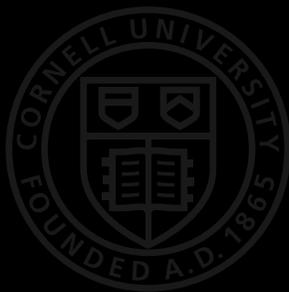


training
leaders,
improving lives.

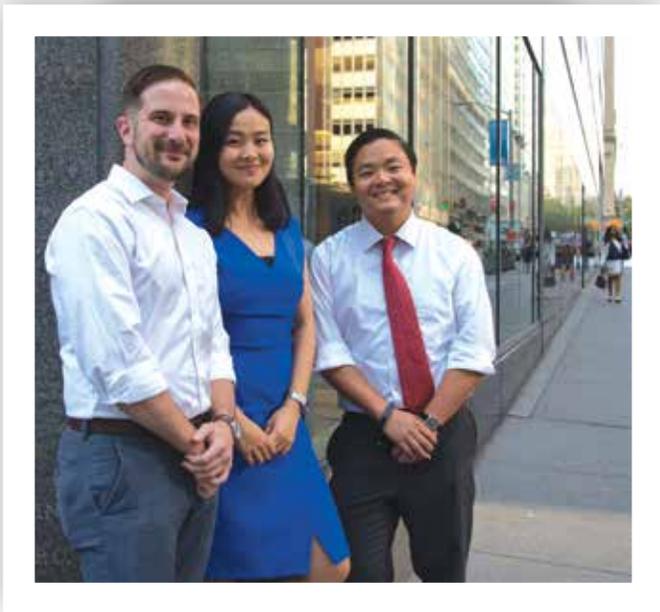


the Cornell MPA

Are you ready to change the world?

We are looking for exceptional professionals who have the analytical, leadership, and communication skills required to take on some of the most complex policy challenges facing our world.

when to
choose
AN MPA DEGREE



Are you passionate about improving people's lives?

The public affairs profession is for service-oriented individuals looking to make a real, tangible difference in people's lives. Professionals serving in the field work as leaders across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors on a variety of pressing and "wicked" public policy issues, such as:

- climate change, and how climate change affects related spaces (disaster management, economic development, food security).
- infrastructure in the United States and underdeveloped countries, and how government and the private sector can work together to improve infrastructure.
- transitioning incarcerated individuals back into society.
- addressing the opioid epidemic.
- improving the management and delivery of public and private education around the world.
- improving access to healthcare for those living in poverty.

the value of a CORNELL MPA DEGREE

Cornell's Master of Public Administration (MPA) is a rigorous, two-year, professional, interdisciplinary degree program, offered through the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA) in the College of Human Ecology. The College is home to a variety of graduate and undergraduate programs, all dedicated to preparing students to improve lives by exploring and shaping human connections to natural, social, and built environments.



Grant O'Brien | MPA 2020

CURRENT CIPA STUDENT

CONCENTRATION Government, Politics and Policy Studies

INTERNSHIP 2020 Campaign for Joe Biden for President

An unwavering fascination with democracy and the democratic process was instilled in me during my first job out of college when I joined the Obama-Biden reelection campaign as an entry-level member of the organization's national advance team. My level of excitement and engagement as an advancer far exceeded anything I considered professionally possible.

After seven years exploring other careers in financial services and advertising, I decided it was time to return to my true aspirations for a career in government and politics. Now, just halfway through my MPA program at CIPA, I'm well on my way towards shoring up my understanding of political theory and quantitative analysis. CIPA is providing a bridge from my passion to my desired profession. I already feel more empowered to navigate many of the professional obstacles I previously faced.

CONCENTRATION Government, Politics and Policy Studies

EMPLOYMENT U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Officer



About 80% of our students are mid-career, bringing an average of 3 to 4 years of professional experience to the program.



The exposure I gained from the world-class professors, speakers, and practitioners at Cornell helped to inform my view on a wider range of world issues than I might have ever encountered otherwise. I hope to carry the lessons I learned into the field of foreign affairs more broadly.

My capstone project, which focused on mental health and psychosocial services for refugee populations in Greece, was a very important part of my education at CIPA. Along with three other students, we worked with our client, Humanity Crew, to study what practices and guidelines mental health practitioners and organizations in Greece were following. In January 2018, we had the opportunity to meet with several NGOs in Athens and visit refugee camps on the island of Lesbos. Seeing the on-the-ground work being done there, in addition to hearing candid accounts of what work still needs to be done, has informed my perspective on larger issues of migration, refugees, and asylum seekers.

In many ways, the term “public administration” is a misnomer. In reality, solutions to our world’s most pressing public affairs challenges are implemented via a complex network of public, private, and nonprofit organizations. Our MPA provides you with the hard and soft skills required to forge these solutions across sectors in a strategic, mission-oriented, and equitable manner. We foster the development of innovative ideas and tools that matter for improving the economic, environmental, political, and social climate of our world.

During your two years at Cornell, we will hone your skills for management and leadership positions across the field of public affairs. Our graduates serve as executives, managers, analysts, and planners in a wide range of federal, state, and local government agencies, nonprofits, private firms that interface with the public and nonprofit sectors, and international organizations.

Elgin Ford | MPA 2019

CONCENTRATION Government, Politics and Policy Studies

EMPLOYMENT Ernst & Young – Staff Consultant, Government and Public Sector, Strategy and Process Improvement



I wanted autonomy with guidance and that's what CIPA offered. My goal is to be a great problem solver and strategist. Working in consulting after my MPA will be a good start in that direction. I do have an interest in pursuing public policy down the line. Being able to choose a heterogeneous mixture of classes, which covered the inner-workings of both the private and public sector, was paramount for pursuing my career aspirations and ensuring my future success. When I sat in interviews and networked with people, I was able to draw on material I had learned in classes I'd chosen, classes I'd enjoyed, and classes that had stimulated me well beyond a desire to achieve a good grade.



A corporate sustainability expert, CIPA Professor of Practice John Tobin-de la Puente brings two decades of private sector work experience to the classroom. Prior to teaching at Cornell, he served as managing director and global head of sustainability at Credit Suisse in Zurich. At CIPA, he oversees the Environmental Finance and Impact Investing Certificate program.

Choose from eight

concentration options

- Economic and Financial Policy
- Environmental Policy
- Government, Politics and Policy Studies
- Human Rights and Social Justice
- International Development Studies
- Public and Nonprofit Management
- Science, Technology and Infrastructure Policy
- Social Policy (Education, Health, etc.)

develop expertise

with flexible, interdisciplinary studies

CIPA's MPA offers a solid foundation of core coursework in management, economics, finance, and quantitative analysis. But it also offers flexibility.

Relative to other professional degrees, the MPA in general is far more interdisciplinary, drawing on the fields of economics, finance, management, political science, and psychology. CIPA capitalizes on that, offering you the flexibility to choose concentration courses from policy experts located in other colleges and schools across Cornell, which is among the largest and most diverse of the Ivy League universities.

There is no one set of courses for any given concentration. You work with your advisor to formulate a personalized study plan, choosing complementary courses that provide you with a base of knowledge and skills that support your academic and professional goals.



Lillian Gabreski | MPA 2018

CONCENTRATION Economic and Financial Policy

EMPLOYMENT Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission - Planner, Transportation Program Development

I've always been interested in analyzing and addressing multiple policy issues that don't fit nicely into one field of thought. CIPA's various concentrations and course offerings attracted me, as I felt that I could customize my academic program rather than force myself into the confines of an off-the-shelf curriculum.

When I came to CIPA, I wanted to learn how I could contribute to the field of sustainable development, both in the United States and abroad, and CIPA helped me build up my quantitative skills and gain the practical experience I needed to pursue my career interests.

For my consulting project, I worked with the Town of Dryden and CIPA Lecturer Dan Lamb to implement a Revolving Loan Program with the goal of spurring economic development in the area. It was so rewarding to work with the Town Board to develop a funding schema, reporting guidelines, and branding (including a website), and it really challenged me to hone my knowledge of both economic development and public finance.

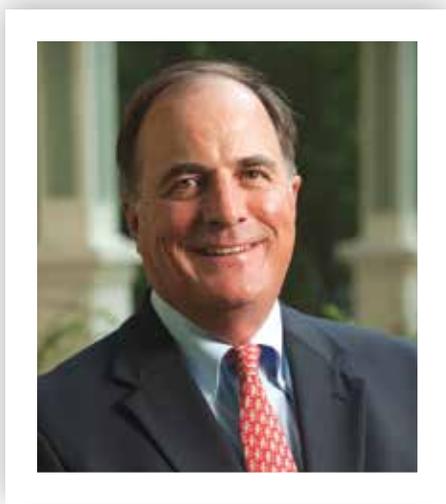


Michael W. Foley | MPA 2017

CONCENTRATION Science, Technology and Infrastructure Policy

EMPLOYMENT Landrum & Brown - Consultant, Aviation Forecasting and Financial Planning

To work in the aviation industry—my career choice—or the transportation realm in general, one needs both policy and financial acumen. I took advantage of the flexible curriculum structure at CIPA, enrolling in classes that allowed me to obtain the specific skillset I wanted to acquire.



John Foote | CIPA

Program Coordinator for the Infrastructure Project Management and Finance Certificate Program

After thirty years in investment banking and as a principal in a transportation engineering company, I was ready for a change. I spent a year at the Harvard Kennedy School on a fellowship looking at policy issues related to transportation. It was there I decided I wanted to teach. This is now my eleventh year teaching infrastructure policy with a focus on funding and financing.

As someone who has an MPA degree, which has been invaluable in my career, I am a strong believer in what this degree represents. It is much more than a credential; it is a skill set that has broad applicability across many sectors. A Cornell MPA has the added feature of allowing the opportunity to become a specialist in a particular field which provides a great jumping off spot after graduation.

augment your CIPA MPA with a graduate certificate

Our certificate programs provide you with specific knowledge and tools for working at the cutting edge of professional practice. The additional credentials that these certificates provide will make you competitive in your future career.

Each certificate program includes a field practicum, which is typically led by the faculty program coordinator. This includes a project-related course trip followed by a project course.

Courses that apply to your certification also apply toward your general MPA degree requirements.

Graduate Certificate Options

- Environmental Finance and Impact Investing
- Infrastructure Project Management and Finance
- Systems Thinking and Leadership

CURRENT CIPA STUDENT

CONCENTRATION Public and Nonprofit Management

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM Systems Thinking and Leadership



Within my concentration, I can focus my studies as broadly or narrowly as I'd like, depending on my career objective. Course subjects may vary greatly, as long as I can make a compelling case that they work together to create a cohesive package. The certificate is where I've been able to take a deep dive into my area of interest with a smaller number of CIPA students. We have solid and continuous connections with the professors involved with the certificate. Our cohort travels, takes classes, attends conferences, and learns together—building knowledge and forging connections that will benefit us throughout our careers.

Concurrent Degree Study

Complementary Degree Options

CIPA students may apply up to 12 credits from each of the following degree programs toward their MPA degree.

- Master of Business Administration (MBA), offered through Cornell's SC Johnson College of Business
- Juris Doctor (JD) offered through the Cornell Law School
- Master of Engineering (MEng) offered through Cornell Engineering
- Master of Public Health (MPH) offered through the College of Veterinary Medicine

Dual Degree Opportunity

CIPA students can complete both degrees in 3 years.

- MPA / Master of Health Administration (MHA), offered through Cornell's Sloan Program in Health Administration

Note: Students who wish to complete either complementary or dual degree programs must apply and be accepted by both programs.

CONCENTRATION Social Policy

EMPLOYMENT Office of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo – Assistant Secretary for Education, NY State Executive Chamber



One of the reasons I chose CIPA was the importance it placed on mission-driven work. In my current role, we spend every day advising on policies designed to make life better for the people in NY State. The experiential work I was able to do with CIPA—through the consulting and capstone classes—focused on delivering real results for real people and this helped me develop that mindset.

Capstone clients:

Capstone teams worked with 19 clients during 2018–19, completing 25 projects.

Representative clients included:

- New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development
- U.S. Government Accountability Office
- Inter-American Development Bank
- Tompkins County Legislature
- Agua Clara Reach

Teams from the consulting course completed projects with 14 clients, including:

- Clean International
- CA Wildfire: State Legislation
- Lake Placid/North Elba Development Commission
- Ithaca Health Alliance/Ithaca Free Clinic
- Factor of Hope: Marondera, Zimbabwe

the cornerstone of the public Cornell MPA engagement

Experiential learning is a critical component of a professional degree program, bridging the gap between theory and practice. CIPA's MPA offers a rich blend of coursework and professional practice, with hands-on learning opportunities offered both inside and outside of the classroom. Internships, off-campus study, and client-based Capstone projects present opportunities for you to integrate and apply your learning. You develop the skill set you need to be successful in your future careers while building job market competitiveness.

Our Public Engagement program features two intensive consulting courses that are client-based: Consulting for Government and Nonprofit Organizations and Capstone. Both are designed as service-learning partnerships. Students engage with consulting and nonprofit client organizations to work on pro bono consulting projects. Clients may be locally, nationally, or internationally based.

develop
skills • Project Management • Data Analysis • Evaluation
• Consulting • Teamwork • Leadership



Laurie Miller | CIPA

Associate Director for Public Engagement and Capstone Instructor

I jumped at the chance to develop the capstone course at CIPA. My own graduate capstone experience was pivotal for my career. Because of the skills I gained from it, I was able to easily begin a position in housing policy and budgeting (a new field for me) immediately after my MPA, and subsequently move between the public and private sectors and several policy areas. Through capstone, you develop the ability to independently conduct policy research and analysis, manage complicated projects, and navigate dynamic organizations, professional relationships, and policy contexts.

I enjoy working closely with students on their projects, and witnessing their professional growth in one short semester. I also treasure the opportunity to work with my former students when they offer projects as capstone clients.

CIPA students compete—and win!

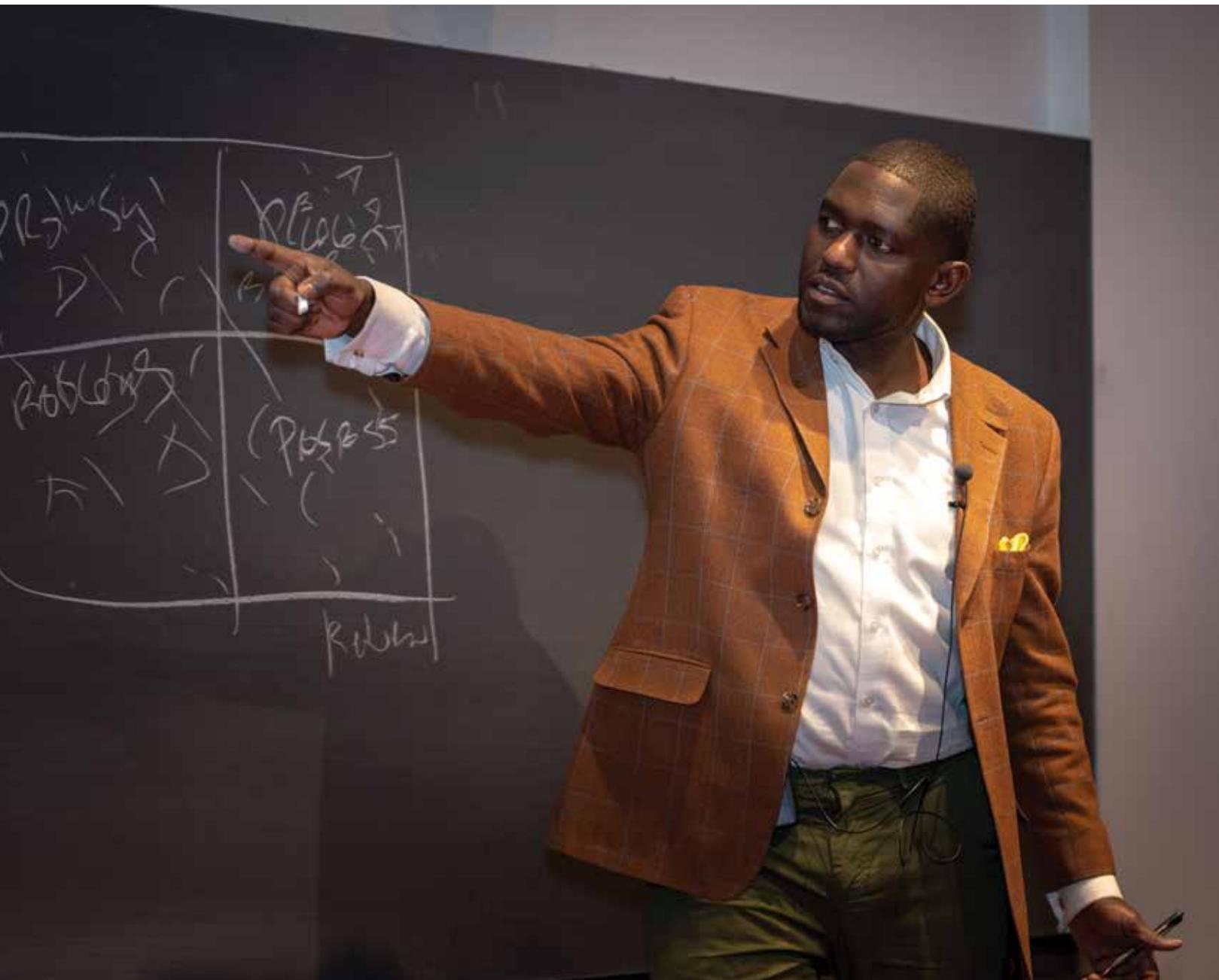
With the support of a faculty coach, our MPA students are participating in policy competitions around the globe and coming away with noteworthy results.

“These competitions are a unique opportunity for students to take the tools and skills they are learning in the classroom and apply them to a competitive setting. This mimics the very real competition they will face in their public service careers, as they vie for limited resources, budget, time, agenda attention, and support for their innovative policy ideas. It also allows them to network with other MPA students who will be their colleagues in the near future. They will learn to pull together as a team and look at wicked problems in new ways.”

—*Rebecca Morgenstern Brenner, Competition Coach and Lecturer; Engaged Cornell Faculty Fellow*



As the winners of the Social Innovation Grand Challenge at the 2019 Ross Business School’s Michigan India Conference, first year students Khyatee Tewari, Stefy Smith and Anam Amin received \$4,000.



2008 CIPA alumnus Andrew Siwo, an investment advisor at Colonial Consulting, presents a case study focused on private sector/public interest to students in the Professional Development course.

Career Outcomes for CIPA MPA Graduates:
Historically, within nine months of graduation, 90% to 95% of graduates are **employed** or pursuing further graduate study.



CIPA
invests
in your
**professional
development**

CIPA has its own Office of Career Management, which is committed to giving you the tools you need to put your MPA degree to work in the competitive job market. Services are available to you as a current student and as an alumnus.



I truly enjoy interacting and partnering with our students throughout their time at CIPA and later, as alumni, to explore their career options and build lifelong career development skills. My goal is to help each one establish a successful career. I assist with mapping out a career development strategy that includes self-assessment, effective résumé development, and networking. Each of these items is critical as they move out into the world of public affairs.

Alumni-Driven Professional Development Coursework

NEW

With the support of alumni, CIPA offers a series of professional development courses. Practical in nature, they are focused on developing and promoting the career skills of students, enhancing their marketability, and giving them the tools needed to negotiate with future employers. Alumni regularly participate, serving on panel discussions where they offer career advice, and in workshops that mix interactive presentations by guest speakers and small group discussion. Workshop topics have included the role of change management, results-driven leadership, business acumen, and coalition-building in successful public affairs practice.

MPA career services

- Individual Career Advising Appointments
- Résumé and Cover Letter Review
- Behavioral / Case / Finance Practice Interviews
- Internship and Employment Opportunities and Resources
- Alumni and Employer Referrals
- Annual Career Networking Events in Washington, DC and New York City



internships and externships

To fulfill the Practical Experience component of the degree, most students choose to complete an internship in the summer between the first and second year of study or an externship while enrolled in one of CIPA's off-campus semester programs. CIPA's Office of Career Management will assist you through each phase of your internship search.

CIPA offers four off-campus study programs with externships. You earn academic credit for the semester while completing an externship. Current offerings include Washington, DC; New York City, NY; Albany, NY; and Mysore, India.

MPA internships

Recent representative internship opportunities include:

Amazon.com, Inc.

Brookings Institute

City of New York, Office of Management and Budget

Chicago Mayor's Office Fellowship Program

Congressional Research Services

Deloitte Tax, LLP

Environmental Defense Fund

Moody's Investors Service

New York City Department of Education

U.S. Government Accountability Office



Mauricio Cortes | MPA₂₀₁₇

CONCENTRATION Public and Nonprofit Management

EMPLOYMENT U.S. Department of State – Program Analyst and Veterans Innovation Partnership Fellow

I came to CIPA with the career goal of serving in a federal government agency, so that I could help underserved communities in the U.S. and/or abroad. CIPA's Washington, DC Externship program gave me the opportunity to work with Foreign Affairs and Foreign Service Officers at the State Department—people who formulated policies to fight human trafficking and poverty, as well as promoting economic development and adapting to political changes within the Western Hemisphere. The coursework I took—in public administration, international development, economics and ethics—prepared me to better understand trends and contribute to the government's mission.

From the moment I applied to CIPA, I was treated as a member of a big family as opposed to feeling like another student or a number. The personalized attention I received through my two years in the program was key for my personal and professional development.



Thomas O'Toole | CIPA

CIPA Executive Director

financing

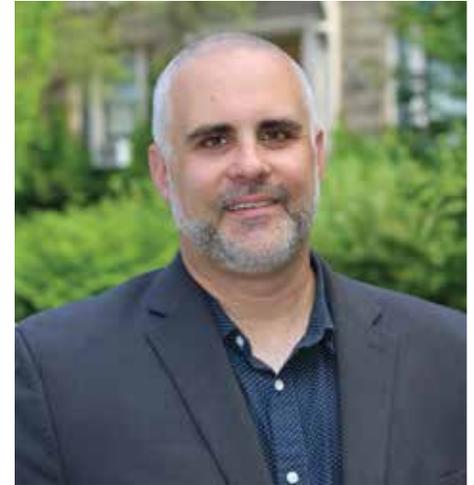
YOUR CORNELL MPA DEGREE

Because Cornell is the only Ivy League school with land-grant status, our MPA program is the most affordable among those offering the same degree. Typically, combined tuition, fees, and overall living expenses are at least \$20,000 less.

In addition to CIPA's affordable costs, a variety of funding opportunities are available to pay for your MPA education, including merit-based fellowships, part-time campus employment, federal loans, CIPA-supported fellowships, and external funding.

Loans are available for U.S. citizens and permanent residents. For more information, please consult the Admissions section of the CIPA website.

We are dedicated to helping high-achieving and competitive students fund their graduate education at CIPA. If you have questions about financing your graduate degree at Cornell, do not hesitate to contact us today, or visit www.cipa.cornell.edu for more information on funding opportunities.



This is a degree where you get your hands dirty. Our students join CIPA because they are passionate about improving people's lives and want to connect to the colleagues, training, and resources that will allow them to make a difference. That means thinking and acting beyond the classroom.

Wicked public policy problems don't wait for the sharpest minds in the field to finish graduate programs; that's why CIPA encourages students to spend one semester of their degree careers off-campus living, working, and studying as part of a rigorous externship semester. These programs immerse students in environments where they are working to solve problems real-time.

In addition to substantial externships with some of the most prominent organizations in the field, externship semester students are assigned alumni mentors working in their organizations who help them succeed in their externship, and on the job market. This is a very unique offering among MPA/MPP degree programs.

CURRENT CIPA STUDENT

CONCENTRATION Science, Technology and Infrastructure Policy



WHY CIPA?

1. *You will be greatly challenged.* You will most likely not be the smartest person in the room, at any given time. This is both humbling and exciting because it allows you to intellectually stretch, learn new things, and ask good questions.
2. *Sense of community.* CIPA students come from diverse backgrounds and share a sincere interest in both their individual and cohort success. A lot of my friendships at CIPA started in the classroom, but I am certain they will last a lifetime!
3. *The Ithaca Area.* The City of Ithaca is comparable to a photo in a postcard. It's really beautiful here. Just make sure to pack a reliable winter coat and boots!

experience **VIBRANT** community

CIPA faculty and students come from around the globe and represent widely varied fields of interest and experiences. This eclectic mix of cultures and perspectives serves as a rich environment for collaborative learning. Indeed, CIPA has a long-standing reputation for fostering a culture of respect, openness, and genuine support.

CIPA students are social. Picnics, lake cruises, bowling nights, sports teams, an annual talent show, a winter Gala, karaoke competitions, and mixers with graduate and professional students from other programs are all a part of the CIPA social fabric.



Ithaca sits at the southern tip of Cayuga Lake in the Finger Lakes region of New York. Forty miles long, the lake was carved out by glaciers eons ago. With dramatic gorges and waterfalls, the area is known for its natural beauty and endless recreational opportunities.

Take a tour at VisitIthaca.com



Ithaca: centrally located

With three colleges in the area, Ithaca is a progressive town with the cultural resources of larger cities. It is home to an extraordinary number of restaurants, cafés and bookshops, as well as a lively independent film and theatre scene. Ithaca is also an environmentally conscious, politically active community that is home to a broad spectrum of public affairs organizations.

A vibrant college town that offers the perfect backdrop for two years of concentrated graduate study, Ithaca is also just a short drive or bus ride away from many major, metropolitan areas. Numerous bus lines offer four-hour direct bus service from Ithaca to New York City.



Maria Fitzpatrick | CIPA

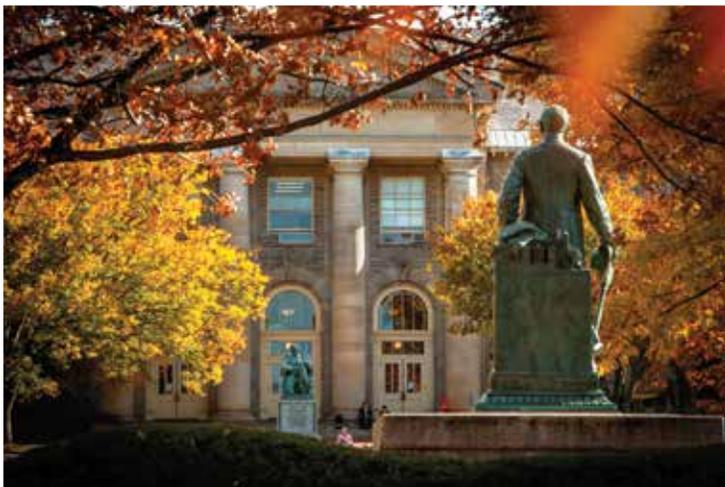
CIPA Director; Associate Professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management; Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research

I am deeply committed to the responsibility of academics and universities to engage with the world and communicate our research and findings in ways that can be useful. I think our MPA students are the embodiment of that goal – they are the living connection between Cornell, and the research we do here, and policymaking in the rest of the world.



connect with us

If you are prepared to take advantage of Cornell's world-renowned faculty, broad interdisciplinary study opportunities, expansive and committed alumni network, and rich experiential learning partnerships with government and nonprofit organizations, follow these next-steps for learning more today.



Schedule a visit

We think the opportunities available through the MPA degree at CIPA are endless, and that the Cornell campus is pretty extraordinary. But seeing is believing. If it is possible for you to visit, we would love to give you an inside look. Let us help you plan your visit.

We offer an Open House on campus each fall and an Admitted Student Day in the spring. Please check the web site for specific dates. If your schedule does not allow you to visit on an official visit day, we will tailor an individual visit for you on a day that does work. Plan to sit in on a class, meet with faculty and staff members, and share coffee or a meal with a group of current students. Take the first step now by sending an email to us at: cipa@cornell.edu. Please use the subject line: Schedule a Visit.

Subscribe to our blog: Public Policy in Action

Learn more about how our program values diversity of thought and experience. Read posts from current student bloggers discussing their coursework, describing a "day in their life" at CIPA, and/or describing what professional development opportunities they are currently pursuing. Enjoy interviews with faculty members explaining their latest research and identifying the courses they are most excited to teach. Hear updates from alumni practicing in the field of public affairs and find out what advice they have for you right now!

<https://mpastories.human.cornell.edu/blog>

Explore the CIPA website

Here, you will find detailed information on the MPA curriculum, tuition and financial support opportunities, the application process, and much more.

www.cipa.cornell.edu

apply

Application process and requirements

You will find complete instructions for applying to the Cornell MPA program under the Admissions section of the CIPA web site (www.cipa.cornell.edu). The following items are required to complete your application. Please reach out to the CIPA office at cipa@cornell.edu if you have any questions.

- Submit unofficial copies of your college and university transcripts. An official paper transcript is required for all admitted students before matriculating.
- Submit your résumé and three letters of recommendation.
- Applicants for whom English is a second language will need to meet minimum scores on either the TOEFL or IELTS exams. Required minimum scores on the TOEFL exam are: writing 20, listening 15, reading 20, speaking 22, as well as an overall combined score of at least 100. Our field requirements for the IELTS exam are: 7.0 in each section as well as an overall score of at least 7.5.
- Submit both a Statement of Purpose and an Essay. See detailed information on the CIPA website for completing these.
- Once Cornell receives your application, you will receive an email with information about completing an online interview. It will include login information and detailed instructions.
- NOTE: As of July, 2020 CIPA no longer requires a GRE score for the MPA application.

CIPA offers rolling admissions, but we encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible.

CORNELL INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
College of Human Ecology



Improving lives by exploring and shaping human
connections to natural, social, and built environments

CIPA | 607-255-8018 | cipa@cornell.edu

FOLLOW US



www.cipa.cornell.edu

Diversity and inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.