

MSc International Economic Development For students entering in 2010

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Faculty:	Social Sciences
Programme Length:	12 months
Date of specification:	September 2010
Programme Director:	Dr. Marina Della Giusta
Board of Studies	MA/MSc Economics
Accreditation:	N/A

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to provide a thorough postgraduate education in the specialist area of international economic development. The compulsory modules provide a critical understanding of current theories and empirical research in the field of knowledge and students will develop a practical understanding of the application of this knowledge within an institutional framework. They will learn to evaluate alternative theories and methodologies and to make judgements on their applicability to complex issues where there is incomplete information.

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. They will also need to enhance their skills in communications (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, and the use of information technology. Students will work under pressure of time throughout the programme and will learn to set priorities and manage their time in order to meet strict deadlines. Career planning will be an integral part of the programme, both in the choice of programme and in its elective components.

Programme content

Students register for a 12 month programme comprising taught modules and either a dissertation or an applied research project

<i>Module Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory Modules</i>			
ECM13	Fundamental Economic Methods	0	7
ECM62	Macroeconomics for Developing Countries	20	7
ECM63	Microeconomics for Developing Countries	20	7
ECM64	Trade Policies for Developing Countries	10	7
ECM85	Research Methodology	10	7
ECM86	Quantitative Research Methods*	10	7
Either ECM96 or ECM97:			
ECM97	Dissertation**	40	7
ECM96	Applied Research Project	20	7

An additional 90 credits of electives (70 credits if doing the dissertation) must be taken from the list (appended). Alternative optional modules maybe selected with the permission of the Director of Postgraduate Studies.

*Students with substantial previous experience with econometrics, and with the permission of their Programme Director and the Director of Postgraduate Studies, may instead take an alternative postgraduate econometrics module with a weight of at least 10 credits.

**To be eligible to take the dissertation, students must do at least 80 credits of taught modules in the

Autumn term, and achieve an average coursework mark of at least 60% in each module in that term. They must also try to obtain the agreement of a member of faculty willing to act as supervisor, though one will be appointed if necessary.

Part-time / modular arrangements

The programme may be studied part-time over two consecutive years with the permission of the Director of Postgraduate Studies. The dissertation will be presented in the second year of study.

Progression requirements

Students wishing to proceed to a higher degree by research should normally have obtained an average of at least 60% in the modules and at least 60% in the dissertation.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among the modules, especially in the proportion of time allocated to lectures, classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework which takes a variety of forms reflecting the aims of the module. Final assessment of the modules also involves a 2 hour examination for 20 credit modules and a 1.5 hour examination for 10 credit modules. The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 – 100% Distinction

60 – 69% Merit

50 – 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 – 49% Work below threshold standard

0 – 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degrees

To pass the MSc students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation (if applicable) and have no module mark below 40. In addition the total credit value of 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 60 or more for the dissertation (if applicable) 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 50 or more for the dissertation (if applicable) and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.

For Postgraduate Diplomas

To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more over 120 credits. In addition, among these 120 credits, 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, over 120 credits, gain an average mark of 70 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Students who, over 120 credits, gain an average mark of 60 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.

For Postgraduate Certificates

To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more over 60 credits. In addition, among these 60 credits, the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained an upper second class honours degree or equivalent in economics, or in a degree in which economics was a significant component, or have obtained an upper second class honours degree or equivalent in a subject other than economics and have significant work experience in international development.

Admissions Tutor: Dr. M Della Giusta

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 Programme Directors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Directorate. The Student Services Directorate 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 website (reading.ac.uk/student).

The Programme Director acts as personal tutor to the students and also interviews every student before the beginning of term to offer advice on the operation of the degree programme and on the choice of options. Many of the students are from countries outside the UK and tutors are therefore careful to ensure that students settle down in their new surroundings and understand the requirements of the MSc programme. All 20 credit modules have a test set at the end of the term with the primary purpose of familiarising students with the UK examination system and the requirements of the programme. Students who fail overall on their modules are identified and invited to discuss their problems with their tutor. In addition to lecture and class time, each module lecturer has appointed office hours during which they may be consulted without prior appointment. The Department of Economics also provides a Handbook with details of each module and a Handbook covering the MSc programmes as a whole, including details of the method of assessment of programmes.

Career prospects

Most of the students come from outside the UK and return to employment in their home countries (sponsored students return to their Ministry/Central Bank). UK students enter a variety of occupations, but over the years a number have obtained highly competitive ODI Fellowships, entered the public sector (DFID, FCO, DTI) or international consultancy. A minority of students proceed to a PhD and enter academic/research or international organisations.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

None

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of: 1. Alternative strategies of economic development in an international context. 2. The most recent empirical analysis on 1 (above) 3. The institutional environment affecting the economic development of the developing countries. 4. Alternative policies for countries at different levels of development and with different resource endowments.	Teaching/learning methods and strategies Formal lectures, discussions, individual and group presentations, guided reading and guidance on key sources of reference material. Feedback and guidance are important elements complementing an emphasis on self-study. <i>Assessment</i> Unseen examinations and coursework comprising long essays, projects and tests as appropriate for the module.
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Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to: 1. Structure, analyse and evaluate theoretical and policy issues and problems. 2. Think logically and analytically and to understand the difference between normative and positive statements. 3. Identify key economic relationships and to test these against the evidence. 4. Comprehend the rapidly evolving state of knowledge and institutional environment in the subject area.	Teaching/learning methods and strategies Students are frequently challenged in all teaching situations to complete logical arguments, analyse problems and alternative policies, and justify statements. Long essays, debate and presentations provide the principal vehicles for developing intellectual skills. <i>Assessment</i> Unseen examination and coursework with 3. being assessed mostly in essays and project work.
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C. Practical skills – able to:

1. Draw on the knowledge base in the field of study to suggest policies and strategies to achieve social and economic objectives.
2. Evaluate alternative policies.
3. Evaluate current theoretical and empirical research in the field of study.
4. Identify potential sources of information and analysis relevant to the issue and problems in the field of study.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Students are required to undertake a wide amount of reading, both of specific references and through researching their own sources of information. Discussion in lectures and seminars emphasises formal economic reasoning, the use of statistical and empirical evidence and the strengths and weaknesses in alternative theories and methodologies.

Assessment

Long essays and unseen examinations are the principal methods of assessment.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. Communicate orally and in writing
2. Use IT, including word processing and website searches.
3. Use library and web based resources.
4. Organise extended pieces of work from planning to completion.
5. Manage time and prioritise work to achieve goals.

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 of the skills listed in 1-5. This is reinforced by the breadth and depth of the syllabuses for each module and the highly structured system of deadlines for assessed work, and examinations, which develop the students' skills of time management. Oral skills are developed through lecture and seminar discussions and individual and group presentations.

Assessment

Unseen examination and coursework with 3 being assessed mostly in essays and project work.

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.

ELECTIVE MODULES LIST

Please note that not all the modules will be available every year

<i>Module Code</i>	<i>Module Title Elective Modules</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
ECM10	Econometrics	40	7
ECM15	Small Business Economics	20	7
ECM41	Financial Development in Emerging Economies	20	7
ECM47	Banking and Transition Economies	20	7
ECM58	Private Sector Development in Low-Income Countries	20	7
ECM61	New Issues in Globalisation	10	7
ECM68	The WTO and the Developing Countries	10	7
ECM69	Regional Integration and Development	10	7
ECM73	Economic Development in Emerging Markets	20	7
ECM74	Emerging Economies and Policy	20	7
APME21	Policy Analysis	10	7
IDM021	Poverty, Inequality and Livelihoods	10	7
IDM068	Extractive Industries, The Environment and Developing Societies	10	7
IDM075	Microfinance	10	7
PIM21	Contemporary Diplomacy	30	7

Alternative optional modules maybe selected with the permission of the Director of Postgraduate Studies.