health restrictions. The University of Chicago has developed and maintains an information hub, [UChicago GoForward](#), which provides the latest updates on the University's planning for the resumption of programs and operations on campus.

## 11. Additional COVID-19 issues

On May 18, 2021 the University determined that starting with the 2021 Autumn Quarter, all students will be required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. For additional questions related to COVID-19 vaccination requirements at UChicago, vaccine safety and efficacy, and the vaccines that satisfy the University's COVID-19 vaccine requirement, visit [the vaccine FAQs](#).

The university's current mask requirements include that all individuals are required to wear a face covering over the nose and the mouth at all times while in University buildings, with limited exceptions of when the individual is in private spaces or eating and drinking.

## 12. Others (Tuition and fees for fall 2022 & spring 2023, etc.)

[Tuition rates and student fees](#) for the current academic year are detailed on the Office of the Bursar website. Tuition and other fees for 2022-23 have not yet been announced, but it can be expected that there will be a 3-5% increase each year. For Master's students, the tuition rate is based on the number of classes taken each quarter. Full-time students take three courses each term. The tuition for 3 courses within the MA program is \$18,612.

The [Student Services Fee](#) is \$432 and it is assessed quarterly to support the many services dedicated to enhancing the quality of student life and campus activities, and is used to provide and promote educational, social, cultural, and recreational programs and services for students throughout the year.

All students are required to have health insurance. Students can opt to purchase [health insurance through the University](#), or opt out and purchase other coverage. In keeping with this requirement, each year all students registered in an insurance-required program are enrolled in the University Student Health Insurance Plan (U-SHIP). The U-SHIP premium is billed on student accounts in three installments, generally on the Autumn, Winter, and Spring quarterly bills. The annual premium for student/spouse/child is \$4,566.