

MAGD

MASTER OF ARTS IN GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT



Making Public Policy Work for Development

The Master of Arts in Governance and Development (MAGD) program at the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), Brac University, has been training promising policy actors in Bangladesh and beyond to become high-impact leaders since 2005. In 2022, the program was meticulously redesigned for those working in government agencies, non-profits, research and policy institutes, think tanks, and journalism, as well as for young professionals who want to make public policy work for development.

Message From the Executive Director

The decision to extend access to the MAGD program to all professionals and students stems from the evolving landscape of Bangladesh. As an emerging economy, there is a pressing need to broaden public policy involvement and encourage its democratization. It transcends mere policy formulation, encompassing active citizen participation, effective policy implementation, and consequential societal impact—all essential elements of sound policy development and governance for sustainable progress.

The MAGD program holds paramount significance for BIGD, as it aligns centrally with our organizational mission. BIGD strives to establish a strong nexus between governance and development, ensuring that governance effectively catalyzes development through the prism of public policy. Consequently, this endeavour occupies a pivotal position within BIGD's mission and reflects our overarching vision of fostering knowledge for a better world.

Dr Imran Matin

Executive Director, BIGD, Brac University



Program Overview

Today's world is highly interconnected, fast-changing, and faces unprecedented technological transformations and existential threats like climate change. Consequently, there is an intensifying need for public policy to be evidence-informed, agile, forward-looking, and innovative, which requires highly competent policymakers and other policy actors. It also requires mature institutions, cooperation among stakeholders, and people's participation. With this in mind, MAGD has been redesigned to prepare policy actors to effectively tackle the governance and development challenges of our time.

MAGD offers a wide range of expertise among the faculty, cross-learning opportunities with development programs, and connections with a strong alumni network. The new curriculum focuses on goals for better governance, key challenges and success factors of reform and policymaking with analyses of real-life examples, and action steps for improving both people's participation and institutional capacity building.

Specifically, the redesigned program aspires to:



Blend global academic expertise with local practitioner insights for strong governance and development foundations, linking theory to practical implementation;



Foster analytical skills through a multidisciplinary curriculum, covering various subjects from economics to public management;



Enhance the capacity of the government by training government executives, civil society, and private sector leaders to be change catalysts; and



Enable policy actors and professionals to effectively tackle 21st-century challenges and promote sustainable, inclusive country development.

Who Is It For?

MAGD continues to train government officials to transform their skills and knowledge to become more effective and advance their careers. The redesigned program is equally relevant to wider professional groups—working in nonprofits, research institutes, journalism, and think tanks—who are interested in public policy and working with the government. MAGD can also build a strong foundation for fresh graduates and young professionals aspiring to build a career in public policy.

Career Opportunities

MAGD cultivates critical thinking among the students and develops their skills to turn them into strategic, agile, efficient, and responsive actors of governance and development. Many of MAGD's alumni have reached the highest echelons of government, exemplifying the program's success.

Moreover, as future government operations demand increased engagement and collaboration with non-government actors, MAGD graduates, including those from the non-government sector, hold a competitive advantage in forging successful careers in policy-related roles.

MAGD Curriculum

The MAGD program comprises 36 credits, divided as follows:

Course type	No. of courses	Credits
Preparatory*	2	Non-credit
Core	5	15
Elective	4	12
Creative dissertation	-	9
Total		36

*Preparatory courses offered depending on students' background.

Core Courses

1. GOV 501: Introduction to Governance
2. GOV 502: Economics for Public Leadership
3. GOV 503: Strategic Management
4. GOV 504: Lessons in Development
5. GOV 505: Leading Issues of Governance in Bangladesh

Elective Courses

Grouped into five clusters, MAGD offers 14 elective courses, from which students must choose four.

Cluster A: Global Policy Framework

1. GOV 601: Environmental Management and Sustainable Development
2. GOV 602: Laws of International Governance and Cooperation
3. GOV 603: Current Issues in Globalization

Cluster B: Enhancing Performance

1. GOV 610: Budgeting and Management of Public Resources
2. GOV 611: Project Appraisal and Management
3. GOV 612: Public Policy Analysis
4. GOV 613: E-governance & IT

Cluster C: Building Partnerships

1. GOV 620: Public-Private Partnerships
2. GOV 621: Negotiations and Conflict Management

Cluster D: Accountability

1. GOV 630: Ethics
2. GOV 631: Corruption

Cluster E: Inclusive Citizenship & Innovations

1. GOV 640: Learning from People: Methods and Innovations
2. GOV 641: Gender, Diversity and Governance
3. GOV 642: Human Rights and Social Justice

Creative Dissertation

GOV 699: Research Methodology and Dissertation

The dissertation allows students to undertake in-depth research and analysis, exploring diverse areas through research papers, policy notes, or systematic reviews on selected policy issues. Students begin by participating in preparatory research methodology courses, covering topics like research methods and proposal writing. The dissertation process also involves proposal screening and continuous supervision to ensure academic excellence and research proficiency.

MAGD Faculty

MAGD has a diverse pool of highly qualified faculty members, both from the academia and the world of practice. Our in-house faculty members have advanced training from some of the finest universities in the world. Our guest faculties are usually leading experts in their respective fields. Some notable MAGD faculty members include:



Muhammad Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan

Senior Advisor, BIGD, Brac University, and Former Cabinet Secretary, Government of Bangladesh

Muhammad Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, a Senior Advisor at BIGD, previously served as Bangladesh Government's Cabinet Secretary from 2011 to 2015. His extensive public administration experience includes key roles as the Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD), Secretary of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME), and Chairman of PetroBangla. Mr Bhuiyan also served as the Alternative Executive Director of the World Bank Group in Washington. He will teach Ethics, and Negotiations and Conflict Management.



Dr Mushtaq Khan

Professor, Department of Economics, SOAS University of London

Dr Mushtaq Khan is a Professor of Economics at SOAS University of London. He is a leading thinker on political settlements, effective policy implementation, governance, industrial policy, institutional economics, political economy, and anti-corruption. He has served on the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration and the World Bank's Panel of Experts on Policy Implementation. He will teach Introduction to Governance.



Dr Mirza M Hassan

Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Governance and Politics Cluster, BIGD, Brac University

Dr Mirza M Hassan is a political economist and the Head of the Governance and Politics Cluster at BIGD. With over 20 years of consulting experience for development agencies such as The Asia Foundation (TAF), World Bank, Department for International Development (DFID), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), his research focuses on political development, state-business relations, urban and local governance, and justice sector and human rights in South Asia, the Pacific region, and North Africa. He will teach Leading Issues of Governance in Bangladesh.

Admission Requirements

To be considered eligible for admission to the MAGD program, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Bachelor's degree in any discipline from a government-recognized university with at least a Second Class or CGPA of 2.5 on a 4.0-point scale.
- A minimum CGPA of 2.5 on a 5.0-point scale or Second Division in SSC/equivalent and HSC/equivalent, separately.
- A minimum CGPA of 2.5 in O-Levels in five subjects and A-Levels in two subjects on a 5.0-point scale; only one E is acceptable.

Program Duration and Class Timing

The MAGD program operates on an open credit system. Depending on the number of credits taken in each semester, the program may be completed in 3–5 semesters or within 12–20 calendar months.

Classes are generally held from Saturday to Thursday, between 6:30 PM and 9:30 PM, offering necessary flexibility to working students.

Program Cost

The approximate total cost of the MAGD program is BDT 289,100.* Brac University offers tuition fee waivers and scholarships in accordance with its policies.

*Fees are subject to change as per the decision of the university.

How to Apply

MAGD admission process is conducted in three steps. First, eligible candidates must apply through the Brac University admission portal (admissions.bracu.ac.bd). Then they must attend an admission test, which consists of two segments: analytical writing and multiple-choice questions (MCQs), assessing mathematics, logical reasoning, current affairs, public policy, and analytical thinking. Successful test takers then proceed to a viva. Finally, the selected candidates are offered to enrol in the program.

The admission circulars are regularly published on the websites of BIGD and Brac University. Typically, there are three admission cycles: Spring (November–December), Summer (March–April), and Fall (July–August).



For any queries, feel free to email us:
info.magd@bracu.ac.bd

For further information, please visit our website:
bigd.bracu.ac.bd

