

David Ruiz, Associate, Regulatory and Government Affairs, RBC, Toronto

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Current position: Associate, Regulatory and Government Affairs, RBC, Toronto

Prior Education:

Bachelor of Arts Political Science and International Relations, University of Calgary

Why you chose the MPP at U Calgary & advice for someone entering the MPP program:

I chose the MPP program at the School of Public Policy mainly due to their focus on training students to step into professional roles in policy related positions. I wanted a program that was going to teach me the tools needed to not only succeed academically but also succeed in the work place. As well, the MPP program has top professors in their field and the program offers great career development sessions that allow you to network with different professional in various industries.

My advice to a new MPP student would be to involve yourself as much as possible in the program. Get to know the professors, meet as many people as possible, complete at least one field course and go to as many events as you can as the SPP has access to top events in Calgary.

Description of your current job/typical week:

Our department at RBC is responsible for the relationship between government and regulatory bodies. We assist in the development and implementation of strategies to advance RBC's objectives with the federal and provincial governments. My typical week varies depending on government activities but it mostly consists of legislative monitoring, creating communication material for elected officials, researching and prepping for committee hearings and supporting other RBC departments with government interactions.

How the MPP program furthered my career:

I found the courses to be very helpful and relevant for government relation professionals. The economics, politics and law classes allowed me to understand how government policy is developed and how it impacts society, and in my case - how it impacts private industry. As well, the professional development sessions allowed me to expand my knowledge on the careers and industries that need public policy professionals. Overall, I found the MPP program to be very interactive, it was a hands on learning experience that allowed me to gain the right skills needed to succeed as a professional.