



Public Policy & International Affairs
Program

A Strategic Partnership: PPIA & Brown's Watson School of International & Public Affairs

Explorer Seminars uniting PPIA's national network and expertise with Watson's strengths in Public Policy, Global Security & Conflict, and International Development

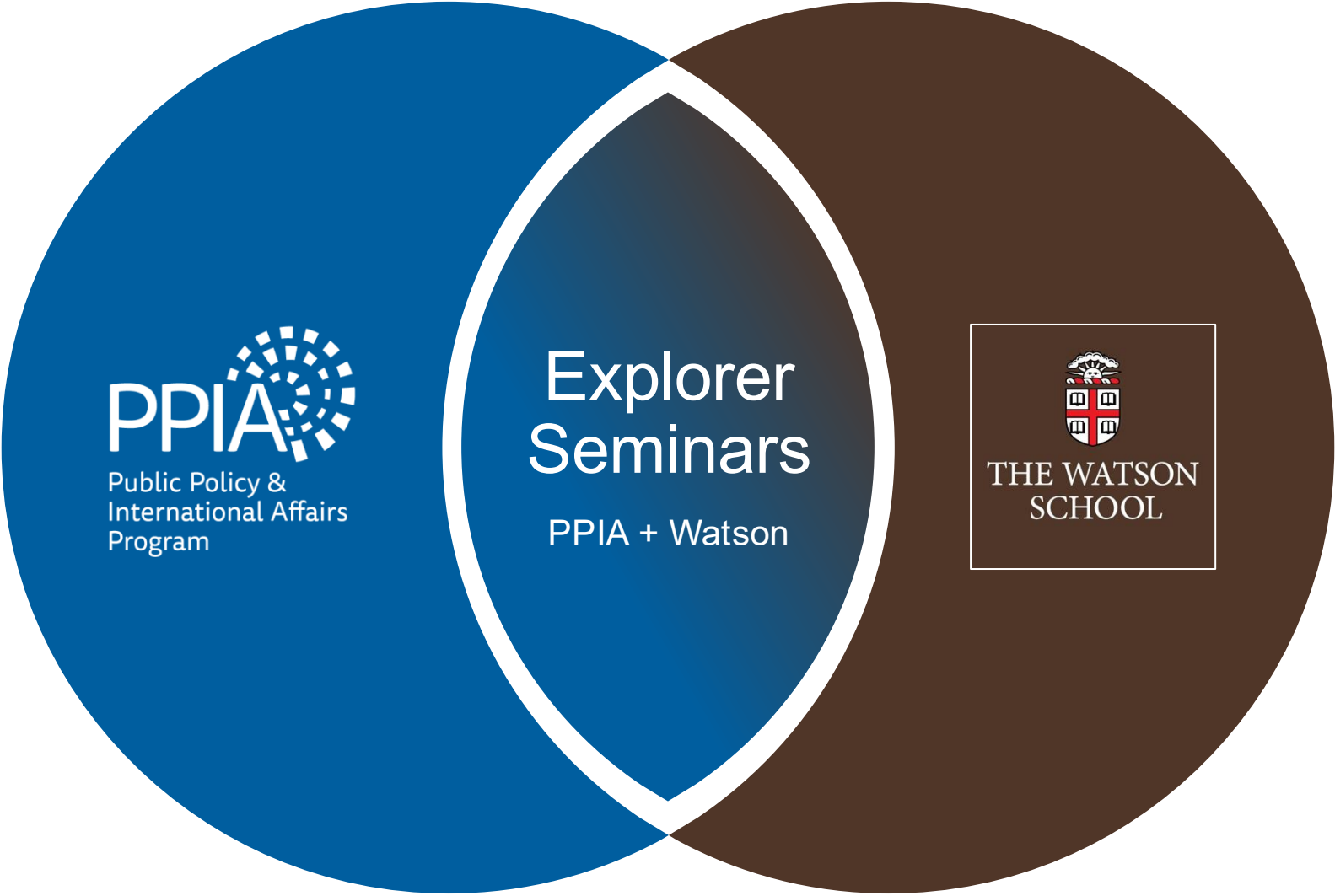
A Front-Row Seat in PPIA's Exclusive Pilot Program

- Early opportunity to co-design PPIA's Explorer Seminars model
- Leverage Watson's faculty, centers, and policy labs to lead key elements of the curriculum
- PPIA supports with curriculum framework, national speakers, and alumni network connections



Bringing Distinct Strengths Together for Student Success

National network, post-Explorer programming, Leadership Academy, graduate pathways



PPIA
Public Policy &
International Affairs
Program

**Explorer
Seminars**
PPIA + Watson



**THE WATSON
SCHOOL**

Policy labs, global research, experiential learning, and pathways to leadership in public service.

Aligning Watson's Global Expertise with PPIA's Explorer Seminars

The Watson School advances policy solutions to the world's most urgent challenges through research, teaching, and engagement. Its signature initiatives in **global security, governance & institutions, economic inequality, and climate policy** mirror PPIA's commitment to inclusive leadership.

Through the Explorer Seminars, students gain hands-on exposure to **Watson's policy labs, interdisciplinary centers, and faculty-led discussions** that turn research into real-world impact.



Applied learning through research policy labs and field experiences in Providence and Washington, DC.



Real-world mentorship through Watson's MPA students and Military Fellows.



Faculty expertise from the Rhodes Center for International Economics and Finance and the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Studies.

Sample Agenda Details - Day 1: Opening Minds

Inspire students to see public service as a career path through interactive sessions with Watson faculty and fellows.

Session Title / Category / Stakeholders	Description	Watson Impact	PPIA Impact
Policy for a Changing World Welcome & Keynote Watson Dean + PPIA Network Speaker	This opening session sets the stage by grounding students in the importance of evidence-based policy and global collaboration . A keynote speaker will explore how research and leadership intersect to drive equitable, data-informed solutions.	Reflects Watson's leadership in global security, governance, inequality, and climate policy by highlighting how data and policy research shape real-world decisions.	Provides national voices linking academic research to policy practice in public service, government, and global development.
Pathways to Public Leadership Panel Watson Faculty + Alumni	Students hear directly from Watson faculty and alumni about career journeys spanning public policy, economics, international development, and humanitarian work.	Highlights Watson's interdisciplinary reach through faculty expertise in economics, political science, and international affairs.	Offers insights into graduate and career pathways for first-generation and low-income students pursuing policy and public service roles.
Policy Labs in Action Workshop Watson Research Fellows + MPA Students	Students experience how Watson's research policy labs tackle urgent global issues from migration and security to social mobility and climate resilience through hands-on activities.	Provides experiential learning and exposure to Watson's applied policy research methods and fieldwork.	Supplies tested frameworks and case studies from PPIA's Explorer Seminars and Leadership Academy.
Networking Reception Hosted by Watson + PPIA Alumni	An informal evening gathering where students, faculty, and alumni connect and reflect on their shared commitment to evidence-based public service.	Showcases Watson's collaborative culture and mentorship through MPA students, Military Fellows, and research centers.	Connects participants with PPIA's national network of policy professionals and alumni mentors.

Sample Agenda Details - Day 2: Building Skills

Workshops in data for policy, communications for impact, and negotiation for global affairs.

Session Title / Category / Stakeholders	Description	Watson Impact	PPIA Impact
Data-Driven Policy Solutions Workshop Watson Faculty + Research Policy Labs	Students analyze real datasets from Watson's research labs to understand how evidence informs decisions on inequality, climate resilience, and social mobility.	Draws on Watson's applied research policy labs by linking big-data analysis and field-based inquiry to global policy outcomes.	Frames data literacy and evidence-based decision-making within PPIA's emphasis on measurable public-service impact.
Negotiating Across Borders and Sectors Leadership Lab Watson Faculty + Military Fellows	Interactive simulation where students role-play cross-sector negotiations on issues such as migration, energy policy, or humanitarian aid.	Uses Watson's interdisciplinary strengths by bridging governance, security, and humanitarian studies to train students in negotiation and conflict resolution.	Provides tested negotiation frameworks from PPIA alumni serving in government, NGOs, and diplomacy.
Policy Lab Project Simulation Team Workshop Watson Faculty + MPA Students + PPIA Alumni Mentors	Teams design a mini-policy lab addressing a current global challenge, developing recommendations and impact metrics.	Mirrors Watson's experiential learning model through its MPA and policy-lab structure that links research to practice.	Builds on PPIA's experiential learning ethos , connecting students with practitioners for hands-on project leadership.
Alumni Roundtables & Peer Coaching Watson Alumni + PPIA Network	Alumni share career pathways and leadership lessons from public policy, finance, global development, and humanitarian organizations.	Features Watson alumni whose work spans data analytics, economics, and global policy innovation.	Brings national PPIA alumni to broaden exposure to domestic and international career trajectories.

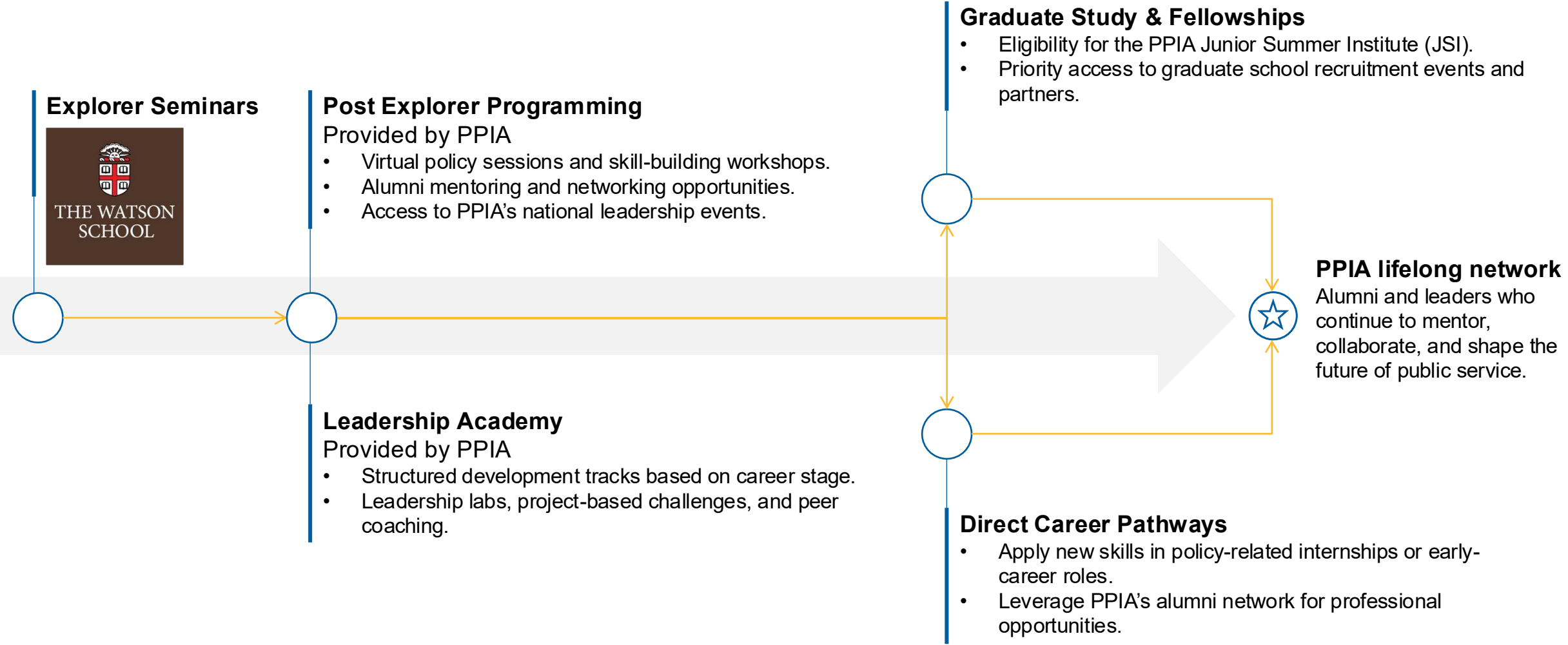
Sample Agenda Details - Day 3: Planning Futures

Career panels with MPA students, policy alumni, and Watson's career team to map graduate study and leadership trajectories.

Session Title / Category / Stakeholders	Description	Watson Impact	PPIA Impact
Graduate Admissions Demystified Workshop Watson MPA Admissions + Career Team	Admissions professionals provide clarity on graduate program applications , from personal statements to securing funding and research fellowships.	Offers practical admissions insight from Watson's one-year MPA program and research fellowships focused on data, policy, and social impact.	Outlines PPIA's Junior Summer Institute (JSI) and national graduate recruitment network.
Global Careers Across Sectors Career Panel Watson Alumni + Policy Practitioners	A career-focused panel with alumni working in government, NGOs, think tanks, and international organizations.	Highlights Watson's alumni footprint in public policy, economics, climate, and humanitarian fields, demonstrating its interdisciplinary reach.	Curates diverse alumni voices from across the PPIA network for shared learning and mentorship.
Capstone: Policy Solutions Lab Presentations Team Presentations Watson MPA + Explorer Participants	Students present solutions to a policy challenge —integrating skills in data analysis, communication, and applied research.	Mirrors Watson's capstone model by bridging research and practice through client-based, data-informed projects.	Ensures presentations align with PPIA's leadership and professional standards for public service.
PPIA Programming, Reflection & Next Steps Closing Watson + PPIA Leadership	A structured reflection and overview of continuing pathways and partnerships , including PPIA's Leadership Academy and Watson's graduate and fellowship programs.	Anchors Watson's mission to cultivate evidence-driven, ethical, and global leaders.	Highlights national programming and graduate pathway opportunities across PPIA partner schools.

Benefits of PPIA Post-Explorer Programming

PPIA's post-Explorer programming provides your students with sustained support by expanding their skills, connecting them to a national network, and opening doors to graduate study and meaningful careers in public service.



Partnering for Lasting Impact

Together, [PPIA and Watson](#), can prepare students to serve, lead, and make an impact that lasts a lifetime.

