

MA Governance and Development 2017-18

Good governance emerged in the 1990s, after a decade dominated by structural adjustment courses, as one of the most important and enduring new areas of policy and practice in development studies. Since then, a critical policy issue has been how to reform and rebuild states in the developing world, focusing on two key areas: the creation of more effective and legitimate legal, administrative, financial and policymaking institutions; and the promotion of social justice and empowerment for poor people by harnessing an active civil society. The MA Governance and Development provides students with a theoretically informed understanding of debates on governance, enhancing their capacity to develop and implement policies in NGOs and public organisations. The course aims to cover both the ‘state-centric’ and ‘societal’ aspects of governance, although the primary focus is on the functioning of political institutions in their societal context.

The main objectives of the course are to enhance the ability of students to:

- Critically engage with the main concepts, theories and debates on the factors that determine the quality of governance and the relationship between governance and development in their historical and contemporary contexts
- Demonstrate an ability to critically assess and develop appropriate policy options for improving the quality of governance in specific settings
- Appropriately apply different methodologies of research and analytical methods in different contexts relevant to governance
- Collaborate effectively with international development professionals from diverse backgrounds

Term One (September - December)	Core Module One Core Module Two Core Module Three	Ideas in Development and Policy, Evidence and Practice (15 credits) Political Economy of Governance (30 credits) Making Public Policy (30 credits)
Term Two (January - April)	Core Module Four Core Module Five Module Six Module Seven	All students take: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democracy and Public Policy (30 credits) - Research Design (15 credits) Students choose 30 credits from a range of options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate Change and Development (15 credits) - Impact Evaluation (15 credits) - Reflective Practice and Social Change (15 credits) - Health and Development (30 credits) - Aid and Poverty: The political economy of international development assistance (15 credits) - Poverty, Violence and Conflict (15 credits) - Governance of Violent Conflict and (in)security (15 credits) - Public Financial Management (15 credits) - Emerging Powers and International Development (15 credits) - Politics of Implementing Gender and Development (15 credits) - Unruly Politics (15 credits) - Nutrition (15 credits)
May - August	MA Dissertation	10,000 word dissertation under the supervision of a faculty member

Ideas in Development and Policy, Evidence and Practice

This module is the foundation for all the Masters' courses at IDS. It provides students with the opportunity for shared learning across the different courses as well as to meet IDS researchers from across all the disciplines and points of view represented in the Institute.

Political Economy of Governance

This module gives students an understanding of the basic concepts and issues underlying the course, including, the concept of 'governance'; the nature and role of the state; and the primacy of politics in development. It also introduces students to various aspects of current thinking about governance reform, which are pursued in other modules in greater depth.

Making Public Policy

This module introduces students to the main concepts of organisational behaviour and public management. It develops students' ability to apply these concepts to current issues of policy formulation and implementation in developing country organisations.

Democracy and Public Policy

The module examines the past, present and future of democracy, both in theory and in practice. It discusses alternative forms of democracy, including both representative and participatory approaches, and considers the conditions that affect democratisation processes.

Research Design

This module aims to provide students with a practical introduction to research methodologies and methods. The module will combine practical exercises with structured sessions that introduce: different research paradigms and principles of research design, issues around qualitative and quantitative data collection and management, analysis and interpretation and key debates around epistemology, methodology and ethics.

Dissertation

A dissertation, of up to 10,000 words, is intended to develop the student's ability to design and present a theoretically-informed policy proposal related to a particular political or organisational issue arising from the course.

Assessment

A mixture of assessment modes is used: one written examination paper (seen in advance), short written exercises, group presentations and longer term papers.

Entry Requirements

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in the social sciences or a related discipline, and preferably two years' development-related work experience. Applications must be accompanied by a detailed, two page personal statement. The minimum acceptable level of English language competence is grade 7.0 overall, and no less than 6.5 in each section of the IELTS test (or equivalent).

Fees and Funding

For entry in September 2017, fees are £8,000 for Home UK/EU, Channel and Isle of Man students; £15,100 for Overseas students.

For scholarship opportunities and information on sources of funding please see <http://www.ids.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding> and <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/funding>.

Applying

For a copy of the University's postgraduate prospectus please see www.sussex.ac.uk/study/prospectus
For information about how to apply please see www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg/applying

Further Information

See our website www.ids.ac.uk/study or contact the Programme Officer, Lisa Ross. Telephone: +44 (0)1273 915854, E-mail: l.ross@ids.ac.uk