

Using Evidence to Make Smarter Labor Policy

About the Course

Why do some labor programs work while others quietly fail? This course introduces policymakers and practitioners to the use of evidence in labor policy, drawing on international experience alongside a running case study of Indonesia's own programs.

Each week takes on a different policy lever — skills training, job search assistance, youth employment, minimum wages, the future of work, care and disability, and microenterprise support — asking what credible evaluations have found, where the evidence is thin or mixed, and what Indonesia's own experience suggests. The course does not teach economic theory or statistics; instead it builds a habit of mind: asking "compared to what?", reading claims about program success with informed skepticism, and understanding why sound evidence does not automatically win the policy argument.

Faculty: **Vivi Alatas**

The course is especially relevant to:

- Students in relevant fields such as foreign affairs, Asian studies, politics, and development
- Government officials from relevant ministries, agencies, or institutions
- Professionals working in state-owned Enterprises and in the private sector
- Civil society and welfare-focused organizations
- International development

No prerequisites required.

Thematic Areas

- Labor Markets & Evidence-Based Policymaking
- Skills Training & Lifelong Learning
- Job Search & Matching
- Youth Employment
- Minimum Wages & Employment Protection
- The Future of Work (AI, Platforms, Gig Economy)
- Gender & Inclusion
- Microenterprise & Entrepreneurship

Application Link: bit.ly/GSAP-LaborPolicy-Course

Program Highlights

- **Reading the evidence**
Learn to ask the right first questions of any program claim — "compared to what?" and "how was this supposed to work?" — and recognize how program statistics can mislead.
- **Evidence lever by lever**
Work through what international and Indonesian evidence shows about the major labor policy levers — training, job search assistance, youth employment, minimum wages, automation and platform work, care and disability, and microenterprise support.
- **Primary fieldwork**
Every group conducts its own fieldwork — interviews, focus groups, or observation — on a real labor issues or currently operating labor program, and connects what they find to program design and implementation.
- **From evidence to decision**
Understand why good evidence doesn't win on its own, and practice writing a policy brief a busy decision-maker would actually use.
- **Practitioner engagement**
Defend a practical reform proposal to a panel of real practitioners — a policymaker, an employer, and a worker-voice representative — who challenge it from their own vantage points.

Course Credits

- 3 credits, 2.5 hours a week of seminar for 14 weeks
- Includes a dedicated field study week and a fieldwork debrief session

Important Information

Duration : 1 Semester
Spring : January - May
Fall : August - Desember
Application Deadline : **January 5th (Spring)**
August 21st (Fall)

Location : Georgetown SFS Asia Pacific
Jakarta, Indonesia

Tuition Fee :
IDR 70 Million



Scholarship Program Available