



ICMA Student Chapters

Beginning and maintaining an ICMA Student Chapter at your college or University not only benefits you the student, but it also benefits you the next generation local government administrator. The purpose of the ICMA Student chapter program, started in 2010, is to introduce and integrate students of all ages to the local government management profession.

Student's Chapters of ICMA gain access to the many resources available to professional members of ICMA, including networking opportunities with members already established in the profession.

WHY STUDENT CHAPTERS?

ICMA's Student Chapter program introduces and integrates students of all ages into the local government management profession. Specifically at the graduate school level, but we also want to attract undergraduate students who are interested in public service, but may not be aware of career possibilities in local government.

Another purpose of the chapters is to create stronger relationships between the local government management profession and the academic community.

Becoming a Student Chapter grants any student at the university membership in ICMA, and access to the many resources available to professional members of ICMA including some developed specifically for chapters. Chapters develop a charter, hold regular meetings, engage guest presenters, guest lecture to undergraduate or K-12 classes about local government, explore joint research/presentation opportunities, and attend the ICMA Annual Conference and regional management events.

STARTING A NEW CHAPTER

In order to start an ICMA Student Chapter, you will need:

- **A chapter president**
- **A faculty advisor at the school**
- **An ICMA member manager**

By establishing an ICMA Student Chapter, the school receives unlimited student memberships for students in the MPA/MPP program and any other school within the university (including undergraduates), and one academic membership. Schools, students or members interested in starting a chapter can e-mail careers@icma.org for details, or download the agreement and sample charter to begin the process now by visiting icma.org/startastudentchapter.

ICMA Student Chapters are part of ICMA's Next Generation Initiatives.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the big benefits for students in joining an ICMA Student Chapter?

- Unlimited student memberships in ICMA for FREE
- Includes one academic membership
- Full digital membership, including ICMA's Newsletter, PM Magazine Online, members-only files, and content (such as the Job Hunting Handbook and Leading Ideas interviews)
- In addition to MPA/MPP students, a chapter can include undergraduates and students outside MPA program (urban planning, etc.)
- ICMA-sponsored competitions in responding to a case study or other project...student chapters are competing in addressing case studies from ICMA, with prizes!
- Free chapter-only content (archived webinars and custom)

What is the role of the ICMA Mentor?

- The Chapter's Mentor is primarily a resource in the profession whom the chapter members can go to for guidance or connections in the field, use as a guest speaker, use to get access to other guest speakers or as a judge for chapter events, and so on.
- The second role of the Management Mentor is as a stabilizing force should the faculty advisor leave the school. With both a Faculty Advisor and a Management Mentor, we reduce the chance of a chapter dissolving should one of them depart.

What are some common activities at a Chapter meeting?

- Schedule guest speakers in the profession (manager, department head, elected official, young professional or recently hired) or a panel discussion
- Host a discussion on economic development for the school, with a local panel of experts
- Work on small consulting projects for nearby local governments (a good resume builder!), which can also generate chapter funds
- Present to undergraduates or high schools about local government, civics, or other topics of interest
- Submit articles to ICMA for the Blog, Newsletter, or PM Magazine
- Schedule and go on site visits (to local government offices or satellite departments for a tour)
- Attend a state association meeting together
- Host a networking event to either teach networking skills, or facilitate building connections
- Give a presentation at a local council meeting

What are some other ICMA resources to leverage in support of the Chapter?

- ICMA's Job Center
- Coaching program (webinars, one-to-one coaching)
- Career Resources (Career Compass, First Time Administrator's Guide, Job Hunting Handbook, etc.)
- Free annual conference registration

Review more questions and answers online at [icma.org/studentchapterfaq](https://www.icma.org/studentchapterfaq)



Leaders at the Core of Better Communities