

MA Poverty and Development 2017-18

Poverty reduction is the ultimate measure of development effectiveness. This one-year course is designed to examine thinking, policy and practice on vulnerability and poverty. It provides students with the knowledge and skills to engage professionally with the design, implementation and assessment of national and international efforts to reduce poverty.

During the three terms students will take four compulsory modules and two shorter options. These are taught through lectures and seminars and assessed through term papers of 3-5,000 words. Students also write a 10,000 word dissertation on an aspect of poverty reduction. All students will have a personal supervisor from the IDS Vulnerability and Poverty Reduction research team. During the first and second terms there are also professional skills for development workshops, which provide knowledge and resources on using the analytic tools of development studies.

At the end of the course students will be able to approach issues in poverty reduction and development with confidence, having gained:

- Critically engage with the main theories, concepts and debates of development in their historical and contemporary context with specialised knowledge on the treatment of poverty reduction within the development discourse.
- Approach issues in poverty reduction and development with confidence and knowledge through a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge.
- Collaborate effectively, and in a critical way with other professionals from diverse social science backgrounds concerned with poverty reduction and development issues.
- Understand and use commonly applied research methods and skills, drawing on both qualitative and quantitative methods.

Term One (September - December)	Core Module One Core Module Two Core Module Three	All students take: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ideas in Development and Policy, Evidence and Practice - Poverty & Development: Disciplinary Perspectives - Poverty and Inequality
Term Two (January - April)	Core Module Four Core Module Five Module Six/Seven	All students take: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poverty, Policy and Programmes (30 credits) - Introduction to Research (15 credits) Students choose one 30-credit module or two 15-credit modules from a range of options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and Development (30 credits) - Politics of Implementing Gender and Development (15 credits) - Governance of Violent conflict and (In)security (15 credits) - Public Financial Management (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) - Reflective Practice and Social Change (15 credits) - Emerging Powers and International Development (15 credits) - Impact Evaluation (15 credits) - Unruly Politics (15 credits)

May - August	MA Dissertation	10,000 word dissertation under the supervision of a faculty member
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Ideas in Development and Policy, Evidence and Practice (Term One)

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.

Poverty & Development - Disciplinary Perspectives (Term One)

This is a poverty and development foundation module. It is designed to allow students to appreciate the key contributions of different disciplines to the analysis of poverty and development. During the module of study the students will learn or refresh their knowledge on the key approaches and methods used in the social science disciplines, including economics. They will learn the specific contributions of different disciplines to discourse and knowledge on poverty and development. This will enable students to appreciate the historic evolution of ideas on poverty in the context of development studies. By the end of the module students will have developed their understanding of the different social science disciplines and be able to critically engage with their contribution to the conceptualisation and analysis of poverty.

Poverty and Inequality (Term One)

This module is designed to equip students with an analytic appreciation of public policy in key sectors and the impact of these policies on poverty reduction. It develops analysis of key policy areas including livelihoods, health, micro finance and food security. The module examines the impact of economic growth and social development on poverty and inequality and draws on different welfare concepts to enrich this analysis.

Poverty, Policy and Programmes (Term Two)

This module builds on the theoretical literature on risk and vulnerability and examines a range of policy responses focusing on social protection. From climate change to conflict, and from HIV to drought, the aim of this wide-ranging module is to understand the multiple vulnerabilities facing poor households and the most effective coping and mitigation strategies to address them.

Introduction to Research (Term Two and May)

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.

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 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>.

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>.

Further Information

Visit: www.ids.ac.uk/study

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