UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge Industrial Innovation Policy

www.ciip.group.cam.ac.uk

Introduction to Industrial Innovation Policy

A two-day training programme for civil servants and policy officials combining industrial and innovation policy concepts and practices

25-26 November 2026 | Cambridge, UK

The world is in a global race to shape the industries of the future. A new wave of industrial and innovation policies is emerging, aimed at strengthening technological leadership, boosting competitiveness, and driving long-term prosperity.

This course is designed to support policymakers and professionals in rising to these challenges. It offers a structured introduction to the key concepts, frameworks, and ideas in the field of Industrial Innovation Policy. Through interactive sessions and drawing on academic insights and real-world policy experiences from around the globe, participants will engage with lessons learned from past and present initiatives, gaining a clearer understanding of what works — and why — in fostering innovation.

Importantly, it also provides a unique space for participants to exchange experiences and build connections with peers who share a common interest in advancing innovation and industrial competitiveness. By the end of the course, participants will be better equipped to interpret complex innovation systems, contribute to evidence-informed policymaking, and strengthen the institutions and networks that underpin industrial innovation.

More information and booking:

www.ciip.group.cam.ac.uk/events/introduction-to-industrial-innovation-policy

DAY ONE | WED 25 NOV

10:00 **WELCOME AND COURSE OVERVIEW**

- Programme aims and objectives
- Course structure and flow

10:15 **SESSION 1: SETTING THE SCENE - COMBINING "INDUSTRIAL" AND "INNOVATION" POLICY PERSPECTIVES**

- Gloal policy context and competitiveness pressures
- Global industrial innovation trends and indicators

11:00 **BREAK**

11:10 **EXERCISE 1: POLICY PROBLEM MAPPING AND INTRODUCTIONS**

11:45 **SESSION 2: WHY INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION POLICY MATTERS?**

- Definitions and key concepts
- Historical evolution and rationales
- Policy missions (tech-push, societal needs, industry needs)
- Arguments for and against intervention

12:45 **LUNCH**

14:15 **SESSION 3: UNDERSTANDING MODERN INDUSTRIAL AND INNOVATION SYSTEMS**

- Structure of industrial systems, value chains and global linkages
- Innovation system functions and actors
- Technology scale-up and the 'valley of death'
- Technology & manufacturing readiness levels (TRL/MRL)

15:15 **BREAK**

15:25 **EXERCISE 2: MODERN INDUSTRIAL AND INNOVATION SYSTEMS**

16:15 **DAY ONE WRAP-UP AND REFLECTION**

- Synthesis of key themes
- Preview of day two

16:30 **CLOSE**

19:00 **DINNER AT TRINITY HALL**

09:30 **RECAP AND OVERVIEW OF DAY TWO**

- Review Day 1 takeaways
- Outline of Day 2 sessions

09:45 **SESSION 4: POLICY CYCLE AND POLICY INSTRUMENTS**

- Stages of the policy cycle (agenda to evaluation)
- Industrial and innovation policy instruments (procurement, clusters, tax incentives, grants, challenge funds, ARPA-style programmes)
- Illustrative examples

10:30 **EXERCISE 3 (PT. 1): INTEGRATED POLICY DESIGN AND LOGIC MODEL WORKSHOP**

- Teams select a policy challenge (from Day 1)
- Design a policy instrument package

11:10 **BREAK**

11:20 **SESSION 5: LOGIC MODELS AND THEORY OF CHANGE**

- Purpose and components (inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, impacts)
- Theory of Change as design and evaluation framework
- Examples from innovation policy

11:40 **EXERCISE 3 (PT. 2): INTEGRATED POLICY DESIGN AND LOGIC MODEL WORKSHOP**

- Develop a logic model for the selected policy challenge and present to peers

12:30 **LUNCH**

13:15 **SESSION 6 (PT. 1): INTERNATIONAL POLICY EXAMPLES (US)**

- Real-world industrial innovation policy case studies from the US
- Challenge-led innovation and the ARPA/DARPA model

14:00 **BREAK**

14:10 **SESSION 6 (PT. 2): INTERNATIONAL POLICY EXAMPLES (EU AND CHINA)**

- Real-world case studies from the EU and China, including industrial digitalisation and green policies

15:10 **CLOSING REFLECTION AND NEXT STEPS**

- Facilitator summarises themes
- Participants share key takeaways and actions

15:50 **CLOSE**

What you will learn

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Be aware of the latest concepts, frameworks and ideas in the areas of industrial and innovation policy.
- Outline the latest manufacturing and innovation policies, programme and practices in selected industrial countries.
- Apply appropriate frameworks and practical tools to address key challenges of effective policy design and implementation.
- Contrast experiences with other attendees who share a common interest in industry and innovation.

What the course covers

Participants will benefit from practical insights and global perspectives in the following key areas:

- Industrial Strategy – including green and sustainability related areas.
- Technology and Innovation Policy – including industrial digitalisation and AI related areas.
- Technology development and industrial competitiveness – exploring how to foster innovation, strengthen capabilities, and enhance global competitiveness.
- International policy developments – including examples of the latest practices, policies and implementation approaches in key countries.

Who is this course for

This course is designed to support the work of civil servants, policymakers, and industry professionals who are engaged in shaping the future of industry and innovation. Typical attendees include Analysts, Managers, Deputy-Directors and Directors at the Departments of Industry, Business, Trade, Economics and Innovation – and related agencies.

Previous participants have come from across the globe, representing government departments and agencies, research and technology organisations, development banks, innovation hubs, and leading manufacturing firms. The course is designed to be highly relevant for professionals from any country, offering insights and tools that can be applied across diverse national contexts.

"This was a really worthwhile course which provided real data and allowed policy makers time to consider their implications. The ability to debate and share knowledge was really beneficial"

This course can also be run online or as a bespoke offering for your organisation.

For further information or to discuss your requirements, contact the Events Team: ifm-events@eng.cam,ac.uk

www.ciip.group.cam.ac.uk