

PHD IN PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

GRADING SCALE

grade	F (fail)	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Grade equivalent (out of 30)	<18	18-19	20-21	22-23	24-25	26-27	28-29	30	30 cum laude

REQUIREMENTS

Rules to be applied as of a.y. 2018-19 to any cohort of PPA students

1st year:

Study plan:

1 preparatory course + compulsory courses organized in 3 core areas

Requirements:

- Exam for each course (including preparatory course)
- General Exam for each core area: Research methods, Policy sciences, Social Sciences

Exams:

Each course is given a grade.

No retakes.

A maximum of 5 F-fail (preparatory course excluded) is allowed to be admitted to general exams.

If fails > 5, then the result is "NOT admitted to 2nd year" (no PhD pass and no MPhil pass).

General Exams:

Each general exam is divided into modules. Each module refers to a compulsory course. Each module of the general is given a grade; moreover, the general is given an "overall grade".

Retakes are allowed for failed modules only; just one retake for each failed module.

General exams take place in June and retakes early September.

If the overall grade of each general (post retake, if required) is \geq B-, then the result is "admitted to 2nd year - PhD pass".

If one (or two or three) overall grade (post retake, if required) is C / C+ (being the others two/one \geq B-), then the result is "NOT admitted to 2nd year – yes MPhil pass".

If one (or two or three) overall grade (post retake, if required) is F, then "NOT admitted to 2nd year – NO MPhil pass".

In case of MPhil pass, the transcript will include the **grades of the modules** of general exams.

2nd year:

Study plan:

Courses + research paper

Requirements:

➤ Exam for each course; no general exams

Each course is given a grade.

Retakes for failed exams (just one retake is allowed for each course) take place in June.

➤ Research paper to be submitted within the end of August; if the paper is not deemed adequate, the student has two weeks to correct and improve it.

If no more than 1 fail (even post retake) in exams AND a “pass” in the research paper (even post second release), then the result is “admitted to 3rd year – PhD pass”.

If any other situation (more than 1 fail in exams; fail in the research paper; 1 fail in exams and a fail in the research paper; ...), then the result is “NOT admitted to 3rd year - MPhil pass”.

In case of MPhil pass, the transcript will include only the **grades of the modules** of general exams of the 1st year.

3rd year:

➤ Research colloquium course (elective, but strongly recommended).

During a.y. 2019-20, the course will be held in Feb/May 2020.

➤ Weekly seminar series (SPS Dept.);

➤ Completion of the thesis prospectus by the end of November;

➤ Oral exam, i.e. oral defence of the thesis prospectus (in December).

If “pass” in the Oral exam, then the result is “admitted to 4th year – PhD pass”.

If “fail” in the Oral exam, then the result is “NOT admitted to 4th year - MPhil pass”.

4th year:

➤ Weekly seminar series (SPS Dept.);

➤ Thesis submission (following the detailed instructions available at [this page](#)).