



WESTPAC NEW ZEALAND SPIRIT OF SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

Oxford University's Blavatnik School of Government

Master of Public Policy

Rare Opportunity for Internationally Recognised Qualification from Prestigious University

The State Services Commission, in tandem with sponsorship from Westpac New Zealand is offering the opportunity for an early in career, high-potential future public service leader to gain an internationally recognised Master of Public Policy from Oxford University's Blavatnik School of Government.

Few New Zealanders have been able to undertake this highly regarded programme. Blavatnik's Masters in Public Policy (MPP) is highly relevant to New Zealand public servants, along with those from the 49 other countries who seek places for their people. BSG invite 120 leaders from a large, wide ranging and diverse group of applicants to participate in the programme each year, meaning those selected are the best of the best.

As a student of the MPP, you will:

- Participate in a highly diverse and globally focused community
- Gain a multi-disciplinary and rigorous education
- Benefit from deeply applied learning to help address public policy challenges
- Join a community driven by values of better public service and government
- Be part of one of the world's top universities.

Alumni of the programme are making an impact around the world. They include: the youngest ever minister in Yemen; the youngest mayor in Germany; a district representative in Mongolia; the Minister of Youth Affairs in the United Arab Emirates; and the Deputy Director at the UK's Department of International Trade.

If you bring diverse perspectives and strong academic and analytical rigour, you may be the person we are looking for to apply.

Programme Overview

You can find additional information about the programme overview [here](#).

Once you have successfully completed the MPP, you will be invited to return to Oxford to take part in the School's end-of-course event and to graduate in person with your College. BSG will also invite you to join the Blavatnik School Alumni community and continue to participate in the School's intellectual life after you graduate. (Travel to and from the graduation event might not be included in the your agency-travel allocation.)

Applicant Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the scholarship opportunity, applicants need to be:

- able to meet Blavatnik School of Government's academic entry selection criteria
- currently employed in and likely to forge a future career in the core NZ public service
- willing to focus your options and applied learning to projects of relevance to the New Zealand Public Service (for 2020 this should be towards supporting the Public Service to more effectively meet the needs of our diverse citizens)
- able to contribute credibly to a highly internationally diverse cohort of 120 that will be selected for the 2020/2021 programme, representing unique aspects of New Zealand's diversity
- either a New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident
- endorsed by your agency and Chief Executive

Examples of target applicants:

- **Recent graduate:** participated in a public service graduate programme and looking to a public service career, strong academic results, star quality, has demonstrated impact through internship and/or voluntary work
- **Agency-identified high potential:** been in the public service for about 5 years and committed to a public service career, strong professional qualifications, identified as high potential through the agency talent management process

BSG MPP Eligibility Criteria

BSG look for a diverse group of people who want to work in partnership with others to make positive change in the world through public policy. A particular strength of this programme is the diverse range of people from over 121 countries who have taken part in the programme since the first intake in 2012.

Applications are assessed against three key criteria:

- **Academic and analytical excellence** - academically outstanding individuals who have the analytical capacity to tackle complex multidimensional issues. Applications from all academic disciplines and professional backgrounds are welcomed. In New Zealand, this equates to a first class honours degree as a minimum.
- **Strong commitment to public service** – people who can demonstrate that they really care about some of the world’s most pressing policy problems and who are motivated to take action to make a positive difference.
- **Ability to show leadership and have impact** - people who have actively gone beyond what might be expected and collaborated effectively with others to enact positive change on issues that matter to them.

BSG makes the final decision on your application and entry into the programme is by invite only.

Applicant Attendance Support

The State Services Commission is keen for an early in career, high-potential future public service leader to bring the learnings from this programme back to New Zealand.

It is likely that the individuals SSC are most keen to attend the programme will need financial and other support to do so. SSC have been working with Westpac New Zealand Ltd and public service chief executives to develop an attendance support package for one individual to attend the Blavatnik School of Government’s Master of Public Policy.

This attendance support package consists of:

- **Westpac New Zealand Spirit of Service Scholarship.** The scholarship covers course fees and a contribution to on-campus accommodation and utilities, collectively amounting to £53,000 UK excl GST or its equivalent in NZD. Westpac will pay this direct to BSG for the selected applicant. (Only available for the BSG MPP.)

- **Agency support.** Your agency will release you on study leave; pay your salary, return travel to the UK to attend the programme, insurances, and other direct costs involved. They will guarantee you a role upon return, though not necessarily the same one as before the programme. Actual support will be defined in a study agreement between you and your agency.
- **SSC-sponsored support.** If necessary, your agency may talk with SSC if you need additional support or assistance, especially if yours is a smaller organisation.

Successful Applicant Commitments

If you are the successful applicant, there will be expectations of you during and after completion of the programme of study. These include:

- committing to attend, complete and pass the graduation requirements of the BSG MPP
- applying your learning from the MPP, in a deliberate way, to your return and future work roles in the New Zealand Public Service;
- committing to share your learnings across the system, as agreed with the Leadership Development Centre, through such things as seminars, events, presentations or workshops with supporting material developed by you;
- supporting aspects of communication and advertising plans developed by SSC, Westpac NZ Ltd and your home agency.

Note that, should you successfully gain attendance support and, for any reason, you do not complete and/or pass graduation requirements, any payments made under the Westpac Scholarship will need to be refunded to Westpac NZ Ltd. What happens in such circumstances will be detailed in your study agreement with your agency.

Selection Process

Selection for supported attendance on the BSG MPP involves four steps for the 2020 intake:

	Step	Requirement	Timing
1	Self-Identification	You decide whether you have the availability, life and work circumstances and desire to fully commit to undertake the programme and whether you meet the BSG and system criteria for supported attendance (you may wish to talk this through with your agency HR team).	Obtain CE endorsement to meet BSG application close off by 10 Jan 20
2	BSG MPP Selection	You can start your on-line MPP application via the Oxford University website at any time. You will require an official transcript, CV, personal statement, examples of written work (essays) and references / letters of recommendation.	Submit BSG MPP online application by 10 Jan 20 . Invitations to attend released Mid Mar 20
3	Agency Endorsement	Your agency decides if they will release you on study leave should you be invited to attend. They will also decide the conditions under which your salary, accommodation, travel expenditure and fees are supported i.e. whether this is dependent on receipt of the Westpac Scholarship and/or system support, or if the only constraint is receiving the BSG MPP invitation. The agreement will also cover implications for the applicant and agency, should the applicant be accepted onto but not complete the programme.	Chief Executive endorsed pre-application sent to SSC by Fri 31 Jan 20
4	Selection for attendance support from Westpac NZSoSS and SSC	SSC/Westpac review applicants who are invited by BSG to attend the MPP, and confirm: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• which individual will receive the Westpac Scholarship• whether and to what extent their agency will receive system funds towards agency support for the individual's attendance.	Notification to agency and individual by early April 20

Contacts for your application

Please contact:

- Your agency HR team for:
 - Assistance with determining if this is the right programme for you
 - Information on how to gain your agency's endorsement to apply for the programme and supported assistance
- SSC for questions about the application process.

Application Form

Complete the pre-application form on the [Oxford University enrolment page](#)

Follow the link to the [BSG MPP information page](#)