

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

For students entering in 2010

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|------------------------|---|
| 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 2010 |
| 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, IDM079, IDM024, IDM046, IDM071 and IDM077) to total 60 credits.

Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits):

Students take the six compulsory modules (worth 70 credits) (IDM001, IDM079, 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, IDM079, 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 |
| IDM079 | Poverty and Development: concepts and interventions | 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 |
| 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 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.

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, IDM079, 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, IDM079, 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.

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.

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 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 (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.

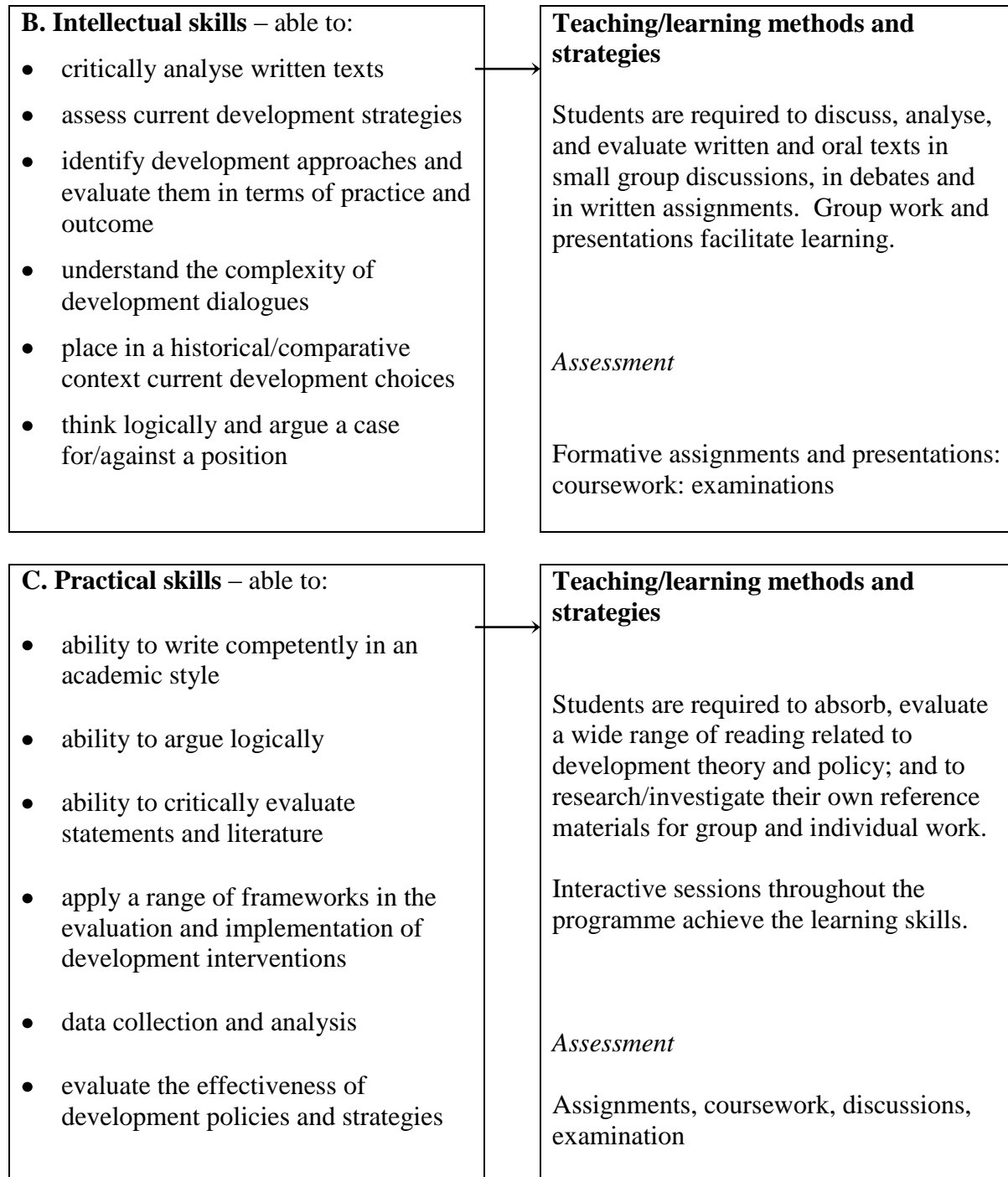
- Develop an understanding of the conceptual and theoretical frameworks for the analysis of social change brought about by planned development interventions
- Strengthen professional competence in the design, implementation and critical evaluation of planned social change

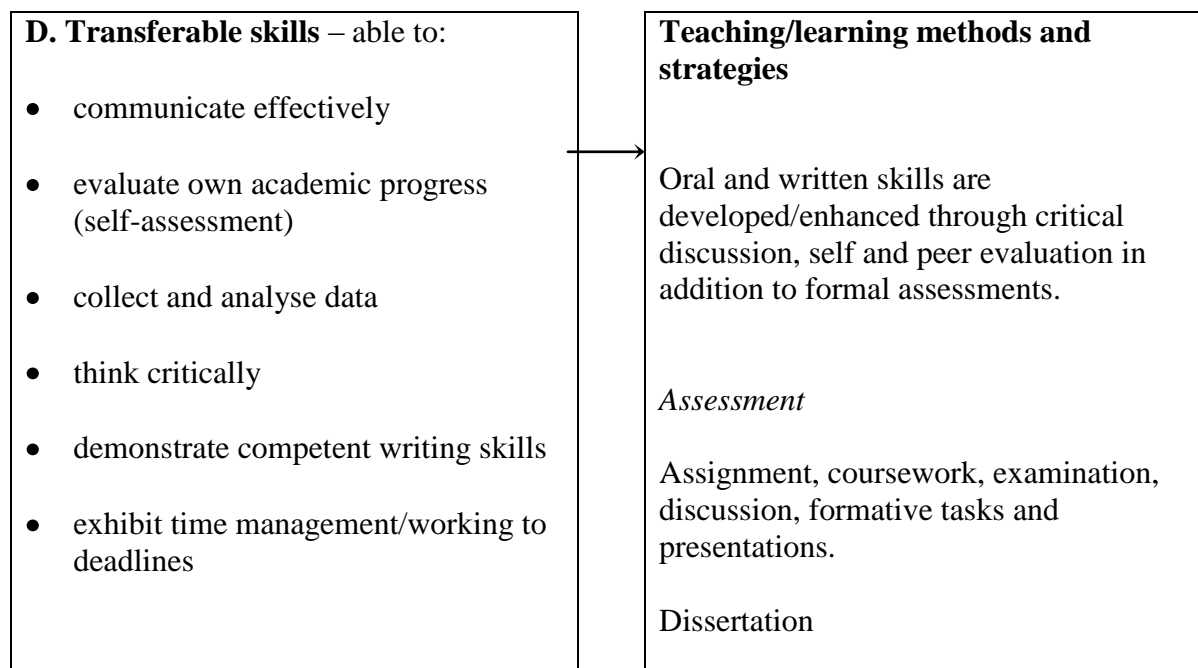
Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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| <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





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.