

## **MSc Applied Development Studies For students entering in 2009**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading Faculty of Life Sciences
Programme length:	6 month Certificate, 9 month PG Diploma, 12 month MSc
Date of specification:	July 2009
Programme Director:	Sarah Cardey
Board of Studies:	GIIDAE
Accreditation:	
Web site:	<a href="http://www.reading.ac.uk/apd/about/apd-aboutgiidae.asp">http://www.reading.ac.uk/apd/about/apd-aboutgiidae.asp</a>

### **Summary of programme aims**

The aims of the programme in Applied Development Studies

- Develop an interdisciplinary understanding of the complex factors which influence the effectiveness of planned development interventions
- Strengthen professional competence in the design, planning and management of development interventions.

### **Transferable skills**

The programme requires a substantial amount of independent reading, research and study and students are expected to take personal responsibility and show initiative in developing their knowledge and understanding of the field of study. In following this programme students will also have the opportunity to enhance and develop their skills relating to communication (both oral and written), presentations, information handling, problem solving, teamwork, and the use of information technology. Students will learn to work independently, under time pressures, and will learn to set priorities and manage their time in order to meet strict deadlines. Career planning, via choice of modules, will be an integral part of the programme.

### **Programme content**

Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits):

Students take three compulsory modules (30 credits) from a choice of four modules (IDM067, IDM024, IDM046, IDM012) and two core modules (IDM001 and IDM071) (30 credits) to total 60 credits.

Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits):

Students take six compulsory modules (IDM067, IDM024, IDM046, IDM012, IDM001 and IDM071) (70 credits) and select a further 50 credits from a wide range of taught modules, subject to satisfying any module pre-requisites, to total 120 credits.

MSc in Applied Development Studies (180 credits):

Students take six compulsory modules (IDM067, IDM024, IDM046, IDM012, IDM001 and IDM0071) (70 credits) and select a further 50 credits from a wide range of modules, subject to satisfying any module pre-requisites, to total 120 credits from the taught component of the programme. The MSc then additionally involves a dissertation project worth 60 credits.

Module code	Module Title	Credits	Level
<b>Compulsory Modules (70 credits)</b>			
IDM001	Perspectives on development	20	7
IDM071	Research and Study Skills for Independent Learning	10	7
IDM067	Research methods for development and communication	10	7
IDM024	Social policies for development	10	7
IDM046	Governance, accountability and development	10	7
IDM012	Gender and development	10	7
<b>Optional Modules (students select 50 credits)*</b>			
IDM066	Communication and Innovation in Development	10	7
APME61	Appraisal of agricultural and rural development projects	10	7
IDM075	Microfinance	10	7
IDM019	Organisation, people and change	10	7
IDM006	Concepts and strategies of social development	10	7
EDM100	Education in developing countries	20	7
IDM021	Poverty, inequality and livelihoods	10	7
ECM68	The WTO and the Developing Countries	10	7
ECM64	Trade policies for developing countries	10	7
IDM068	Extractive Industries, the Environment and Developing Societies	10	7
<b>Dissertation Module (for MSc)</b>			
IDM072	Dissertation	60	7

**\* the modules listed above are a sample of the modules available – students may select widely from the modules in the module guide.**

### **Part-time and Modular Arrangements**

All students have the modular flexibility described in the ‘Programme content’ section above. Part-time students may build up their modular credits towards a Certificate, Diploma or MSc over an extended period.

### **Summary of Teaching and Assessment**

Teaching is organised in modules that typically involve a combination of lectures and seminars. Some lecture based modules are supported by workshops or computer lab sessions. Modules are assessed by a combination of course work and/or formal examination. Examinations will normally take place at the beginning of the Summer Term.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

<u>Mark</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
70 – 100%	Distinction
60 – 69%	Merit
50 – 59%	Good standard (Pass)
<u>Failing categories:</u>	
40 – 49%	Work below threshold standard
0 – 39%	Unsatisfactory Work

#### *For Masters Degrees*

To pass the MSc students must normally gain an average mark of 50 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation *and have no mark below 40 in Compulsory modules* (IDM067, IDM024, IDM046, IDM012, IDM001 and IDM0071). In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of at least 60 in the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of at least 50 in the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.

#### *For PG Diplomas*

To pass the MSc students must normally gain an average mark of 50 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation *and have no mark below 40 in Compulsory modules* (IDM067, IDM024, IDM046, IDM012, IDM001 and IDM0071). In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must be less than 60 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.

#### *For PG Certificate*

To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must normally gain an average mark of 50 or more. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.

### **Summary of teaching and assessment**

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of materials takes a variety of forms including lectures, classes, seminars and group exercises.

Assessment is modular and involves coursework and, for some modules, unseen examinations. The nature of the assessment is determined by the aims of the module.

A dissertation supervisor is appointed for each student.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained an honours degree or its equivalent in a relevant subject but applicants with other qualifications as may be approved by the Senate, and who have at least 2 years' professional experience in a relevant field of

development work are also eligible to apply for admission to this programme. References are also taken into account.

Admissions Tutor:                   The Programme Director is responsible for admissions

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme.

Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online ([www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk](http://www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk)), or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation periods). Further information can be found in the Student Diary (given to students at enrolment) or on the Student website ([www.reading.ac.uk/student](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)).

A Research and Study Skills (IDM071) module is available to support learning throughout the taught component of the programme and to develop independent learning skills required for successful completion of the dissertation

### **Career prospects**

Students who have followed this programme are working in a wide variety of development sectors including bi and multi-lateral aid agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and in development research in the UK and abroad.

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

With the agreement of their dissertation supervisor, students may be allowed to study abroad or take up placements during the Summer Term as part of their dissertation work.

### **Educational aims of the programme**

The aim of the programme in Applied Development Studies is to equip graduates with the understanding, skills and confidence to become competent reflexive professionals, capable of working across a wide range of contexts concerning planned development interventions.

## Programme Outcomes

### *Knowledge and Understanding*

<p><b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The historical and ideological forces which have shaped the theory and practice of planned development interventions</li><li>2. The influence of economic, physical, social and political environments in which planned development interventions take place</li><li>3. Appropriate concepts to analyse the effects of planned development initiatives upon the livelihoods of rural and urban people</li></ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>Mixture of lectures, seminars, directed reading, group and individual project work, individual and group presentation, guided readings and guidance on key sources of reference material. Feedback and guidance are important elements complementing and emphasis on self-directed study</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>By coursework and, in some cases, formal examinations; coursework to include essay assignments and presentations</p>
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*Skills and other attributes*

<p><b>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Structure, analyse and evaluate theoretical and conceptual issues and the bases for their relevance in the context of planned development intervention</li><li>2. Think logically and analytically and to understand the difference between positive and normative statements relating to development processes</li><li>3. Identify key development approaches and evaluate them with reference to practice and outcome</li><li>4. Comprehend the rapidly evolving discourse of development and the factors influencing both the change and the pace of change</li></ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>Students are frequently challenged in all teaching situations to complete logical arguments, analyse problems, seek and evaluate alternative explanations, and justify held beliefs. Long essay, debate, group work and presentations provide the principal vehicles by which intellectual skills are developed</p> <p><i>Assessment</i> By formative tests and presentations. Other assignments, including coursework and, in some cases, formal examinations; dissertation</p>
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**C. Practical skills – able to:**

1. Evaluate the bases of alternative development policy approaches
2. Evaluate the bases of the multiple meanings of key concepts in the discourse of planned development intervention
3. Evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of alternative development implementation strategies
4. Effectively apply a range of frameworks useful in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development interventions and processes
5. Identify, access, evaluate, synthesise, analyse, collate and represent data relevant to the critical evaluation of development policy and practice

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Students are required to undertake and understand a wide range of reading, from traditional published sources, web-based material and other grey literature relating to development policy and practice. This includes both directed reading and through researching their own sources of information. Discussion in lectures and seminars emphasises the use of empirical evidence, and the strengths and weaknesses of alternative theories, methodologies and practices

1-5 are achieved through lectures, seminars, presentations, case studies, group work, and dissertation

*Assessment*

Long essays, presentations and unseen examinations

**D. Transferable skills – able to:**

1. Communicate knowledge and opinions effectively to a wide range of people through selection and use of a variety of means
2. Reflect and evaluate his/her own academic progress and its implications for emerging/changing professional practice
3. Identify, access, evaluate, synthesise, analyse, collate and represent data relevant to a specific issue or issues
4. Manage time and prioritise workloads in the context of changing demands

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

The presentation of well-researched written work is a fundamental element of the programme and requires the application of all the skills listed in 1-5. This is complemented and reinforced by enhanced oral skills, developed through lecture and seminar discussions, tutorials and group activities

*Assessment*

By formative tests and presentations. Other assignments, including coursework and, in some cases, formal examinations; dissertation

**Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**