

MA/Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate in Social Development and Sustainable Livelihoods

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 MA
Date of specification:	May 2009
Programme Director:	Dr. Henny Osbahr
Board of Studies:	Graduate Institute of International Development and Applied Economics
Accreditation:	none
Web site:	http://www.reading.ac.uk/apd/about/apd-aboutguidae.asp

Summary of programme aims

The aims of the programme in Social Development and Sustainable Livelihoods are to:

- Develop an understanding of the conceptual and theoretical frameworks for the analysis of social change brought about by planned development interventions
- Strengthen professional competence in the design, implementation and critical evaluation of planned social change

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, analysis and problem solving, teamwork, and the use of information technology. Students will learn to work both independently and in groups, under time pressures, and will learn to set priorities and manage their time in order to meet deadlines. Career planning will be an integral part of the programme.

Programme content

Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits):

Students choose from the list of compulsory modules (IDM001, IDM006, IDM024, IDM046, IDM071 and IDM077) to total 60 credits.

Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits):

Students take the six compulsory modules (worth 70 credits) (IDM001, IDM006, IDM024, IDM046, IDM071 and IDM077) and select a further 50 credits from a wide range of taught modules, subject to satisfying any module pre-requisites, to total 120 credits.

MA in Social Development and Sustainable Livelihoods (120 credits):

Students take the six compulsory modules (worth 70 credits) (IDM001, IDM006, IDM024, IDM046, IDM071 and IDM077). Students 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 MA additionally involves a dissertation project worth 60 credits.

Module code	Module Title	Credits	Level
Compulsory Modules (70 credits)			
IDM001	Perspectives on Development	20	7
IDM006	Concepts and Strategies of Social Development	10	7
IDM024	Social Policies for Development	10	7
IDM046	Governance, Accountability and Development	10	7
IDM071	Research and Study Skills for Independent Learning	10	7
IDM077	Food Security and Development	10	7
Optional Modules (students select 50 credits)*			
IDM012	Gender and Development	10	7
IDM013	Participatory Interventions in Development	10	7
IDM019	Organisation, People and Change	10	7
IDM021	Poverty, Inequality and Livelihoods	10	7
IDM066	Communication and Innovation in Development	10	7
IDM067	Research Methods for Development and Communication	10	7
IDM073	Environmental and Development: Problems and Policies	10	7
IDM074	Environment and Development: Case Studies	10	7
IDM075	Microfinance	10	7
APME40	Qualitative Research Methods	10	7
APME55	Agricultural Project Planning and Management in Developing Countries	10	7
Dissertation Module (for MA)			
IDM072	Dissertation module	60	7

*** These modules are a guide to options – students can select more widely from the module booklet in consultation with their programme director and 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 Diploma or MA 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 MA 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, IDM006, IDM024, IDM046, IDM071 and IDM077). 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, IDM006, IDM024, IDM046, IDM071 and IDM077). 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 Certificates

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 admission

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), 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).

A Study Skills 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

Graduates from the SDSL programme are currently employed as officers in governmental and non-governmental development agencies around the world, as well as in research, consultancy and publicity posts. Recent contacts include former students working in the World Food Programme, Rome; in FAO, Rome; in the International Red Cross in Geneva, Thailand and Liberia; in agricultural research in Laos; with DEFRA, UK as self-employed consultants; as well as those who returned to their own countries to work in Ministries of Development, Agriculture, Education, Health, or in local NGOs for example in Malaysia, Japan, Ethiopia and Uganda. Others have set up their own NGOs. Social Development studies equip a person with many skills; some have gone on to do further research or doctoral study, while other ex-students have taken up political roles in order to advance their country's development progress.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

With the agreement of the 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 Social Development and Sustainable Livelihoods 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 intervention.

- Develop an understanding of the conceptual and theoretical frameworks for the analysis of social change brought about by planned development interventions
- Strengthen professional competence in the design, implementation and critical evaluation of planned social change

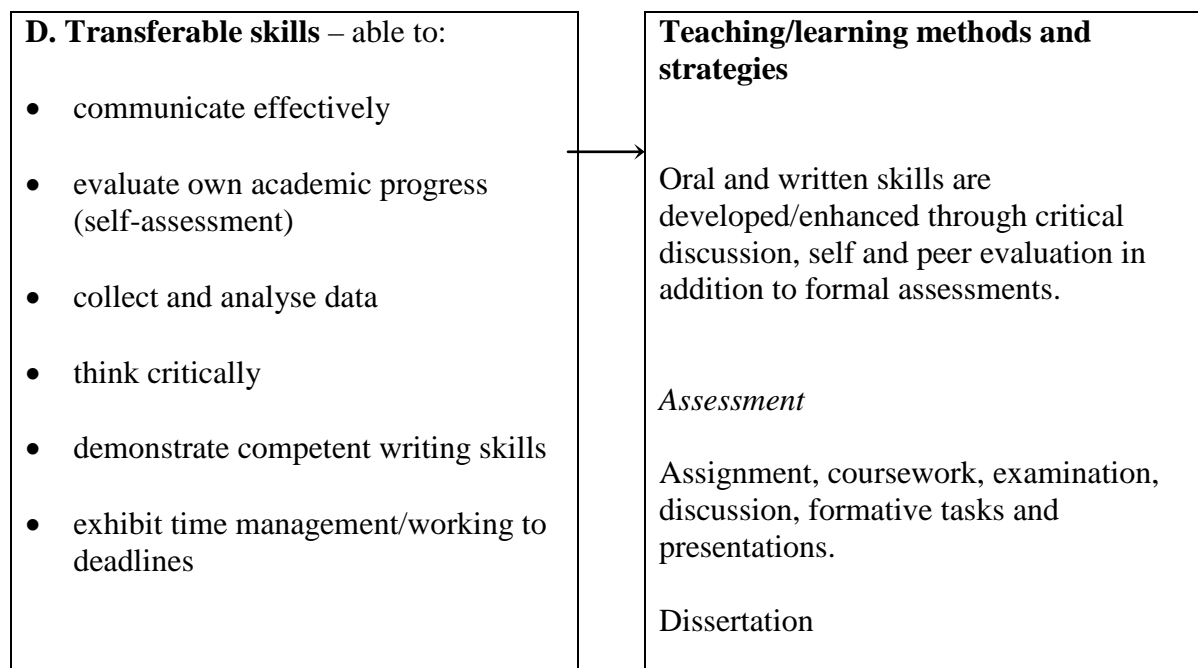
Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

<p>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the historical and ideological forces which have shaped the theory and practice of social development• the basic principles of social systems and their relevance to the planning, implementation and analysis of development initiatives• how to apply appropriate concepts to analyse the effects of planned development initiatives upon the livelihoods of poor and disadvantaged people	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Mixture of lectures, seminars, directed reading, group and individual project work, individual and group presentations, guided reading. Discussions in small groups complement 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. Intellectual skills – able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• critically analyse written texts• assess current development strategies• identify development approaches and evaluate them in terms of practice and outcome• understand the complexity of development dialogues• place in a historical/comparative context current development choices• think logically and argue a case for/against a position	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Students are required to discuss, analyse, and evaluate written and oral texts in small group discussions, in debates and in written assignments. Group work and presentations facilitate learning.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Formative assignments and presentations: coursework: examinations</p>
<p>C. Practical skills – able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ability to write competently in an academic style• ability to argue logically• ability to critically evaluate statements and literature• apply a range of frameworks in the evaluation and implementation of development interventions• data collection and analysis• evaluate the effectiveness of development policies and strategies	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Students are required to absorb, evaluate a wide range of reading related to development theory and policy; and to research/investigate their own reference materials for group and individual work.</p> <p>Interactive sessions throughout the programme achieve the learning skills.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Assignments, coursework, discussions, examination</p>



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.