

MA Governance and Development

The Institute of Development Studies (IDS), based at the University of Sussex, is a **research institute that teaches**.

IDS is ranked as **one of the best university-affiliated Think Tanks** and the **top university-affiliated Think Tank on international development** worldwide.

IDS is the only institute in the UK **accredited by EADI**, the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes.

Within IDS' vast research themes **governance plays a central role**, with Fellows at the institute working on: Collective Action and Social Accountability; Decentralisation; Financial Management and Taxation; Governance without government (informal institutions); Methods for Policy-Engaged Research; Politics of Public Policies; and Public Authority and State Capacity.

One of IDS' key postgraduate programmes, now running on its 15th year, is the **MA Governance and Development**.

Using andragogical (**adult learning**) rather than pedagogical skills – allowing for students to contribute with their experience – a distinct feature of the MA Governance and Development is the **focus on Policy and Practice**.

Foundational modules provide theoretical frameworks and concepts for the other modules that are designed to apply these concepts to a range of development issues, with a focus on **equipping students** with the **methodologies and tools** to assess and critique different **policy options**.

We draw upon practical case-studies, faculty, students, and research partners from **Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, and South Asia**, to enrich the curriculum of the MA.

The **classroom sizes vary between 14 and 25 students** in the morning lectures, and 7 to 12 in the afternoon seminars – where students draw-out and build on the richness and diversity of their experiences, linking them to the lectures and readings.

Besides lectures and seminars, MA students benefit from:

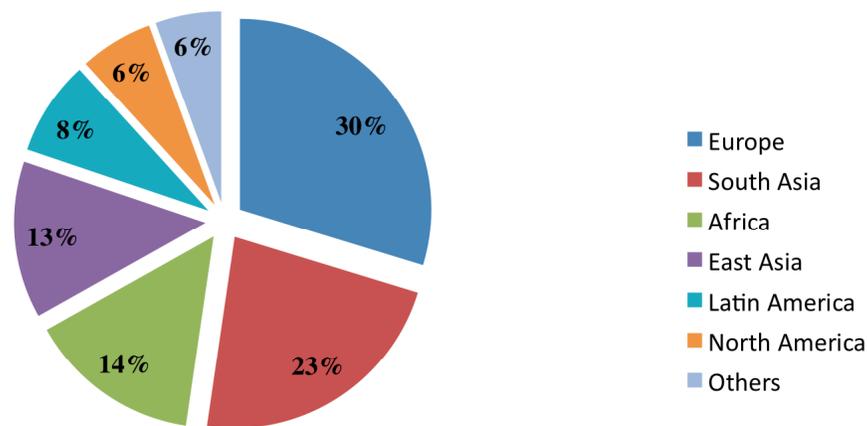
- Weekly course sessions, where we **bring 'the field' into the classroom**, inviting representatives of the State, NGOs, and donors to share their views on governance;
- **Lunchtime talks**, where our research partners, practitioners and academics come to share their views, as well as our own Fellows;
- **Professional skills' workshops** such as: writing policy briefs; presentation skills; participatory methods; working in cross-cultural groups; and policy argumentation.

Overall, the **formal and informal learning opportunities** we offer are unparalleled.

We regard **students** as **members of IDS** and not simply ‘students’ – and we are not the only ones saying that: students themselves state that their overall experience at IDS is filled with **cross-cultural exchange** amongst themselves and the learning process that results from it, in an environment where **creativity is encouraged**.

Over **90% of IDS students** are **experienced professionals**, having worked in government, private sector, NGOs, bilateral and multilateral donor and lending agencies, as well as UN agencies.

Geographic Provenance of MA Governance and Development Students



The MA Governance and Development **alumni network** currently has **over 300 members**. Originating from 64 countries, they work(ed) in more than 150 countries.

Most of these alumni are today governance experts and advisers at several UN agencies, international financial institutions, bilateral donors, international NGOs, national and international private sector companies, as well as judges, advisers to national presidents, ministers, and secretaries, and ministers themselves.

Regional Spread of MA Governance and Development Alumni

