



HARVARD Kennedy School
JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

www.hks.harvard.edu

experience **DIVERSITY**

A Harvard Kennedy School Perspective



**ASK WHAT
YOU CAN DO**

WELCOME

The Harvard Kennedy School's mission is to educate outstanding public leaders and produce ideas that have significant impact on the critical issues of our time—all in order to advance the public interest. In doing this, we seek to apply valuable academic frameworks to the exciting real-world practice of public policy.

It is therefore important to us that our faculty, students, and staff both reflect and embrace the world's rich range of ideas and cultures, value new ideas, and actively learn from each other within our dynamic community. These conditions are necessary for our success. So too, naturally, is having a student body that is diverse in its race, religion, nationality, gender, ideology, experience, and more.

In the following pages you will hear from some of our current students about why they came to the Kennedy School and how they are using their time here to channel their idealism and develop their next steps to help the world. Many of them are also working to advance the interests of under-resourced communities. We will continue to strive to recruit a very diverse group of students, faculty, and staff, and to employ a curriculum that brings to light the important issues that can accompany differing experiences and perspectives—one that encourages our students and faculty to openly discuss these nuanced and sometimes difficult or emotionally charged issues.

We also highlight our student journals and some of our student conferences, many of which focus on issues affecting Communities of Color, the LGBT Community and other underrepresented groups. On campus, we also have over 80 student organizations and a wonderful array of co-curricular, service and social activities.

We must continue to do everything we can to uphold and grow the diversity of the Kennedy School community, which is vital to achieving our mission and to remaining a vibrant community. We are excited about our new initiatives and look forward to supporting our diverse, inspiring, and extraordinarily innovative student body.

David T. Ellwood

Dean, Harvard Kennedy School

Scott M. Black Professor of Political Economy



"Harvard Kennedy School brings together the next generation of global leaders, practitioners, and scholars whose diverse ways of thinking will help to create real-life, systemic change. The diversity of our students' backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives coupled with their shared commitment to make a difference in our world is what makes Harvard Kennedy School an extraordinary place to learn, change, and grow. For me, I consider each day a privilege and a pleasure to support our students because of their shared passion for public service, which pushes Harvard Kennedy School to be the best that it can be."

Karen Jackson-Weaver, PhD

Senior Associate Dean for Degree Programs and Student Affairs

"At the Kennedy School, we pride ourselves on our student body, which represents more than 90 countries from around the world. As a premier school of public policy, the Kennedy School strives to represent the public in all of its diversity, and that provides the backbone of the learning experience in our programs. For us, diversity is not just a matter of what we learn, but rather, how we learn."

Alexandra Martinez

Assistant Dean for Student Diversity and Inclusion



Diversity Committee

Officially established in 2005, Harvard Kennedy School's Diversity Committee is a joint faculty, staff, and student body that addresses various issues pertaining to diversity in service of fulfilling the mission of the school. As described in the HKS Diversity Statement, that mission requires not only attracting a faculty, staff, and student body that varies by a number of factors—race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, and political philosophy, to name a few—but also fostering and maintaining an atmosphere that encourages an active exchange of views in an environment of mutual respect.

Student PERSPECTIVES

TRAINING LEADERS in Public Policy

Hear from current HKS students



*"HKS was my first (and really, only) choice because of its **professors, resources, and the fact that the JD/MPP program is truly a joint degree**, in that students can craft their program to suit their interests in both law and public policy. I hope to work in the private sector for one to three years, then transition back to the non-profit sector, working as an assistant general counsel."*

Before HKS, I was the office manager / senior legal assistant in the Office of the General Counsel at the Open Society Foundations (New York City)."

Maritza Jean-Louis JD/MPP

*"I chose HKS because of its unique ability to **train leaders in public policy** on the local, state, national, and international level. While the curriculum and network were my main considerations for choosing HKS, the friendships I have made were the ultimate reward I received."*

Before HKS, I worked in state and local government as a policy adviser and government liaison for public safety and human services policy."

Chris Gustafson MPP



Research Publications

Founded in 1985, the Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy is a student-run, non-partisan review that publishes interdisciplinary works on politics and policy-making as these topics affect the Latino community in the United States.

From HKS to THE WORLD

Tackling Challenges in EDUCATION

"I chose to attend HKS because I wanted to launch my leadership to the next stage and realize the national and international context for education policy. My goal is to affect **systemic, transformational change in the education sector.**

With the new content knowledge and, more importantly, the strong relationships I've built at HKS, I've launched One Degree, an **educational social venture.**

Before HKS, I worked for five years at BUILD, a national college access nonprofit organization."

Rey Faustino MPP



Preparing FOREIGN POLICY EXPERTS

"I spent the summer of 2011 working at the **U.S. Mission to the United Nations** under U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Susan Rice.

After graduating from the Kennedy School on the Pickering Fellowship, I will be working at the State Department as a foreign service officer. My favorite part of the day is walking into the Forum around 4 pm and asking myself the question, 'Which president of which country will be speaking today?'"

Jonathan McMaster MPP



The LGBTQ Policy Journal at the Harvard Kennedy School published its first edition in the spring of 2011. The journal is a student-run, non-partisan review dedicated to publishing interdisciplinary work on policy-making and politics including and impacting LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) communities and individuals. It strives to improve the quality of public policies affecting LGBTQ communities by furthering reflection and debate on the complex economic, political, and social consequences of public policy regimes for LGBTQ persons.

**LGBTQ
Policy
Journal**

**Student
Organized
Conferences**

The Black Policy Conference is the leading policy driven forum to address the issues affecting black communities. The conference provides an opportunity for the convergence of the world's greatest minds and practitioners with the hope and intent of finding sustainable solutions for issues facing black communities.



Social ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Connecting the public and private sectors

"After HKS, I hope to combine my finance background with my strong interest in public service by working in the **Corporate Social Responsibility** space in the finance sector, creating products and services that serve various public interests. I also plan to continue working in education, particularly through an educational nonprofit that I created before coming to HKS.

Before HKS, I worked in finance on Wall Street while being active in the education community as an appointee to a council that advises the New York City Department of Education."

Peter Thompson MC/MPA



"The Kennedy School community is incredibly supportive in helping you find different ways to explore your interests and providing avenues for you to have rewarding experiences.

Before HKS, I interned with the **Hmong National Development, Inc.** analyzing immigration policies that affect the Hmong American and larger Asian American population."

Arlee Vang MPP

Asian American
Policy Review

Founded in 1989, the Asian American Policy Review is the first non-partisan academic journal in the country dedicated to analyzing public policy issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

IMPACTING COMMUNITIES at home and abroad

"I chose HKS because the MPP program provided incomparable in-class and real-world experiences coupled with a brilliant and driven student body that would challenge my analytical, as well as leadership skills in such a way that I would become a more **strategic public servant** for marginalized communities in the United States and abroad.

Before HKS, I was a **Fulbright Scholar** conducting an impact evaluation of remittance-based scholarships under Mexico's Tres Por Uno Program on students living in migrant communities in Zacatecas, Mexico. I also served as a Cesar E. Chavez-AmeriCorps VISTA Fellow with the National Farm Workers Service Center in rural Hollister, California."

Jeanette Acosta MPP

"I chose HKS because of its outstanding community. The faculty, staff, and student body are bright, capable, and motivated. Seeing everyone's **optimism and unabashed zeal to do good** in the world is exhilarating.

After HKS, I hope to work in social entrepreneurship in the educational technology sector, helping underprivileged students in the United States and Latin America.

Before HKS, I worked at an NGO, helping minority, immigrant, and refugee entrepreneurs to succeed in the United States."

Jorge Mazal MPP



Joint-School
Conferences

The Harvard Latino Law, Policy and Business Conference is jointly hosted by student groups at Harvard Law School, Harvard Kennedy School, and Harvard Business School. Now in its 14th year, the conference features Latino leaders from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to discuss issues of importance to the Latino community. Throughout its history, the conference has sparked dialogue across disciplines; provided networking opportunities among fellow students, alumni, and professionals; and inspired the next generation of Latino leaders.

Engaging in Research that TRANSFORMS COMMUNITIES



“The best part of HKS is that there is no typical day,
so some of the best parts of the day are the unexpected
events that may occur. The late afternoons and evenings
bring the most interesting variety, from
preeminent politicians and diplomats to researchers
presenting cutting-edge research that has strong policy implications.

Prior to HKS, I was a civil rights advocate and served as a research
director at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
I have been involved with issues related to voting rights,
political participation, and equal employment
and educational opportunities in various sectors.”

Nura Sediqa MPP

*“I aspire to return to New York City to work more closely
with immigrant youth and their families in order to trans-
form my own community.*

*I am the principal of AU, an
architectural design firm in New York City,
and the chairman and president of APEX, a
nonprofit after-school program-provider focused on em-
powering at-risk immigrant youth.”*

Preeti Sriratana MC/MPA



Public Policy Leadership Conference

Advocating for your PASSION



*“I am an early riser! So I normally arrive at the
Forum by 7:30 am to work on the
Public Policy Leadership Conference,
where I am a student coordinator. Depending on the
day, I can normally be found in a social and urban
policy-focused classroom or on the campus of the
Harvard Graduate School of Education.*

*Afterwards, you’re sure to hear my voice echoing
through the Forum, going back and forth
between study groups, the library, and
Black Policy Conference meetings.”*

Gabrielle Wyatt MPP

*“Working in politics and government, I noticed that
many of the people I looked up to were HKS graduates.
When I asked them about their experiences, they all recommended
the program personally and offered great advice and assistance.*

*My time at HKS has given me the confidence I need to have an
impact on the next level of public leadership, the level where the solutions
aren’t easy but the problems demand our best efforts. For me, this is in
civic engagement where public policy meets grassroots advocacy and
people take charge of positive change in their community.”*

*Before HKS, I was an
appointee in President Obama’s Administration.”*

Ray Rivera MC/MPA

The Public Policy and Leadership Conference is designed to inform
undergraduate students about careers in the public sector. The
conference encourages students who possess a commitment
to public service to prepare for graduate study in public policy
and international affairs, and provides information on financial
support through various fellowship programs.

Sharing *VALUES* Pursuing *INTERESTS*

Student activities at HKS

Harvard Kennedy School offers students a seemingly endless array of co-curricular, service, and social activities. The Kennedy School Student Government, more than 80 student organizations, the Degree Programs Student Affairs team, and research centers across the school all contribute to providing students with the highest quality student life. Here's a sampling of some of our groups:

Asian Pacific
American Caucus

Latino Caucus

Arab Caucus

Black Student
Union

Muslim Caucus

Native American
Caucus

LGBTQ Caucus

Africa
Policy Journal

The Student
Public Service
Collaborative

African and African
Diaspora
Collaborative



CENTERS TO SUPPORT RESEARCH *and a sample of their activities*

**Ash Center for Democratic
Governance and Innovation**

*Provides grants for summer internships in
Vietnam to research democratic institutions*

*Prepares students for diplomatic careers
through the Future of Diplomacy Project*

**Carr Center for
Human Rights Policy**

*Weekly study groups led by practitioners who offer
tools for human rights advocacy*

*Funding for Policy Analysis Exercises and
second-year policy analysis research in various countries*

**Center for
Public Leadership**

*Student trips to New York City and New Orleans
bring urban issues to light*

*Harvard Square to the Oval Office program teaches
students to run for office through hands-on trainings*

**Belfer Center for Science
and International Affairs**

**Center for International
Development**

**The Women and
Public Policy Program**

ALUMNI Profiles

What did you do before and after HKS?



"When I graduated from HKS I knew I wanted to follow a path in my career that would capture the passion, excitement, and optimism I felt while at Harvard. I joined the Obama campaign and chose to work at the headquarters in Chicago. I was fortunate to be standing in Grant Park on election night, and the day after President Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States, I began a job in the White House as special assistant to Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Mona Sutphen."

Alejandra Campoverdi MPP 2008
Deputy Director of Hispanic Media, The White House

"I was born in Jamaica, and grew up in Queens, New York, before attending Howard University. I was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force and served for nine years as a logistics officer. I had a variety of assignments at both squadron and headquarters levels in the United States and Europe. I pursued a MBA from Duke University and worked in the financial sector before coming to HKS."

Peter C.R. Clunie MC/MPA 2007
Program Analyst, Office of Security Operations,
Transportation Security Administration



"Before coming to HKS, I was active in the Funders Network on Population, Reproductive Health and Rights and Funders Concerned about AIDS, where I served as chair of the board of directors. Before joining the Ms. Foundation, I was a Fellow with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute where I worked at the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Organization for Women Legal Defense and Education Fund."

Desiree Flores MC/MPA 2011
Program Officer at the Ms. Foundation for Women in New York City



How has HKS influenced your career?

"At the Harvard Kennedy School Open House, I observed Professor Joseph Kalt's 'Strategy, Competition and Regulation' class. I was surprised when Professor Kalt used some of my experiences as a discussion topic for his class. The students in the class began analyzing many of the obstacles I faced as a public information manager with the City of Atlanta's multi-billion dollar water and sewer infrastructure program, and as they continued to debate, I knew that HKS was the place to advance my education and career."

Deanne A. Titus MC/MPA 2010
Analyst, U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the Inspector General

"From a soft-skill perspective, I use the negotiation skills I learned at HKS every day. The classes on leadership without authority have drastically improved my ability to navigate professionally."

On the hard-skill side, I use the frameworks I learned in my public-private partnership class regularly and I have a comfort level with budgets, balance sheets, strategic planning, and statistical analysis that has enabled me to talk knowledgeably with city planners, CFOs, researchers, accountants, business leaders, and my board of directors."

Ben Reno-Weber MPA/MBA 2009
CEO, Kentucky YMCA



"I grew up knowing I would be called to serve—my mother is a social worker, and my father is a minister and community leader. What wasn't clear was whether service would be a profession or a hobby, and where I could contribute."

My Kennedy School experience helped clarify that I could gain policy analysis skills and apply them to real-world challenges. At the GAO, I examine education, workforce, and income security issues and the effectiveness of federal programs in these areas. The Kennedy School education very directly prepared me for this role, but more importantly, the broad range of course offerings and speaker events in domestic social policy piqued my interest in the first place."

Amy Moran-Lowe MPP 2009
Senior Analyst, Government Accountability Office (GAO)





experience **DIVERSITY**

Harvard Kennedy School is committed to advancing the public interest.

One of the most important ways we deliver on that mission is by training skilled, enlightened leaders who can really make a difference for people in their daily lives. To reach that goal, we look for students who are bright, engaged, and committed, and strive to create for them an atmosphere of opportunity, learning, and collaboration.

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

Master in Public Policy (MPP)

The two-year program provides future public leaders with the conceptual framework and practical skills necessary to succeed in public service.

Master in Public Administration/International Development (MPA/ID)

The Harvard two-year program is designed to prepare the next generation of leaders in international development.

Master in Public Administration (MPA2)

The two-year flexible program is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of established professionals and dual-degree students seeking further leadership responsibilities in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors.

Mid-Career Master in Public Administration (MC/MPA)

The one-year program is an intensive eight-credit program. Prospective MC/MPA candidates from developing, newly industrialized, and transitional economy countries must apply through the Mason Program.

JOINT & CONCURRENT DEGREE PROGRAMS

Two-year masters degree candidates of the Harvard Kennedy School may choose to pursue a combined degree with a number of professional schools at Harvard University or other approved universities. Joint and concurrent programs allow students to complete two degrees in one fewer year than is normally required.