

THE POLICY LAB

The Policy Lab is an elective course, but a little different from other electives at the Department of Public Policy. Students work in small groups to produce research for external clients, usually civic associations seeking to influence policy making. The objective of this course is to provide a real-time learning opportunity on how to negotiate project design, how to manage successful group dynamics, and probably, most importantly, how to convey social science research to a non-academic audience. With over ten years of experience in running this course, the Policy Labs are an excellent opportunity to engage with a range of dynamic organizations involved in all manner of policy topics at regional, national and supranational level.

PARTIAL LIST OF POLICY LAB CLIENTS

- International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC)
- Habitat for Humanity
- Transparency International
- Political Capital
- Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies

Each Policy Lab project provides a unique response to a real world policy problem, generating evidence based research to achieve policy influence.



The Art of Policy Making

The objective of this course is to engage students in a policy advocacy project. The output of a Policy Lab could be a briefing on current policy or legislative changes, a stakeholder analysis, or a more strategic document, for informing campaign planning. In the past, Policy Labs have been used to carry out stakeholder consultation exercises, running public opinion surveys or convening expert focus groups all toward providing clients with high quality, reliable evidence-based policy advice.

“Policy Labs: Practical research for Policy Influencers”

Andrew Cartwright
Policy Lab Director



The Policy Lab is an excellent opportunity to gain practical project management experience, learn to negotiate project terms and engage in inspiring group dynamics.

Our Partners are active policy makers

Policy Labs work with a wide range of stakeholders who work for policy change. There are long established organizations working on the international level, think tanks and non-profit organizations. The engagement can be at the national or regional levels, it can involve comparative country studies on virtually any topic so long as it provides real tangible benefit for the partners.

The students offer research resources while the client provides the chance to participate in the policy process. Teams typically range from 2-4 students and are supported by faculty from DPP who provide guidance and research expertise to make sure projects stay on the right track.