

MA Development Studies 2013 – 2014

The complex challenges of global poverty and development are making ever greater demands on those working in aid agencies, governments, NGOs and policy and research institutes. Meeting these challenges calls for creative development professionals who can apply and integrate critical thinking and practical experience from a wide range of perspectives, and can be innovative in seeking meaningful solutions.

The one year MA in Development Studies provides a solid grounding in international development concepts, theories and approaches. Students are equipped with the analytical and practical skills they need to engage critically in development issues and debates from an interdisciplinary perspective, and to work across the intersections of development policy, research and practice.

Coming from diverse cultures and backgrounds and with a broad range of career histories, students who successfully complete the MA in Development Studies can expect to:

- Critically engage with the main theories, concepts and debates in the field of development studies in their historical and contemporary contexts
- Critically evaluate the appropriateness of a range of disciplinary perspectives and research methods for use in different contexts
- Critically and systematically assess policy options for specific development issues in different contexts
- Collaborate effectively with other professionals from diverse disciplinary and cultural backgrounds

The MA course is structured to provide coherence and integration with other masters courses offered at IDS, allowing students to develop a degree of focus on a specific issue or theme.

During the two terms there are three compulsory modules, one core module which students may select, and two shorter options. These are taught through lectures, seminars and group tutorials. Students write a 10,000 word dissertation under the supervision of an IDS faculty member. Under exceptional circumstances, it is possible to write a longer, intensively supervised, dissertation. A range of Professional Skills for Development workshops are also offered.

The IDS faculty are leading researchers in a number of development fields and the course is designed so that students benefit from knowledge of the very latest research and research methodologies. IDS provides a small, close-knit and supportive learning environment that encourages sharing of diverse perspectives, ideologies, disciplines and approaches to research

Term One (September – December)	All students take <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ideas in Development and Policy, Evidence and Practice And choose two from the following three core options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sociology, Anthropology and the Development Conundrum - Introduction to Development Economics - Empowering Society
Term Two (January – April)	Students choose 60 credits from a range of options, choosing at least one 30 credit option. Modules vary from year to year, but may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competing in the Global Economy (30 Credits) - Democracy and Development (30 Credits) - Poverty, Policy and Programme (30 Credits) - Politics of Implementing Gender and Development (30 Credits) - Health and Development (30 Credits) - Governance of Violent conflict and (In)security (15 Credits) - Management of Public Finance (15 Credits) - Aid and Poverty: The Political Economy of International Development Assistance (15 Credits) - Poverty, Violence and Conflict (15 Credits) - Climate Change and Development (15 Credits) - Doing Gender and Development (15 Credits)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflective Practice and Social Change (15 Credits) - Emerging Powers and International Development (15 Credits) - Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods (15 Credits) - Qualitative and Ethnographic Research Methods (15 Credits) - Action Research and Participatory Methods (15 Credits) - Impact Evaluation (15 Credits) - Unruly Politics (15 Credits) - Sexuality, Masculinity and Development (15 Credits)
May - August	10,000 word dissertation under the supervision of a faculty member
Professional Skills for Development workshops will also run in each term	

Assessment

Progress is assessed through term papers as well as shorter essays, practical coursework, individual or group student presentations, and in some cases examinations. Students write a final dissertation of 10,000 words, based upon a substantial piece of secondary work and, in some cases, short periods of field work.

Entry Requirements

A good honours degree in a social or natural science discipline, and two years work experience in a developing country or in development-related work. The minimum acceptable level of English language competence is grade 7 overall, and no less than 6.5 in each section of the IELTS test (or equivalent).

Fees and Funding

For entry in September 2013, fees are £13,500 for all students. For sources of funding please see: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/funding>. One scholarship is available for applicants from African members of the Commonwealth through a joint scheme between IDS and the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. Please contact IDS for further information.

Application Forms

For a copy of the University's postgraduate prospectus please see <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg/>

For information about how to apply please see <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg/applying>

For further information

www.ids.ac.uk/study

Contact Programme Officer, James Prescott. Phone: +44 (0) 273 915647. E-mail: J.Prescott@ids.ac.uk