



Executive Programme in Managing Mining, Oil and Gas for National Development

Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford
21–26 September 2025

Managing Mining, Oil and Gas for National Development

An executive-level, challenge-focused course for senior professionals and policymakers. Over five days, participants will examine extractive resource management and develop strategies to transform resources into sustained prosperity.

Overview

The course is designed specifically for countries with mineral, oil and gas wealth. These countries face both an opportunity and a challenge. When used well, these resources can create greater prosperity for current and future generations. Poorly managed, they can cause economic instability, social conflict and lasting environmental damage. In order to benefit from resource wealth, citizens and their governments must make a broad range of decisions: each requires governments to consider complex options and trade-offs as well as devise strategies to implement these policy choices. Those decisions are particularly important to make in light of the global economic downturn, commodity price volatility, and the transition to a low-carbon economy. When making those decisions they must scrutinise the interests of, and risks borne by, extractive companies, countries and communities in order to strike a mutually beneficial deal.

The course has been developed through a unique collaboration between Oxford University's Blavatnik School of Government and the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI). It provides the training and insight required for policy leaders in the public, private and non-profit sectors to work towards better management and governance of oil, gas or mineral resources. The course brings together leaders who influence extractive sector development and the direction of extractives policy to produce meaningful and lasting economic and social outcomes for resource-rich countries. We aim to initiate dialogue and mutual appreciation of respective positions between these groups.

On completion of the course, participants will have a clear understanding of the elements of a country-level extractives-sector strategy in a changing global environment and the ability to lead, or influence, the formation of effective policies for the governance of mining, oil and gas.

Course content

Globally recognised experts and academics have developed this course to encourage public sector leaders from multiple countries to share their own experiences, while gaining insights and specialist knowledge about mining, oil and gas management.

The 2025 course will look at both technical policy aspects of managing resources and the complex interplay between governments, companies and citizens.

Topics that will be covered include:

- Resource-wealth during the low carbon transition
- Licensing and discovering minerals
- Taxing companies and combating tax abuses
- Directing state-owned enterprises
- Protecting local societies and the environment
- Managing revenues and investment
- Extractives-led industrial development
- Communicating with citizens
- Implementing your strategy and ensuring accountability



World-class teaching



Programme Director

Sir Paul Collier is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, Director of the International Growth Centre, and a member of Natural Resource Governance Institute Board. He was one of the founders of the Centre for the Study of African Economies at Oxford and the Director of the Development Research Group of the World Bank from 1998–2003. He has authored a significant number of publications, including the books *The Plundered Planet* and *The Future of Capitalism*, for which he holds the Handelsblatt Prize for the best book of the year; and most recently, *Left Behind: a new economics for neglected places* (2024).



Programme Co-Chair

James (Jim) Cust is the Chief Economist at Future.Green and a member of Adjunct Faculty at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. Previously, Jim was Senior Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist, Africa Region at the World Bank, Director of Research and Data at the NRGI and the founding staff member of the Natural Resource Charter. Jim's research examines the role of government and governance in harnessing natural resources for growth and prosperity, under pressure from climate change. He is the co-author of the book *Africa's Resource Future: harnessing natural resources for economic transformation during the low carbon transition*.



Programme Co-Chair

Alexandra Readhead leads the International Institute for Sustainable Development's (IISD) program on tax and development. A trained lawyer specialised in international tax and mining taxation, Alexandra provides legal and technical assistance to tax authorities, finance ministries, and investment agencies in Africa, Asia, and Latin-America. Prior to establishing IISD's tax program, Alexandra built and led the Global Mining Tax Initiative, which supports resource-rich developing countries to strengthen mining revenue collection. She is the co-author of the book *The Future of Resource Taxation: 10 Policy Ideas to Mobilise Mining Revenues*.

Speakers

Programme speakers are world-leading experts in their field and have previously included:

- Professor Ngaire Woods, Dean and Professor of Global Economic Governance, Blavatnik School of Government
- Dr Eric Parrado, Chief Economist and Manager of the Research Department at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Dr Carole Nakhle, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Crystal Energy
- Professor Eric Werker, William Saywell Professor at the Beedie School of Business at Simon Fraser University
- Dr Valerie Marcel, Associate Fellow, Chatham House and project leader of the New Producers Group
- Dr Ana Carolina González Espinosa, Senior Director for Programs, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)
- David Manley, Lead Economic Analyst – Energy Transition, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)
- Dr Annette Idler, Associate Professor in Global Security and Director of the Minerva Global Security Programme, Blavatnik School of Government
- Daniel Fletcher, Head of CCUS Business Development at bp. Royal Holloway, University of London
- Dr Evelyn Dietsche, Head of Programme Resources and Conflict at Swisspeace
- Dr Ana Elizabeth Bastida, Global Law, Resource Governance & Sustainability, Petroleum and Mineral Law & Policy, University of Dundee
- Professor Philip Daniel, Honorary Professor at the Centre for Energy Petroleum and Minerals Law & Policy (CEPMLP), University of Dundee
- Isabelle Ramdoo, Deputy Director of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF)

Application process

Who should apply?

This course is open to policy leaders in the public and private sector, alongside those in senior research and non-profit roles, who are committed to better governance in mining, oil and gas, and in a position to influence the governance of these sectors.

Participants should have in-depth experience in natural resource governance and be in a senior leadership position or advisory role. We strongly encourage women to apply, as well as delegations of professionals working in the same country context.

Participant profile

Prospective participants include:

- Ministers, chiefs of staff, heads of extractives state-owned enterprises, commissioners, heads of agencies, departments and other public bodies involved in the management of oil, gas and mining and the revenues they generate as well as their deputies and advisors
- Executives, directors, chiefs and heads at oil, gas and mining companies, at headquarters or country office levels, as well as their deputies and advisors
- Leaders from management consulting firms providing advice to governments in resource-rich countries in extractive sector policy design and implementation or public financial management
- Vice-presidents, deputy managing directors, and heads of departments at multilateral agencies, such as the IMF and World Bank
- Chief executives, directors and senior fellows at think tanks and nonpartisan bodies as well as experienced journalists covering natural resources related issues

How to apply

- Application deadline: 4 April 2025
- To access the application form, please visit the programme website: www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/oilgasmining.

Applicants will be asked to submit the following documentation:

- A current resumé
- A brief personal statement addressing the governance challenges associated with the extractive industries in the applicant's country of origin or residence, and the applicant's expectations about how the course will benefit them in addressing those challenges
- Scholarship application (if applicable)



Course details and additional funding

- Dates: 21–26 September 2025
- Language: English
- Fee: £8,000 per participant (includes tuition over five days from world-class experts and academics, six nights' accommodation and most meals). *Fee does not cover overseas transport, visas, ground transportation or other incidentals.*

Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships will be offered on a competitive basis to public sector applicants from select resource-rich countries: Argentina, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Panama, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Zambia. In exceptional cases, scholarship applications from outstanding candidates from other countries may also be considered.

These can partially (or fully) cover tuition and, in select cases, may assist with travel. A bursary application must be completed by the closing date to be eligible for these awards.



The Oxford experience

Oxford's international profile rivals that of any university in the world. The University has been educating leaders from all walks of life for over 800 years.

This residential programme offers the opportunity to immerse yourself in the history of Oxford, including a walking tour of the city's most important historical and politically relevant places, as well as formal dinners in centuries-old Oxford dining halls.

Participants will get the best of both the old and the new by being based from the ultramodern award-winning Blavatnik School of Government building, which is one of the youngest and most vibrant departments of the University of Oxford.



About the organisers



About the Blavatnik School of Government

The Blavatnik School of Government is a global school with a vision of a world better led, better served and better governed. The School offers a distinctive global approach to public policy, within a rich, multidisciplinary curriculum delivered by world-class faculty. Programmes of study include a full time one-year Master of Public Policy, a full-time three-year doctorate in Public Policy and a range of executive courses for leaders in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

www.bsg.ox.ac.uk



About the Natural Resource Governance Institute

The Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) helps people to realise the benefits of their countries' endowments of oil, gas and minerals. They do this through technical advice, advocacy, applied research, policy analysis, and capacity development. NRGI works with innovative agents of change within government ministries, civil society, the media, legislatures, the private sector, and international institutions to promote accountable and effective governance in the extractive industries.

www.resourcegovernance.org



“What an intellectually stimulating week! I gained a clear understanding of the elements of a country-level natural resource strategy and the ability to lead in or influence the formation of effective policies for the governance of natural resources. It weaved seamlessly both the technical policy aspects of managing resources and the complex interplay between governments, companies and citizens”

Participant, 2022

“The programme was meticulously designed to cover every aspect of the industry, from exploration and extraction to revenue management, and environmental and social sustainability. This diversity [of the cohort] fosters meaningful discussions, innovative solutions, and a holistic understanding of the complex challenges and opportunities in the energy and mining sectors.”

Participant, 2023

“The programme exceeded my expectations in every aspect. It not only provided a wealth of knowledge but also the practical tools and global network necessary for success in the complex world of resource governance. I highly recommend this course to anyone seeking a comprehensive and transformative learning experience in the field. It has undoubtedly been a significant milestone in my professional development.”

Participant, 2023

“The course’s interdisciplinary approach and emphasis on good governance and transparency sets it apart from others. It is particularly unique in how it bridges the gap between academic research and practical, actionable strategies for managing resources in a way that supports sustainable national development.”

Participant, 2024

Executive Programmes at the Blavatnik School of Government

For more information, please contact:

Blavatnik School of Government
University of Oxford
Radcliffe Observatory Quarter
Woodstock Road
Oxford OX2 6GG
United Kingdom

T: +(44) 1865 614 343
E: [mining.oil.gas@bsg.ox.ac.uk](mailto: mining.oil.gas@bsg.ox.ac.uk)

www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/executive-programmes