

COURSE HANDBOOK

BALPP Postgraduate Diplomas 2025-26



Bandaranaike Academy
for Leadership & Public Policy

*"A genuine leader is not a
searcher for consensus but a
molder of consensus."*

—the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr

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ABOUT THE BALPP



The Bandaranaike Academy for Leadership and Public Policy (BALPP) is an independent institution that is dedicated to advancing leadership and public policy through a comprehensive approach integrating education, research, and public engagement. It has been provisionally recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education.

It offers a diverse array of educational programs in leadership and public policy tailored for both Sri Lankan and international students, including public and government officials, corporate executives, civil society leaders, politicians, and academics, thereby equipping participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate complex policy challenges.

In parallel, BALPP actively undertakes research addressing contemporary and critical policy issues across multiple disciplines, generating innovative, evidence-based solutions through collaborations with scholars, policymakers, and industry experts that inform decision-making at regional and global levels. The *BALPP Policy Tribune*, the institution's peer-reviewed journal, provides a space for thoughtful analysis and discussion on key issues in leadership and public policy, with a particular focus on South Asia's evolving challenges. Aimed at fostering civil and informed dialogue, it brings together scholars, policymakers, and the public to engage with research and ideas that are directly relevant to the country's future development and governance.

Moreover, the institution engages in extensive public outreach through initiatives such as Policy Dialogues, the *Eminence* Lecture Series, workshops, and community-based programs that foster debate, dialogue, and collaboration among a wide spectrum of stakeholders, thereby empowering communities, students, and educators to understand and address pressing policy challenges at the grassroots level.

THE BALPP POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS

The five Postgraduate Diplomas (PgDs) introduced by the Bandaranaike Academy for Leadership and Public Policy (BALPP) are meticulously researched and thoughtfully designed to address some of the most pressing challenges faced by Sri Lanka and the global community today. Covering key spheres — economy, politics and governance, education, leadership, and artificial intelligence — these programs emphasize not only empirical knowledge, theoretical foundations, and strategic policy skills, but also core principles such as the right to education, equity, and inclusion, equipping students to navigate and shape an increasingly complex world.

Each PgD program offers a focused academic and practical experience:

- **PgD in Economic Policy:** This program addresses the structural challenges of modern economic systems, offering a strong foundation in development studies, macroeconomics, microeconomics, public finance, and international trade, with a special focus on Sri Lanka's economic realities. It also builds critical research skills essential for policy development.
- **PgD in Education Policy:** This program explores Sri Lanka's education landscape across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels, examining access disparities, governance challenges, curriculum development, teacher training, and the broader impacts of globalization. It emphasizes building equitable, inclusive, and resilient education systems to support national development.
- **PgD in Strategic Leadership:** Preparing future-focused leaders, this course develops skills in visionary thinking, emotional intelligence, ESG and DEI principles, innovation, and strategic planning. It offers practical insights into navigating Sri Lanka's regional and global position within a multipolar world.
- **PgD in Politics and Governance:** Offering a comprehensive understanding of political thought, governance structures, and policy-making, this course critically analyzes Sri Lanka's postcolonial political evolution alongside global shifts in international relations, fostering strong analytical and leadership capabilities.
- **PgD in Cybersecurity Policy :** Addressing the rapid technological changes and their societal impacts, this program focuses on cybersecurity principles, 4IR technologies, risk management, AI governance, and the protection of national infrastructure, preparing students for strategic roles in safeguarding digital and national security.

Through these programs, BALPP aims to cultivate a new generation of scholars and professionals capable of contributing innovative, ethical, and strategic solutions to the national and global challenges of the 21st century.

COMMON MODULE

Introduction to the Common Module

All students enrolled in the Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) programs will begin their studies with a shared core module titled **Essential Skills in Strategic Leadership**, which lays the foundation for effective leadership across sectors. This interactive, student-centered course focuses on building critical competencies such as **strategic thinking, ethical decision-making, persuasive communication, conflict resolution, and team leadership**. The module is designed to cultivate a confident leadership mindset and prepare students for success in their specialized postgraduate studies and professional environments.

In the second semester, all students will also participate in a **common session on Research Methodology, Academic Writing, and Capstone Project development**. This session equips students with essential research and analytical skills—covering both qualitative and quantitative methods—while emphasizing ethical practices and strong academic writing. Through structured guidance on topic selection, project planning, and the use of analytical frameworks, students are supported in producing original, rigorous, and policy-relevant Capstone Projects that translate theory into real-world impact.

Our overall academic approach emphasises:

- Interactive, real-world learning through case studies, simulations, and collaborative projects that mirror the complexities faced by leaders today
- Comparative perspectives by drawing from global best practices, enabling students to contextualize Sri Lankan challenges within international frameworks
- Engagement with expert faculty and international guest speakers, bringing diverse experiences and insights directly into the classroom
- Flexible learning options, including hybrid delivery formats to accommodate the needs of working professionals and adult learners
- A strong focus on ethical leadership, strategic communication, critical policy analysis, and innovation
- These Postgraduate Diplomas are ideally suited for individuals who aspire to drive positive change across the public, private, and civil society sectors, combining advanced academic training with practical skills to address contemporary challenges with confidence and vision.

Common Module - Essential Skills in Leadership

Four distinct themes for a module on Essential Skills in Leadership, each designed to be delivered in a two-hour session by different lecturers:

1. Strategic Thinking and Decision-Making

Focus: Equipping leaders with essential tools and frameworks to make informed, ethical decisions under pressure. The module introduces core concepts such as SWOT analysis, systems thinking, and risk assessment to help participants analyze challenges holistically and identify strategic responses.

Key skills include prioritizing tasks using the urgency-importance matrix, evaluating risks, and balancing short-term demands with long-term goals. Together, these tools foster a structured, ethical, and forward-thinking approach to leadership and problem-solving.

2. Effective Communication and Influence

Focus: Explores how leaders can inspire, persuade, and build trust through clear, emotionally intelligent communication. The module aims to strengthen a leader's ability to listen actively, frame messages persuasively, and adapt to different communication styles while maintaining clarity and authenticity.

Key concepts include storytelling for engagement, emotional intelligence for empathy and impact, and techniques for navigating various communication preferences. Interactive elements such as role-plays and speech simulations allow participants to practice giving feedback, resolving conflict, and motivating teams, while receiving constructive feedback on their delivery and influence.

3. Conflict Resolution and Negotiation

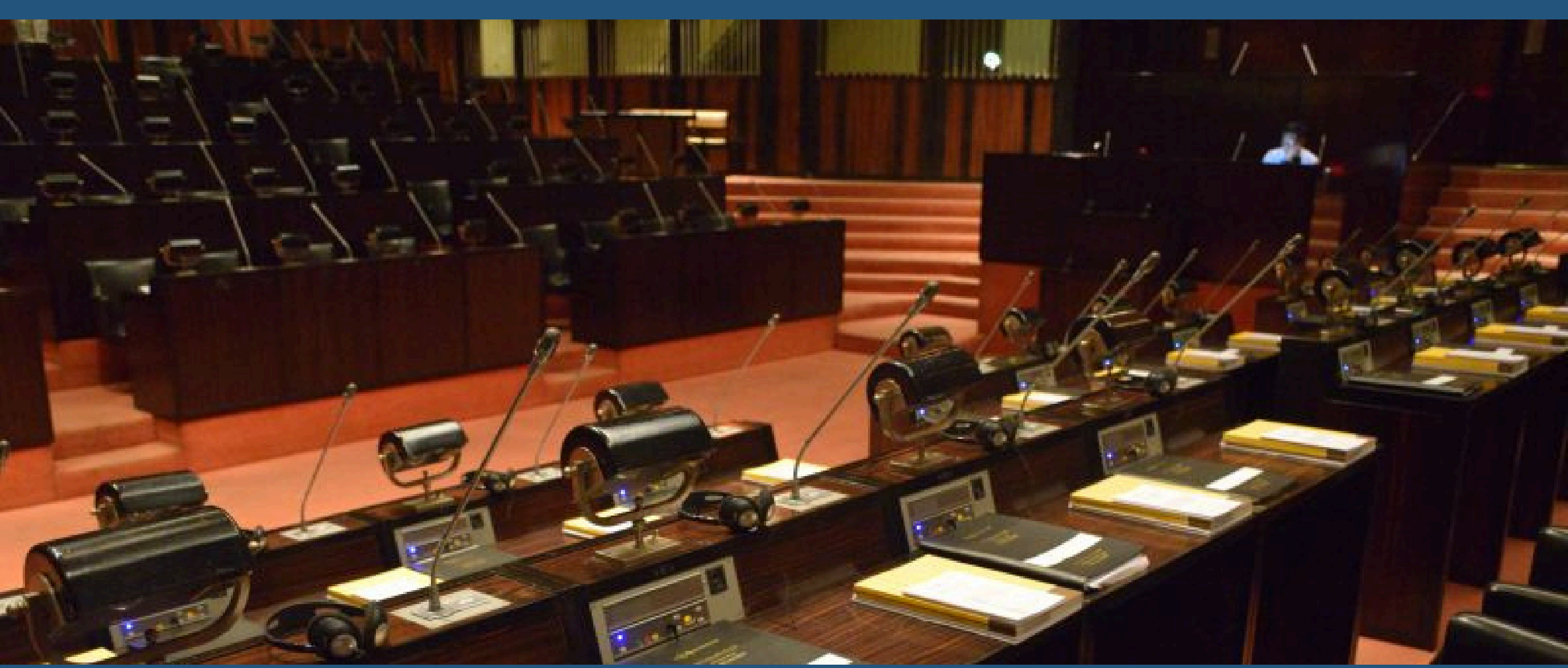
Focus: Equips participants with practical strategies to manage interpersonal and organizational conflicts constructively. The module focuses on understanding conflict styles, applying negotiation techniques such as win-win and principled negotiation, and navigating power dynamics to reach effective outcomes.

Interactive exercises include mock negotiations and role-plays where participants assume roles in realistic conflict or negotiation scenarios, followed by group debriefs. These activities help students apply mediation skills, analyze conflict behaviors, and reflect on effective approaches to resolving disputes and reaching consensus.

4. Building and Leading High-Performing Teams

Focus: Focuses on developing the leadership skills necessary to cultivate collaboration, accountability, and a shared sense of purpose within teams. Participants will explore key concepts such as team development stages, motivation techniques, effective delegation, inclusive leadership, and constructive performance feedback.

Through interactive team-building activities and case simulations, students will apply these concepts in practical settings, addressing challenges related to team dynamics, goal-setting, and performance management. Group debriefs will encourage reflection on leadership strategies for sustaining high-performing, inclusive teams.



POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN POLITICS & GOVERNANCE

The Postgraduate Diploma in Politics and Governance offers a broad and rigorous foundation in Political Science, combining classical theory with contemporary practice. Students will trace the evolution of political thought from ancient Greece through the Enlightenment to modern debates, critically engaging with key themes, thinkers, and global political issues.

The program provides an in-depth exploration of public policy processes and governance dynamics, examining the roles of political, administrative, and institutional actors within democratic frameworks. A special emphasis is placed on Sri Lanka's political and constitutional development, studying major transformations, governance challenges, ethnic politics, and electoral reforms. At the international level, students will explore post-Cold War global politics, including the rise of a multipolar world, the influence of non-state actors, technological change, and new models of global governance.

Through a blend of theory, comparative perspectives, and real-world analysis, the course equips students with critical analytical skills necessary to understand and engage with the complexities of both Sri Lankan and international political landscapes.

Course Module Outlines

1. **PGP1013** - Key Themes in Political Science Inquiry
2. **PGP1023** - Policy Formulation and Governance
3. **PGP1033** - Political Economy and Development
4. **PGP2013** - Political and Constitutional development in Post Colonial Sri Lanka
5. **PGP2023** - Selected Themes in Governance and Politics in Sri Lanka
6. **PGP2033** - Changing Dynamics in the Post Cold War World Order

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand core political concepts and how they evolve within different socio-political settings.
- Critically analyze political events and policy processes using key theories and real-world examples.
- Evaluate public policy responses to current challenges by linking theory to practice.
- Apply research skills in selecting topics, developing proposals, and presenting findings effectively.

Register for the PGD in Politics & Governance - <https://balpp.com/pgd-in-politics-and-governance>



POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ECONOMIC POLICY

This program offers a comprehensive and practice-oriented foundation in Development Studies through an economic lens. It is designed to equip students with a deep understanding of critical development issues such as human capital, gender, urbanization, climate change, governance, and agriculture, while linking these themes to broader economic dynamics.

Students will develop strong analytical skills in macroeconomics and microeconomics, gaining insights into key variables like inflation, interest rates, exchange rates, market behavior, and the role of government intervention. Special attention will be given to public finance, sovereign debt, the international economic system, and the case study of Sri Lanka's 2022 economic crisis. Additionally, the program addresses the significance of international trade and its relationship with development goals.

Emphasizing a strong research foundation, students will also be trained in identifying research gaps, formulating hypotheses, and applying theory to real-world economic policy challenges. By bridging theory and practice, this PgD prepares future policymakers, researchers, and development practitioners to design innovative solutions for complex economic issues at national and global levels.

Course Module Outlines

1. **ECP1013** - Selected Themes of Development Economics
2. **ECP1023** - Introduction to Macroeconomics for Policy
3. **ECP1033** - Principles of Microeconomics for Policy
4. **ECP2013** - Concepts in Public Finance
5. **ECP2023** - International Trade and Globalization
6. **ECP2033** - Evidence Based Economic Policy Analysis

Learning Outcomes

- Analyze macroeconomic indicators and their global impact on poverty, inequality, and growth in Sri Lanka.
- Evaluate fiscal and monetary policies to recommend sustainable solutions with global relevance.
- Assess international trade theories and their implications for global economic development.
- Formulate policy recommendations to improve fiscal sustainability and global trade competitiveness.

Register for the PGD in Economic Policy - <https://balpp.com/pgd-in-economic-policy>



POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION POLICY

This program offers a critical and comparative exploration of the education sector, spanning the full spectrum from pre-childhood and early childhood development to high school transitions, university admissions, technical and vocational education (TVET), and postgraduate studies.

Students will examine key policies underpinning free university education in Sri Lanka, analyzing their effects on gender, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities. The course also delves into the political movements and social unrest arising from education inequities, encouraging students to engage with policy reforms aimed at improving access, quality, and the realization of the right to education for all.

Through international comparisons and Sri Lankan case studies, participants will explore how governments regulate private education, the challenges of aligning higher education with labor market needs, and the impact of neo-liberal corporatization trends that increasingly frame students as 'clients.' This program equips students with the critical tools to understand, evaluate, and influence education policy for more equitable, inclusive, and responsive system

Course Module Outlines

1. **EPA1013** - Early Childhood and K-12 education: Policy implementation, strategies and challenges
2. **EPA1023** - Tertiary Education Policies suited for the 21st century, affordability, access and employability
3. **EPA1033** - Governance and Leadership and investment and funding education
4. **EPA2013** - Curriculum and instructional materials design, assessment and curriculum innovation and review
5. **EPA2023** - Teaching methodologies, teacher training, technological innovations and use of AI in the classrooms
6. **EPA2033** - Citizenship, character, values in education, social, emotional and holistic learning

Learning Outcomes

- Analyze education policy across all levels with a focus on equity, access, and governance.
- Explore education's role in national development and inclusive citizenship.
- Apply global best practices to policy reform and funding in Sri Lanka.
- Evaluate policy impact using sociological and educational lenses.
- Design innovative, tech-integrated, and job-relevant curricula.

Register for the PGD in Education Policy - <https://balpp.com/pgd-in-education-policy>



POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

The Postgraduate Diploma in Strategic Leadership is designed for aspiring leaders who wish to drive transformative change in an increasingly dynamic and interconnected world. This program equips students with the essential skills to think and lead with vision, emphasizing the development of emotional intelligence, strategic planning, and innovative thinking.

The curriculum delves into leadership psychology, enabling students to understand and manage diverse leadership styles and interpersonal dynamics effectively. A key focus of the program is on leadership in the modern era, with an exploration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) strategies. Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of governance systems and how to foster creativity within organizations to drive sustainable growth.

Course Module Outlines

1. **SLG1013** - Leadership Playbook Essentials - Visionary Thinking, Purpose & Strategic Leadership
2. **SLG1023** - Leadership Mindset: the Psychology of Creating Impact
3. **SLG1033** - The Leadership Role in Governance
4. **SLG2013** - The Leadership Investment - skills to capitalize on opportunities & Navigate Challenges
5. **SLG2023** - The Leadership Difference - the Role of Innovation, Creativity & Cultural Empathy
6. **SLG2033** - Managing Geo-Politics

Learning Outcomes:

- Apply leadership theories to enhance organizational success and ethical practice.
- Evaluate governance frameworks that promote inclusion, innovation, and workplace respect.
- Use emotional intelligence and negotiation skills for effective leadership and decision making.
- Develop continuous leadership strategies using digital tools and global insights.
- Analyze geopolitical shifts and lead strategically in complex global contexts.

Register for the PGD in Strategic Leadership - <https://balpp.com/pgd-in-strategic-leadership>



POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CYBERSECURITY POLICY

This program provides students with a critical understanding of how rapid technological advancements are reshaping industries, security, and governance globally. The program focuses on Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies, exploring their disruptive potential and strategic applications for innovation.

Students will build a solid foundation in cybersecurity principles, threat analysis, and risk management, gaining practical skills to safeguard organizations against evolving cyber threats. The course also examines emerging cybercrime trends, defense strategies, and the importance of cyber threat intelligence in national and corporate security.

In addition, students will engage with global and Sri Lankan regulatory frameworks, including the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA), AI governance mechanisms, and ethical considerations surrounding technology use. Emphasizing the intersection of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and national security, this program prepares students to navigate and lead in an increasingly complex and digitally-driven world.

Course Module Outlines

1. **CSP1013** - Emerging Technology and Digital Transformation
2. **CSP1023** - AI, AI Ethics and Governance
3. **CSP1033** - Cybersecurity Fundamentals and Risk Management
4. **CSP2013** - Threat Actors, Cybercrime, and Defense Strategies
5. **CSP2023** - Cybersecurity Regulations, Technology Compliance and Data Privacy
6. **CSP2033** - Cybersecurity, AI and National Defense Strategies

Learning Outcomes:

- Analyze the impact of 4IR technologies on organizations, addressing ethical, legal, and regulatory challenges.
- Evaluate AI technologies, focusing on risks, governance, and strategies for ethical adoption.
- Apply cybersecurity principles to identify threats, vulnerabilities, and develop robust security policies.
- Assess cyber threats and deploy proactive defense mechanisms using threat intelligence.

Register for the PGD in Cybersecurity Policy - <https://balpp.com/pgd-in-cybersecurity-policy>



Bandaranaike Academy for Leadership & Public Policy

The Bandaranaike Academy for Leadership & Public Policy is the first and premier institute for leadership and public policy in Sri Lanka, established with a vision to create the next generation of ethical socially responsible effective leaders.

Visit us : [Block 4, BMICH, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo.](#)

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