Programme Specification

MSc in Communication for Development (full-time)   PFTZCOMDEVHM

MSc in Communication for Development (part-time)   PPTZCOMDEVHM

For students entering in 2024/25

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MSc in Communication for Development (full-time) - 12 months MSc in Communication for Development (part-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

Communication is fundamental to the design and implementation of global development goals. From community-level empowerment programmes to national agricultural extension mandates, communication plays a role in successful change. This programme aims to look at the theory and practice of how communication is used in global development at micro, meso and macro levels. This involves exploring communication in development activities at the field level, national policy and planning processes at the meso level, and international conversations and policy discussions about communication supports and their role in development. It synthesizes practical skills in creating media and communication outputs with critical theoretical perspectives concerning these debates in the development sector. It strengthen professional competence in the design, planning and management of information and knowledge interventions to support and promote innovation and change. The programme prepares students for career progression in the communication sector, supports those who are still moving into this area of development, and provides skills development to support their employability post-graduation.

Programme Learning Outcomes
-MSc in Communication for Development (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Develop a critical understanding of concepts, theories and frameworks for communication for development
2	Develop a critical understanding of communication, innovation and change in the context of global development

3	Develop a critical understanding of the theories and discussions in international development thinking
4	Critically review, synthesise and evaluate published materials and evidence from a range of sources and use these to construct reasoned, evidenced arguments
5	Construct responses to assignments using word-processing, database, spreadsheet and presentation software, make oral presentations, and search for and identify relevant information online
6	Develop skills in the design and implementation of a communication-oriented research project
7	Strengthen professional skills in the design, planning and management of communication interventions in development
8	Develop a critically informed understanding of the role of communication in international development projects, policies and processes

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
ADMCPC	Concepts and Practices of Communication	20	M
ADMDIS	Dissertation	60	M
ADMRFD	Research for Development	20	M
ADMTPD	Theories and Practices of Development	20	M

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development or from an approved list of modules.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete optional modules totalling no less than 60 credits and no more than 80 credits. In the second year of study, a student will normally be required to complete the compulsory module ADMRFD Research for Development, the ADMDIS Dissertation module, and any remaining optional modules. The programme must be completed in two years.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery

You will be taught primarily through lectures, many of which will incorporate a diverse range of classroom-based activities, including group- and class-based discussion and problem-solving exercises. Lecturers will draw on a diverse range of case studies from around the world to illustrate food security situations, challenges and potential solutions.

Some modules may include group work and elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed by a combination of coursework and formal examination. Coursework extends beyond traditional academic essays to include assessed presentations and practical assignments which simulate real world scenarios, which is designed to enhance employability and critical thinking. Feedback is provided orally and in written form. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

N/A

Classification

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 Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%
(iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction
An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits
OR
an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits
AND
A mark of at least 60% in the dissertation
AND
No marks below 40%.

Merit
An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits
OR
an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits
(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction
An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits
OR
an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

Merit
An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits
OR
an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits
AND
No marks below 40.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate
(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

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Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study, you will incur some additional costs.

Where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £15 to £25 per module; there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A wide range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, more specialist studies, and electronic resources, are available through the library.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost per A4 page of £0.05 (black and white) and £0.30 (colour). Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework is submitted electronically.

A few optional modules may include study trips. For each participating student, the cost of transport and accommodation is not expected to exceed £350.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2023.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <u>http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/</u>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

MSc in Communication for Development (full-time) for students entering in session 2024/25

25 July 2023