

## Writing for Policy Audiences

**Term:** Spring 2020

**Location:** Vienna

**Instructors:** Kirsten Roberts Lyer, Kata Orosz

**Participants:** Mandatory for all students

**Dates:** 23-24 April 2020 (1.5 day intensive workshop)

### Course Description:

This course, which will be taught through an intensive workshop, hones advanced skills of effective, concise and evidence-based communication of policy options and policy relevant information for a diversity of audiences, both specific and general. Using a thematic area and mock scenarios, it explores different types of policy writing formats, including policy briefs, advocacy briefs, and op-eds, and provides students with the opportunity to practice framing academic research for non-specialist policy communities.

*Writing for Policy Audiences* is practice-oriented and builds on the mandatory 2-credit *Policy Analysis* course in developing the ability of students to: explain why a policy issue is a problem that merits consideration by the relevant, identified audience; map relevant stakeholders and potential 'spoilers'; formulate key messages, guidance and recommendations including from best practice models and experiences; evidence argumentation from reliable sources, and formulate monitoring, evaluation and impact assessments.

***Please note that due to the intensive nature of the course, attendance at all sessions is a requirement.***

### Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will:

- Be confident in the generation of succinct and competently researched policy papers, including use of data and visuals;
- Demonstrate advanced skills of sourcing, evidencing, referencing and collaboration in the writing of policy briefs, advocacy briefs, and op-eds;
- Be confident in presenting recommendations to a diverse group of policy actors in written and oral formats.

### Assessment:

Over the course of this intensive, 6-session program, students will work in teams of 6-8 on a thematic policy area. For the Spring 2020 term, the area covered will be the **human rights implications of climate change**. Each team will have to submit a deliverable, such as a policy brief, advocacy brief, or an op-ed, by the end of the program. While all

teams will focus on the same thematic policy area, each team will have to address a different group of policy actors in the type of deliverable assigned to the team. Teams will have to present key recommendations to the relevant group of policy actors in a mock UN organ/international organization setting on the second day of the program.

The majority of the grade will be allocated by the course leaders drawing on the grade allocated collectively per team, based on the quality of the written deliverable produced, as well as an individual mark for participation throughout the course. The remaining part of the individual student grade will be determined using anonymous assessments by fellow team members who will provide their evaluation of the student's contribution to the research, writing and presentation tasks. The course leaders will average the individual grade from each of the anonymized grades.