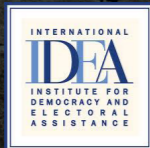


**Scuola Superiore  
Sant'Anna**  
di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento

with support of  
International IDEA



**Mepa**  
Master in  
Electoral Policy & Administration

Photo © Maylis, 2011 Haiti

Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Master in

I EDITION  
2015-2016  
PISA - ITALY

# Electoral Policy & Administration

## DESCRIPTION

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.

## KEY FACTS

TYPE OF COURSE	POST-GRADUATE PROFESSIONALIZING MA
VENUE	SCUOLA SUPERIORE SANT'ANNA, PISA, ITALY - RESIDENTIAL PHASE; DEDICATED EMBs - INTERNSHIP PHASE
LENGTH	1 YEAR
DATES	2 MARCH 2015 - SPRING 2016
ANNUAL 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 <sup>1</sup>
APPLICATION DEADLINE	15 JANUARY 2015
DEGREE AWARDED	MASTER OF ARTS IN ELECTORAL POLICY AND 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.

<sup>1</sup> This tuition fee covers course attendance, tutorials, etc., but it does not cover living expenses, which (based on the prior 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 the participants do at national EMBs.

[www.mepa.sssup.it](http://www.mepa.sssup.it)

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## PROGRAMME

No.	TOPICS
1	ELECTIONS AND VOTING AS INSTRUMENTS OF GOVERNANCE
2	ELECTORAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS
3	ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES (EMBs)
4	ELECTORAL SYSTEMS AND MANAGING REPRESENTATION
5	UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING BOUNDARY DELIMITATION
6	POLITICAL PARTIES, CAMPAIGNS, AND POLITICAL FINANCE
7	ELECTORAL PLANNING AND BUDGETING
8	VOTER REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS
9	ELECTORAL OPERATIONS
10	MARGINALIZED ELECTORATES AND SPECIAL VOTING PROGRAMS
11	ELECTIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
12	CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION
13	MEDIA AND ELECTIONS
14	ELECTORAL INTEGRITY AND MALPRACTICE
15	ELECTORAL SECURITY AND CONFLICT PREVENTION
16	ELECTORAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS
17	ELECTORAL OBSERVATION, EVALUATION, AND VALIDATION
18	POLICY ADVICE AND ELECTORAL REFORM

## TEACHING/TRAINING METHODOLOGY & FACULTY

“Teaching methodologies include lectures, seminars, group work, role-playing, and presentations. Lecturers and trainers are the world’s leading experts in their field, they come from all over the world, including the Global South. Course content has been developed jointly by electoral academics and practitioners. It is this blend of international study and practice that gives the curriculum a special depth.”

The Programme is based on the **2014 International IDEA designed “Model Curriculum – Master of Electoral Policy and Administration”**, which is piloted at the Scuola Sant’Anna for the first time.

The MEPA Curriculum framework relies on the concept of the electoral cycle, pioneered by International IDEA.

## ACADEMIC CREDITS

A maximum of 67 academic credits will be awarded upon successful completion of the Master Programme.

## WHO CAN APPLY

The Master is a competitive programme open to a maximum of 28 candidates. **14 places** out of 28 are meant for **female candidates**. Candidates must meet the following minimum requirements: **(1) Have a three-year** (at least) university degree and 2 years working experience in the Electoral field, or 5 years of relevant experience in the Electoral field. Priority will be given to candidates already working within EMBS, especially those from the Global South. Students expecting to graduate before December 31, 2014 are also eligible. **(2) Understand, speak and write English** at least at LEVEL C1, (CEFR for Languages, CoE).

## 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 (also 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 in the on-line application form which is available at: [www.sssup.it/MEPA2015/domande/](http://www.sssup.it/MEPA2015/domande/). Upon submitting the application form, please remember to attach your CV. In case of problems with the on-line procedure please contact [mepa@sssup.it](mailto:mepa@sssup.it).

## 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.

[mepa@sssup.it](mailto:mepa@sssup.it)

## SCUOLA SUPERIORE SANT’ANNA

The **Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna** is a public, (special-statute) University that works in the field of applied sciences and offers PhD programmes, Master degrees, professional courses and continuing education programmes. The Scuola Sant’Anna’s scientific and research activities in the field of social sciences concentrate on conflict management, human rights, emergency response, democratisation, and good governance.

Ever since 1998 the Scuola has developed an extensive experience in Electoral Policy, Practice, Assistance and Studies. Main activities carried out in this field range from Electoral Trainings to Election Missions Support and Mentoring, at international, regional and country level.

## FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### Master in Electoral Policy & Administration

#### Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna

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