



American
Open University
Nigeria

AMERICAN OPEN UNIVERSITY (A-GLOBAL)
School of Postgraduate Studies



Master of Public Administration

Skill-Based · Career-Focused · Competency-Driven · Project-Based

Professional master's degrees for working professionals, with
AI embedded in every course



30 Credits · 10 Courses · 12 Months · HyFlex Delivery

The Master of Public Administration prepares public servants, policy professionals, and institutional leaders to govern effectively in digital and reform-driven environments. The program is digital by design: every student masters governing the digital state, designing and delivering digital public services, public-sector innovation, and public financial management in the digital age, with public administration theory, policy analysis, and administrative ethics embedded throughout rather than taught in isolation. Each student then specializes in a sector where governance is being remade, and completes a capstone addressing a live institutional or policy problem, producing analysis or a reform design that a sponsoring institution can act on.

Artificial intelligence is embedded across the curriculum. Every course carries an applied artificial intelligence module, and every capstone must assess where artificial intelligence applies to the problem addressed and either implement it or document the reasoning for not doing so.



Specialization

Students choose one of the following tracks to deepen their expertise:

- **Digital Security Systems Management.** The management of modern and emerging crimes, digital investigations and forensics, and digital intelligence and counter-terrorism operations.
- **Educational Policy and Systems Design.** Institutional policy, governance, and quality assurance, program architecture and curriculum systems design, and the hands-on management of educational technology and learning platforms.
- **Public Health Policy and Systems Governance.** Health financing, health system governance, regulatory frameworks, and health information systems, approached from public administration rather than clinical practice.





Objectives

The program aims to:

- Ground students in the theory, instruments, and institutional realities of public administration, taught through the governance of the digital state.
- Equip students to analyze public problems, generate policy options, and appraise them against cost, feasibility, and equity criteria.
- Develop capability in public financial management, program design, and implementation under constraint.
- Build depth in a chosen specialization sufficient to carry policy responsibility in that sector.
- Foster ethical judgment and accountability in the stewardship of public resources and public data.
- Prepare graduates to lead institutional reform that succeeds at the point of implementation.





Expected Program-Level Outcomes

Educate



Students will demonstrate a deep understanding of digital governance, public service design and delivery, public-sector innovation, and public financial management in the digital age, with public administration theory, policy analysis, and accountability frameworks embedded throughout, together with advanced knowledge of their chosen specialization.

Develop



Students will be able to analyze a public problem, cost and appraise policy options, and draft or evaluate regulatory, institutional, and program frameworks.

Grow



Students will demonstrate the capability to manage reform and implementation under political and fiscal constraint, and to coordinate across ministries, agencies, regulators, and development partners.

Empower



Students will be prepared to exercise ethical judgment where public interest, political direction, and institutional interest diverge, and to govern public data responsibly on behalf of citizens.



Curriculum

General Core (12 credits)

Code	Course	Credits
PAD 621	Governing the Digital State	3
PAD 622	Designing and Delivering Digital Public Services	3
PAD 623	Public-Sector Innovation and GovTech Ecosystems	3
PAD 624	Public Financial Management in the Digital Age	3

[PAD 621](#) addresses digital maturity, public value, digital public infrastructure, open government, data-driven government, data governance, and the structural questions of trust, privacy, security, and equity. [PAD 622](#) addresses service design as a governing discipline, user research, the delivery lifecycle, service blueprints, channels and the agent model, procurement and platforms, inclusion and design justice, and measurement. [PAD 623](#) addresses public sector innovation, mission-oriented government, experimentation and evidence, govtech markets, funding and procuring innovation, and scaling from pilot to system. [PAD 624](#) addresses budgeting, expenditure control, procurement, and fiscal accountability, taught through Nigeria's digital public finance instruments including the Treasury Single Account, GIFMIS, IPPIS, and electronic procurement. All four carry African and Nigerian case material throughout.

Public administration theory, policy analysis, and administrative ethics are embedded across the core rather than taught in isolation: institutional theory, public value, and the machinery of government within [PAD 621](#); administrative practice, citizen rights, and service delivery within [PAD 622](#); policy instruments, evidence, and program design within [PAD 623](#); and fiscal governance and accountability within [PAD 624](#). Policy research methodology is carried by [PAD 691](#).

Specialization: Digital Security Systems Management (9 credits)

Code	Course	Credits
PAD 621	Governing the Digital State	3
PAD 622	Designing and Delivering Digital Public Services	3
PAD 623	Public-Sector Innovation and GovTech Ecosystems	3

Built for senior leaders, commanders, and executives who direct digital-age security work; no prior technical background is required. [PAD 631](#) addresses the modern and emerging crime landscape, including cyber-enabled fraud and organized crime, national cybersecurity and crime control strategy, the Cybercrimes Act and its enforcement institutions, inter-agency coordination, and crime prevention. [PAD 632](#) addresses the direction of digital investigations: digital evidence and its admissibility, chain of custody, working with forensic specialists, and the building and management of investigation units and forensic laboratories. [PAD 633](#) addresses the intelligence cycle, open-source and social media intelligence, surveillance technologies and the governance of lawful interception, terrorist financing and its tracking, and counter-terrorism coordination in the digital age. Instruction is applied and casework-driven, with guided use of investigative and intelligence tools at the leadership level.

The track is distinguished from the MIT Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics specialization by output: MIT trains those who build and defend systems; this track trains those who direct investigations, run units, and govern the use of security technology. All instruction operates within Nigerian and international legal frameworks, and the track does not deliver tactical or weapons training.



Specialization: Educational Policy and Systems Design (9 credits)

Code	Course	Credits
PAD 641	Educational Policy, Governance, and Quality Assurance	3
PAD 642	Program Architecture and Curriculum Systems Design	3
PAD 643	Managing Learning Technologies and Platforms	3

PAD 641 addresses institutional policy and strategy, governance structures, regulatory and accreditation frameworks, and the design and operation of quality assurance systems. **PAD 642** addresses program architecture, curriculum systems design and redesign, and credit and progression frameworks. **PAD 643** is the track's applied course, cross-listed with the Master of Business Administration as **MBA 643** and taught as a single combined section: educational technology integration strategy, the selection and administration of learning and content management systems, interoperability standards including SCORM, xAPI, LTI, and APIs, content authoring pipelines, and learning analytics and AI-enabled learning tools, with assessment set in each student's institutional context. Instruction is hands-on within live platforms.

Specialization: Educational Policy and Systems Design (9 credits)

Code	Course	Credits
PAD 641	Educational Policy, Governance, and Quality Assurance	3
PAD 642	Program Architecture and Curriculum Systems Design	3
PAD 643	Managing Learning Technologies and Platforms	3

PAD 641 addresses institutional policy and strategy, governance structures, regulatory and accreditation frameworks, and the design and operation of quality assurance systems. **PAD 642** addresses program architecture, curriculum systems design and redesign, and credit and progression frameworks. **PAD 643** is the track's applied course, cross-listed with the Master of Business Administration as **MBA 643** and taught as a single combined section: educational technology integration strategy, the selection and administration of learning and content management systems, interoperability standards including SCORM, xAPI, LTI, and APIs, content authoring pipelines, and learning analytics and AI-enabled learning tools, with assessment set in each student's institutional context. Instruction is hands-on within live platforms.

Specialization: Public Health Policy and Systems Governance (9 credits)

Code	Course	Credits
PAD 651	Health Systems Governance and Policy Analysis	3
PAD 652	Health Financing and Resource Allocation	3
PAD 653	Health Information Systems and Regulatory Frameworks	3



Required Sequence (9 credits)

Code	Course	Credits
PAD 691	Research Methods for Public Administration	3
PAD 692	Public Program and Project Management	3
PAD 698	Capstone	3

Optional Electives

Code	Course	Credits
PAD 675	From Money to Capital	3
IFT 614	Information Security Governance and Compliance	3

[PAD 675](#) is open to students in all specializations and cross-listed with the Master of Business Administration as [MBA 675](#). The course examines why accumulated money does not automatically become productive capital, covering the theory of capital formation, property and formalization, the social circulation of money, family and diaspora capital, structured risk-taking and angel investment, and the policy question of how capital is built. It carries comparative case material and a critical examination of cultural explanations of development. No prior economics is required.

[IFT 614](#) is open to students in the Digital Security Systems Management specialization and is taken with the Master of Information Technology cohort in any term it runs. It adds the enterprise security governance and compliance layer, including risk frameworks and data protection regulation, to the track's operational and investigative focus.



What You Will Learn

- Digital Governance: The digital state, public value, digital public infrastructure, data governance, and the machinery of government in the digital age.
- Public Service Design and Delivery: Citizen-centered service design, the delivery lifecycle, channels and inclusion, and administrative practice.
- Public-Sector Innovation: Mission-oriented government, experimentation and evidence, govtech markets, and funding and procuring innovation.
- Public Financial Management in the Digital Age: Budgeting, expenditure control, procurement, and fiscal accountability through Nigeria's digital public finance instruments.
- Program and Project Management: Program design, implementation planning, monitoring, and evaluation.
- Applied Practice: Policy research methodology, institutional engagement, and the delivery of actionable analysis or reform design.



Who You Will Become

- Policy professionals who can move a problem from evidence to instrument to implementation.
- Institutional leaders capable of designing and governing the systems that carry reform.
- Digital government practitioners who improve service delivery while protecting citizens' data.
- Sector specialists in security, educational, or health system governance, financing, and regulation.
- Ethical stewards of public resources who prioritize transparency and accountability.



Where You Will Work

- Federal and state ministries, departments, and agencies
- Law enforcement, security, and intelligence agencies, and the regulated private security industry
- Regulatory commissions and oversight bodies
- Educational institutions, examination bodies, and quality assurance agencies
- Health ministries, agencies, and health insurance and financing bodies
- Development partners, donor programs, and civil society organizations



Additional Information and Resources

Industries



Public administration and governance, digital security and law enforcement administration, education policy and administration, health policy and financing, digital government, international development, regulatory affairs.

Professional Certifications



Certified Information Privacy Professional, Project Management Professional, and recognized monitoring and evaluation certifications. Applicants in the Nigerian public service should also consider programs offered through the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria and the Public Service Institute of Nigeria.

Career Paths



Policy Analyst, Director of Planning, Research and Statistics, Digital Government Program Lead, Data Protection Officer, Cybercrime Investigation Lead, Digital Forensics Unit Head, Security Policy Adviser, Education Policy Adviser, Quality Assurance Director, Health Financing Specialist, Permanent Secretary.



Program Structure and Delivery

All courses carry three credit units and comprise eight modules of six units each, delivered over an eight-week term. Programs are delivered through a HyFlex model. Students may study entirely online, entirely on campus, or combine both, and may change mode between terms. On-campus study is available at the Ibadan Global Campus and the Abeokuta Metro Campus.

Terms begin in August, October, January, March, and May. Applicants should begin the admission process at least one month before the term in which they intend to start.





Pace and Course Load

The standard load is two courses per term. Students may carry three courses in one or more terms, or take selected courses in the four-week accelerated format, to complete sooner. Selected courses are available in a self-paced online format.

The following courses are cohort-delivered and supervised, and are not available in self-paced format: Research Methods, Project Management, and all Capstone courses. In the Master of Business Administration, MBA 691 Evidence and Analysis for Managers serves as the research methods course, project management is taught within Capstone I, and Capstone I must be completed and cleared before registration for Capstone II.





Optional Electives

In addition to the required curriculum, the University offers optional elective courses, delivered in self-paced online format unless otherwise indicated; cross-program electives taken with another program's cohort are noted where they occur. Students may take these at any point during their program, at their own pace, and are not required to do so. Optional electives are open to students in all specializations and, where cross-listed, to students across programs.

Because they are self-paced, optional electives do not depend on cohort scheduling or minimum enrollment, and a student may begin one in any term without affecting the standard course load.

Optional electives are credit-bearing. They are recorded on the academic transcript and count toward the cumulative grade point average on the same basis as required courses. A transcript may therefore record more credits than the minimum required for the degree. Optional electives must be completed before the close of the final capstone term; a course not completed by that point is recorded as incomplete and does not delay the award.





Academic Calendar

Courses run in eight-week terms grouped into three semesters.
Entry is available at the start of any term.

Fall	August and October
Spring	January and March
Summer	May

At the standard load of two courses per term, the Master of Information Technology and the Master of Public Administration are completed across five terms, approximately 12 months. The Master of Business Administration comprises twelve courses and is completed across six terms, approximately 15 months, or sooner where a student carries an increased load or uses the four-week accelerated format.



Residencies

A residency is held at the close of each semester, three times a year. Residencies bring students, faculty, industry practitioners, and institutional partners together on campus for structured professional engagement rather than for teaching delivery.

Each residency combines industry panels and guest sessions with practitioners drawn from the sectors the programs serve, capstone presentations and peer review, supervisor and cohort meetings, and professional networking. Students in the same specialization across all three programs meet together, so that a public administration student working on digital governance encounters the technology and business students working on adjacent problems.

Residencies are open to students studying in any mode. Students studying entirely online are encouraged to attend and are not required to do so; those unable to travel may participate in the sessions delivered online. Residencies are held at the Ibadan Global Campus and the Abeokuta Metro Campus.



Tuition and Fees

All amounts are in Nigerian Naira and cover the full program.

Program	Total Tuition
Master of Public Administration	₦1,000,000

Other Fees	Amount
Application fee, payable on application	₦50,000
Acceptance fee, payable on admission	₦100,000

The application fee is non-refundable and is separate from tuition. The acceptance fee forms part of the total tuition and is credited against it.

International Tuition

Applicants resident outside Nigeria are assessed in United States dollars at the following flat rates, covering the full program.

Program	Total Tuition
Master of Public Administration	US\$1,500

The application fee, the acceptance fee, and the availability of installment payment apply on the same terms as for applicants resident in Nigeria, assessed in United States dollars at the equivalent rate.



Payment Options

Tuition may be paid in full or in three installments. Where the installment option is chosen, the balance remaining after the acceptance fee is divided across three payments scheduled against the academic calendar.

Monthly payment plans are available through EDGE Finance, a partnered third-party provider. Monthly plans are arranged directly with the provider and attract transaction fees in addition to tuition. Students selecting a monthly plan should review the provider's terms before committing.





Assessment and Grading

Each course is assessed through a combination of participation and discussion, quizzes, applied tasks and assignments, and a final examination. Assessment weightings are set out in each course syllabus. Applied tasks require original work that addresses the question directly and demonstrates the student's own analysis and conclusions.

Quizzes and examinations are timed and completed within designated assessment windows. Communication with any other person during an examination is a serious violation of academic integrity, and all submitted work must be the student's own.

Semester	Terms
90 to 100	Goes beyond the requirements of the subject. Advanced understanding, thoughtful analysis, clear communication, depth in connecting theory to practice, and creative use of examples.
80 to 89	Fully achieves the requirements of the subject. Knowledge and depth of understanding, clear communication, examination of the implications of theory for practice, and analysis of the problem and its solutions.
70 to 79	Substantially completes the requirements of the subject. Knowledge of the subject and adequate communication of ideas, but limited insight and implications drawn narrowly.
60 to 69	Inadequate attempt at the requirements of the subject. Limited knowledge, inadequate communication of ideas, and less than the minimum requirement completed.
0 to 59	Does not meet the basic requirements of the course.

Letter grades are assigned on the scale above: A and A minus (90 to 100), B plus, B, and B minus (80 to 89), C plus, C, and C minus (70 to 79), D plus and D (60 to 69), and F (below 60). Grade point equivalents and progression rules are set out in the Student Handbook.



Attendance and Participation

Attendance is measured by participation in course activities and timely submission of assessed work, not by physical presence alone. Students studying online are required to log into the learning management system regularly and to complete discussions, quizzes, and submissions by the deadlines set out in the course schedule. Faculty record attendance through the learning management system. Regular participation is a substantial contributor to student outcomes and forms part of the assessed grade in every course.





Library and Learning Resources

Students have access to the University's online research databases and digital library. Course materials, including readings, recorded lectures, video tutorials, and supporting resources, are provided within each unit of every course through the learning management system, together with notes indicating how each resource fits the course as a whole. Links to additional reports and publicly available databases are provided as required.





Technology Requirements

Students require access to a computer or web-capable mobile device and consistent internet access sufficient to view or download course resources and to complete timed assessments and examinations within the learning management system. Full participation, including assessments and examinations, requires logging into the learning management system; course materials cannot be completed offline.





Admission Requirements

Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from an institution recognized by the National Universities Commission or its equivalent for foreign institutions, with a minimum of Second Class Honours (Lower Division). Holders of the Higher National Diploma at Upper Credit level may be considered where the diploma is supported by relevant professional experience or a recognized postgraduate diploma.

Applicants are required to submit official academic transcripts sent directly from the awarding institution, evidence of National Youth Service discharge or exemption where applicable, a current curriculum vitae, two academic or professional references, and a statement of purpose of 500 to 750 words articulating their motivation, preparation, and career goals.





International Applicants

Applicants whose previous degree was taught in a language other than English are required to demonstrate English proficiency, either through a TOEFL score of 71 (internet-based) or 530 (paper-based), or through the completion of at least one year of post-secondary study in which the language of instruction was English. Applicants holding qualifications from institutions outside Nigeria should submit them for equivalence assessment as part of the application.





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How to Apply

1 Complete the online application at the University's application portal, aglobal.online, and pay the ₦50,000 application fee. The fee is non-refundable.

2 Submit your supporting documents: official academic transcripts sent directly from the awarding institution, evidence of National Youth Service discharge or exemption where applicable, a current curriculum vitae, two academic or professional references, and a statement of purpose of 500 to 750 words on your motivation, preparation, and career goals.

3 Receive your admission decision by email from the Admissions Office.

4 On admission, pay the ₦100,000 acceptance fee to confirm your place. The acceptance fee is credited against tuition.

5 Register for courses and begin in your chosen term: August, October, January, March, or May.

Applicants should begin the process at least one month before the term in which they intend to start. The Admissions Office is available throughout at admissions@aouniversity.edu.ng.



FAQ



Frequently Asked Questions

Is this equivalent to a conventional master's degree?

Yes. The programs were approved by the National Universities Commission in June 2026 and carry the same standing as master's degrees delivered by conventional means. The Commission regulates the curriculum, credit load, assessment standards, and external moderation of all approved programs regardless of delivery mode. The degree certificate does not distinguish between online, on-campus, and blended study.

Is the degree recognized for civil service promotion?

Yes. Promotion criteria in the federal and state public service recognize degrees from institutions and programs approved by the National Universities Commission. Applicants should confirm the specific requirements of their service commission or establishment, as some schemes of service specify particular disciplines for particular cadres.

Can I proceed to a doctoral program afterward?

The programs prepare graduates well for professional doctorates and for research doctorates at institutions that admit on demonstrated research capability. Within Nigeria, applicants should note the distinction drawn between academic and professional master's degrees. See the section on Doctoral Progression above.

When do I choose my specialization?

At the end of the first semester, before registration for Research Methods, Research Methods, Project Management, and the Capstone are all undertaken within the declared track, so the choice governs the second half of the program.

Can I choose between a research and a project capstone?

The research and project capstone options apply to the Master of Business Administration. Students in the Human Capital Development and Fintech and Digital Financial Services tracks may elect a research capstone in place of the professional project. The election is made at specialization declaration and is subject to a minimum cumulative grade point average and supervisor consent.

Can I switch campuses or study modes during the program?

Yes. Students may move between the Ibadan and Abeokuta campuses and between online, on-campus, and blended study from term to term.

Am I required to attend residencies?

No. Residencies are open to all students and strongly encouraged, but attendance is not a condition of progression or award. Students unable to travel may participate in the sessions delivered online.

Can I study part-time or at a slower pace?

Yes. The standard load is two courses per term, and students may take fewer where circumstances require. Extended pathways are available. Students who wish to finish sooner may carry three courses in a term or take selected courses in the four-week accelerated format.

Can I pay tuition in installments?

Yes. Tuition may be paid in full or in three installments across the academic calendar. Monthly payment plans are available through EDGE Finance, a partnered third-party provider; monthly plans attract transaction fees in addition to tuition.

What if my first degree is not in a related field?

Applicants to the Master of Information Technology whose first degree is not in computing or a related discipline complete a zero-credit bridge course, IFT 600, delivered pre-term in the four-week accelerated self-paced format. Applicants to the Master of Business Administration without a business first degree may be advised to complete a comparable bridge in managerial accounting.

Begin Your Application

Terms begin in

August, October, January, March, and May

Apply online at aglobal.online

www.aouniversity.edu.ng

Admissions Office:

admissions@aouniversity.edu.ng

info@aouniversity.edu.ng

Contact:

+234 816 359 7200

+234 700 700 3888

Campuses:

Global Campus: 03 Olanibisi Oladipo Close,
Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

Metro Campus: 1, Agboke Street,
Opposite FoodCo Supermarket,
Akin-Olugbade, Abeokuta, Ogun State

Ogbomoso, Oyo State | Ondo, Ondo State