Electoral Policy & Administration

MEPA is a one-year, post-graduate programme in comprehensive advanced learning on electoral processes for current and aspiring election professionals. The Programme, delivered with the support of International IDEA, is especially beneficial for practitioners operating in developing democracies or post-conflict situations. It involves Election Management Bodies (EMBs) as hosts of the internships and it draws from an international faculty. The Programme has three fundamental objectives: 1) to provide an academic and practitioner experience for those individuals already working or seeking careers as electoral professionals; 2) to establish a source of professional education in electoral administration; 3) to reduce the gender gap in electoral administration.

Who should apply?
You should apply if you are looking for a professionalizing full-time graduate study programme on electoral policy and practice offered by a leading institution in this field. If your training needs include practical skills, besides relevant theoretical knowledge, to fully understand the work as election administrators, or to work at Election Management Bodies (EMBs) this is the relevant Master for you. Candidates will receive high level training from a faculty of internationally reputed experts, scholars and practitioners.

Structure
The MEPA Programme is composed of a Fundamental Module (275 hours) and an Advanced Module (205 hours) that will be taught at the Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna in Pisa, Italy. Students are then required to complete a 200 hour internship with an Election Management Body (EMB), inter-governmental organization, bilateral development agency, or a non-governmental organization working in the field of electoral processes, either in the field or at headquarters. Finally, students are required to complete a thesis (15,000 words minimum) on their area of electoral focus.

The Master Programme Directors are Prof. Andrea de Guttry and Jeff Fisher. The Programme is overseen by the Steering Committee, which is made up of representatives from institutions who have an interest in MEPA. Its aim is to monitor, advise and adjust the Programme, and act as accreditation body if the Programme expands to satellite campuses.

Key Facts
- **Type of Course**: Post-graduate professionalising MA
- **Venue**: Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Pisa, Italy – residential phase; Dedicated EMBs – Internship phase
- **Length**: 1 year
- **Dates**: 2 March 2015 – Spring 2016
- **Number of Participants**: 28 (50% positions reserved for females)
- **Language**: English
- **Weekly Commitment**: 30 hours per week
- **Academic Credits Minimum**: 60 – Maximum: 67
- **Tuition Fee**: 15,000 euro
- **Application Deadline**: 15 January 2015
- **Degree Awarded**: Master of Arts in Electoral Policy and Administration

1 This tuition fee covers course attendance, tutorials, etc., but does not cover living expenses, which (based on the past experience of master students) are about 1.000 Euro on a monthly basis in Pisa. The registration fee does not include the costs of the internship to the participants do an national EMBs.

www.mepa.sssup.it
Who can apply
The Master is a competitive programme open to a maximum of 28 candidates. Applicants will be selected on the basis of the information provided in their CVs. The selection process relies on the concept of the electoral cycle, pioneered by International IDEA.

Selection Process
MEPA is open to a maximum of 28 participants. Applications deadlines are the following:
- I round: 15 September 2014, 12:00 noon (CET); II round: 1 November 2014, 12:00 noon (CET); III round: 5 January 2015, 12:00 noon (CET).

The programme starts on 2 March 2015. Candidates are strongly recommended to apply by the first round, or as soon as they can (in order to have enough time for visa procedures and for finding financial support). Applicants will be selected on the basis of the information provided in their CVs and on the on-line application form which is available at: www.sssup.it/MEPA2015/domande/. Upon submitting the application form, please remember to attach your CV.

Fee & Scholarships
The tuition fee for the Master Programme is 15,000 Euro. It covers the following: academic and tutorial costs; course materials; participation in seminars; access to the library; access to the computer rooms; lunch on lesson/exam days.

Everyone interested is highly welcome to apply. The Selection Committee will select the best applicants and assess the financial needs of those asking for financial support. A limited number of participants will be waived the tuition fee. The Scuola and the Programme Partners will provide further assistance in the search for funding opportunities.

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