

## **MSc/Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate in Development Finance For students entering in 2009**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading Faculty of Life Sciences
Programme length:	6 month Postgraduate Certificate, 9 month PG Diploma, 12 month MSc
Date of specification:	March 2009
Programme Director:	Dr Chittur Srinivasan
Board of Studies:	Graduate Institute of International Development and Applied Economics
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 Development Finance

- Develop an understanding of the theoretical frameworks for the analysis of financial markets in developing, transitional and market economies, and
- Strengthen professional competence in the design, implementation and critical evaluation of financial service provision reform programmes

### **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 (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 five compulsory modules (IDM001, IDM071, IDM009, IDM075 and, IDM063 *or* IDM048) to total 60 credits

Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits):

Students take five compulsory modules (IDM001, IDM071, IDM009, IDM075 and, IDM063 *or* IDM048) (60 credits) and select a further 60 credits from a wide range of taught modules, subject to satisfying any module pre-requisites, to total 120 credits

MSc in Development Finance (180 credits):

Students take five compulsory modules (IDM001, IDM071, IDM009, IDM075 and, IDM063 *or* IDM048) (60 credits) and select a further 60 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.

<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Level</b>
<b>Compulsory Modules (60 credits)</b>			
IDM001	Perspectives on Development	20	7
IDM071	Research and Study Skills for Independent Learning	10	7
IDM009	Development finance	10	7
IDM075	Microfinance	10	7
<i>And <u>one</u> of the two following Modules</i>			
IDM063	Macroeconomics for developing countries; <b>OR</b>	10	7
IDM048	Financial development in emerging economies	10	7
<b>Optional Modules (students select 60 credits)*</b>			
IDM063	Macroeconomics for developing countries ( <b>if not taken as a specialist module</b> )	10	7
IDM048	Financial development in emerging economies ( <b>if not taken as a specialist module</b> )	10	7
IDM034	Corporate finance	10	7
IDM035	Financial markets and corporate governance	10	7
IDM038	Financial markets	10	7
IDM039	Financial regulation	10	7
ECM64	Trade policies for developing countries	10	7
IDM043	Banking in transition economies	10	7
ECM68	The WTO and the developing countries	10	7
IDM052	Private sector development in low income countries	10	7
IDM021	Poverty, inequality and livelihoods	10	7
IDM067	Research methods for development and communication	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 subject to timetabling constraints.**

### **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.

### **Progression requirements**

N/A

### **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.

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* (IDM001, IDM071, IDM009, IDM075 and, IDM063 *or* IDM048). 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 not exceed 55 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 Postgraduate Diploma students must normally gain an average mark of 50 or more *and have no mark below 40 in Compulsory modules* (IDM001, IDM071, IDM009, IDM075 and, IDM063 *or* IDM048). 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 not exceed 55 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.\*

\* The provision to permit a candidate to be passed overall with a profile containing marks below 40 is made subject to the condition that there is evidence that the candidate applied his or herself to the work of those modules with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

### **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 module (IDM071) 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**

The intention is to provide a training which equips graduates of the course for successful careers in public finance, bank and non-bank financial organisations, international finance institutions, including aid agencies, NGOs and research organisations.

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

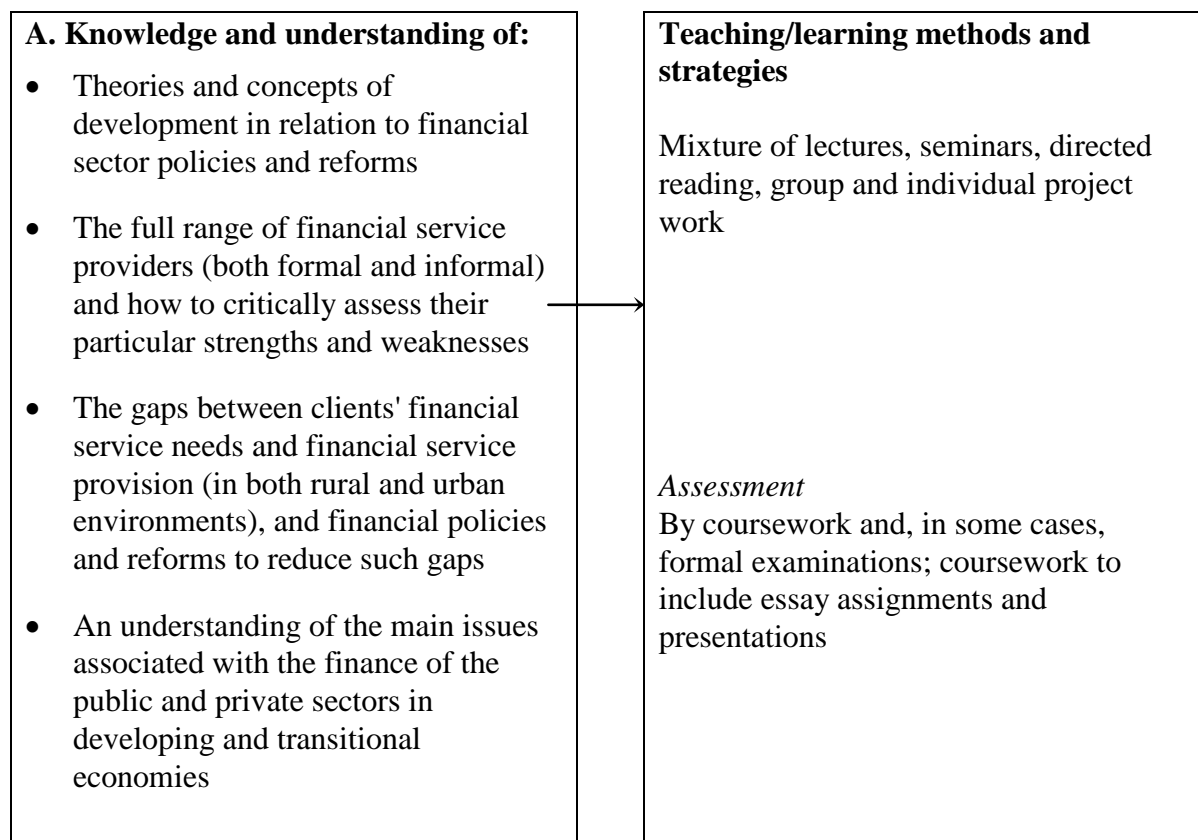
With the agreement of their dissertation supervisor, students may be allowed to study abroad or take up placements during the Summer Term as part of their dissertation work.

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

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

### **Programme Outcomes**

#### *Knowledge and Understanding*



*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 finance approaches and evaluate them with reference to practice and outcome.</li><li>4. Comprehend the rapidly evolving discourse of development finance 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 finance 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 finance implementation strategies
4. Effectively apply a range of frameworks useful in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development finance interventions and processes
5. Identify, access, evaluate, synthesise, analyse, collate and represent data relevant to the critical evaluation of development finance 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 finance 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 choosing and using among 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 the issue at hand
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.**