

# Master in Institutions and Political Economy



UNIVERSITAT DE  
BARCELONA

Graduate Program  
2025-2026



- The University of Barcelona (UB) is the leading university in Spain.
  - › **Among the top 100 universities in the world** according to the Ranking Web of Universities.
  - › The only Spanish university in the League of European Research Universities (LERU).
- UB is home to a community of **over 60,000 students**.
  - › More than 150 official Master programs.
  - › A dynamic research hub, with 17 research institutes, over 500 research groups and nearly 6,000 researchers.



- The Master in Institutions and Political Economy (MIPE) is a collaborative project by **three internationally recognized research groups** based at University of Barcelona.
  - › **Political Science** (IPERG).
  - › **Political Economy** (IEB).
  - › **Economic History and Development.**
- These research groups are home to **over 100 senior and junior researchers** graduated from leading universities such as Harvard, Oxford, LSE, Caltech, Boston, EUI, Warwick, York, Bonn, UPF, etc.
- Together, they form a vibrant hub of Social Science research, which assures a continued presence of seminars, workshops and visiting scholars.

- The Master in Institutions and Political Economy (MIPE) is **a research-oriented program at the intersection of Political Science, Economics and Economic History**, focused on the analysis of political institutions and political change.
- MIPE responds to the gradual convergence between the fields of Political Science, Political Economy and Economic History, both in research and policymaking.
- Therefore, it combines:
  - › Rigorous formal and quantitative training
  - › Empirical applications and a deep understanding of current social science debates.
  - › Strong emphasis on research.

# What can you expect?

- MIPE's main goal is providing a comprehensive knowledge of Social Science topics & training students to design their own research.
- Students will also develop their skills at:
  - › Analyzing public policies & preparing reports,
  - › understanding & communicating new research,
  - › processing & analyzing Big Data with statistical software,
  - › preparing lectures & designing their own class materials,
  - › ...



- Thanks to their advanced training, MIPE graduates will be perfectly equipped to competitively **apply to the top international PhD programs** and research centers in the various fields covered by the program, including those at University of Barcelona.
  - › The multidisciplinary nature of MIPE will allow students to access programs with different academic profiles.
- Their skills will be also highly sought **outside academia**:
  - › Economics and Political Science are inherently linked in the analysis of the most pressing current debates, from globalization and inequality to environmental protection and digital rights.
  - › MIPE graduates will be able to transition to jobs focused on these fields in **public administration & policymaking, international agencies, regulatory authorities, consulting firms**, etc.



Branko Milanovic  
CUNY, LSE

"I find the program extremely interesting, well thought-out and timely. It reflects a movement in the social sciences towards more multidisciplinary. The combination of political science, political economy and economic history is indeed one of such new combinations that, I believe, would be valued by students. The advantage is that it does not sacrifice rigor but adds flexibility [which will] allow them later to do a PhD either in a similar program or to specialize into one of the three, with very good perception of what they can expect and very thorough preparation for it."



Anja Neundorff  
University of  
Glasgow

The proposal is led by an impressive research team from three disciplines: political science, economics and economic history. The team already has a well-functioning working relationship through a shared research centre. This collaboration is unique and will be a strong base for this new, interdisciplinary programme.

The interdisciplinarity of the programme is a clear advantage and highly attractive for students. This credible interdisciplinary focus of the programme is a unique selling point of this MA and will without doubt attract many talented students. This programme will be a unique stepping-stone for its graduates for both PhD studies or work outside academia (e.g. civil service, politics, consultancy, private sector).



**Carmen Ramírez Folch,**  
Spain

"I completed my undergraduate studies in Philosophy and Political Sciences at the University of Barcelona. In my final year in Political Sciences I worked as a Research Assistant on a project exploring the impact of gender on judicial decisions. This experience sparked my interest in pursuing an academic career. The Master in Political Economy (MIPE) is particularly well-suited for those aspiring to a Ph.D. or envisioning a career in research (in economic or political topics). I believe the key strengths of the MIPE lie in its interdisciplinary approach, seamlessly integrating political economy, economic history, and political sciences. This ensures a comprehensive understanding of both content and methods across various disciplines. And also, the program's emphasis on data science, encompassing R skills, quantitative methods, and causal inference, not only prepares for academic research but also equips for application to competitive Ph.D. programs."



**Christian Castaño  
Bonilla,** Colombia

"I chose to enroll in the MIPE program because I was interested in learning more about the interactions between institutions, politics and economics, and how they shape the development of societies. I was also attracted by the opportunity to study in a prestigious university with a diverse and international environment, and to be part of research groups with strong reputations in their fields.

The MIPE program exceeded my expectations in many ways. I learned a lot from the courses, which were taught by experts in each topic and combined rigorous theoretical and empirical approaches. I was also presented with several research opportunities which allowed me to apply my knowledge in practical settings, preparing me for the job market. The program also provided me with valuable skills and tools to conduct my own research."

MIPE is a full-time **2-year program (120 ECTS)**. Part-time enrolment is also allowed.

**60  
ECTS**

## **Compulsory Courses (3 terms)**

- Analytical and methodological foundations.
- Advanced knowledge of Political Economy, Political Science & Economic History.

**30  
ECTS**

## **Elective Courses (1.5 terms)**

- More specialized topics related to students' specific research interests.

**30  
ECTS**

## **Research Dissertation (1.5 terms)**

- Foundation of their PhD project and/or a first peer-review article.
- Research design & contact with supervisor begin earlier.

## Compulsory Courses

### *First term*

**Comparative Politics** : Political behaviour  
**Introduction to Economic History**  
**Data science I**: Fundamentals.  
**Microeconomics**  
**Research design**

### *Second term*

**Comparative Politics**: Institutions.  
**Institutions, State Capacity and Growth.**  
**Data science II**: Causal inference.  
**Introduction to Political Economy**  
**Research design**

### *Third term*

**Advanced topics in Comparative Politics**  
**Political Economy of Public Policy.**  
**Game theory**  
**Research design**

## Elective Courses

### *Fourth & Fifth terms*

Students must choose 6 from:

**Advanced Research Methods**

**Topics in Political Economy**

**Advanced Analysis of Institutions**

**Federalism and Decentralization**

**Poverty and Inequality**: concepts, measurement, policies

**Welfare Economics**

**Global Political Ecology**

**The Causes of Global Inequality**: Economic History of Developing Regions.

**Topics in Economic History**

**Macroeconomics**

## Visiting professors

2024-2025

María José Hierro (Yale University)

Dídac Queralt (Yale University)

2023-2024

Jaakko Meriläinen (Stockholm School of Economics)

Shanker Satyanath (New York University)

2022-2023

Patricia Funk (Università della Svizzera italiana)

David Rueda (Oxford University)

2021-2022

Pamela Campa (SITE-Stockholm School of Economics)

Pablo Beramendi (Duke University)

## Visiting professors, 2025-26

Political Economy of Public Policies; Advanced Topics in Comparative Politics



**Gemma Dipoppa** (Columbia University)



**David Carter** (Washington University in St. Louis)

- **Lectures.** You can expect to have around 16 hours of lectures per week (8 2-hour sessions).
- **Course work and assessment.** Students have continuous assessment options in most courses (writing an individual assignment, presenting a paper, undertaking a group project...). Details of assessments, as well as their weighting, will be clearly stated in the course syllabus.
- **Independent study.** You should expect to spend a significant amount of time reading and working on your research interests.



- The 3 research groups involved have created a vibrant hub of Social Science research at University of Barcelona.
- MIPE students are invited to participate in weekly research seminars, PhD student seminars, workshops, conferences and other research activities.
- Check [www.ub.edu/mipe/activities](http://www.ub.edu/mipe/activities)



Opening Lecture:

**Jaume Ventura** (CREI Director and Senior Researcher, UPF Professor and Barcelona School of Economics Research Professor)

“The United States of Europe”

Monday, October 27, 15:30 h. (room Sala d’actes)



- We welcome students with good academic credentials, strong potential and motivation. Women, racial minorities and students from low and middle-income countries are specially encouraged to apply.
- Students with the following profiles are strongly encouraged to apply:
  - › **Political Science & Social Science graduates** who want to develop the quantitative skills required to do research at the top of their fields.
  - › **Economics graduates** motivated by empirical & applied research.
  - › **STEM graduates** with strong quantitative skills who are interested in Social Science research.
  - › Humanities graduates are welcomed to apply, but should have previous exposure to mathematical and statistical concepts.

## Academic requirements

- A Bachelor degree in Political Science, Economics, Sociology or any subject –provided it has sufficient mathematical and statistical foundations– with a satisfactory average grade.

## Other requirements

- Proof of proficiency in English (B2 level). Unless you are a native English speaker or have undertaken a university degree in English.
- One or two letters of recommendation.
- Supporting documents: letter of motivation (2-pages maximum), CV, Transcript of grades (provisional or final version), passport/ID, Bachelor's project/thesis (optional).



1. Fill out the [Pre-enrolment Form](#), uploading the required documents.
2. Applicants will receive a decision within 6 weeks.
3. If you are admitted, you will have to pay a € 30.21 application fee and provide all the [required documents](#) in order to formalize the enrollment.

More information at: [www.ub.edu/mipe](http://www.ub.edu/mipe)

Let us help you at: [master.mipe@ub.edu](mailto:master.mipe@ub.edu)

**Scientific director:** Carles Boix

**Coordinator:** Pilar Sorribas

**Academic Committee:** Francesc Amat, Andreu Arenas, Sergio Espuelas, Alfonso Herranz, Aina Gallego and Pilar Sorribas + student representative.

**Technical and administrative support:** Anna Alsina ([master.mipe@ub.edu](mailto:master.mipe@ub.edu))

**Administration issues:** Irene Abad ([omd.eco@ub.edu](mailto:omd.eco@ub.edu))

Master in  
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