

Programme Specification

MSc Global Development in Practice (full-time)

PFTZGDPXXXHM

MSc Global Development in Practice (part-time)

PPTZGDPXXXHM

For students entering in 2027/28

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 Global Development in Practice (full-time) - 12 months MSc Global Development in Practice (part-time) - 24 months
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

This programme will develop your understanding of the theoretical frameworks needed for analysis of social change brought about by planned development interventions. Development policy and practice are explored from international to community levels. Understanding issues from an interdisciplinary perspective provides awareness of the complexity of factors that influence effective planned interventions for positive development outcomes, which is a requirement for working within the international development sector. The aims of the programme are to:

- Develop an interdisciplinary understanding of the complex factors which influence the effectiveness of planned development interventions;
- 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 applied development interventions.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc Global Development in Practice (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 an interdisciplinary understanding of the complex factors which influence the effectiveness of planned development interventions.
2	Critically analyse the role of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in the analysis of social change brought about by planned development interventions

3	Develop a range of professional competencies in the design, implementation and critical evaluation of applied development interventions and communicate these to a range of audiences.
4	Understand and critically analyse comparative development policy and practice, explored from international to community levels and with examples.
5	Apply development tools to practical examples within a range of development settings.
6	Critically analyse theory and policy and evaluate the practical application of these in a development context.
7	Develop critical thinking and communication skills for future working in the development sector.

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 below.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
ADMPPGD	Poverty, Inequalities and Gender in Development	20	M
ADMRFD	Research for Development	20	M
ADMTPD	Theories and Practices of Development	20	M
ILMAPDN	Academic Skills and Language for GIIDAE	0	M

In addition, students must choose a maximum of 60 credits from

Module	Name	Credits	Level
ADMDIS	Dissertation	60	M
OR			
ADMRPR	Reflective Practice Report	60	M

Select 60 credits of optional modules from a pre-defined list, where 20 credits are selected for semester 1 and 40 credits are selected for semester 2.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

This programme accommodates part-time study over two years. In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete a selection of compulsory and optional modules totalling no less than 60 credits and no more than 80 credits. This ensures the student has a balanced workload between the two years of study. In the second year of study, a student will be required to complete the complement of compulsory and optional

modules, including the Dissertation/Report module (taken in the second year). The programme must be completed within two years.

Placement opportunities

With the approval of the Programme Director, it is possible to undertake a micro-placement during the summer. These are currently initiated, organised and funded by the student, with guidance from their Programme Director and students may be eligible for (competitive) bursaries open to Masters students in the School.

Study abroad opportunities

Dual Masters with Tokyo NODAI University of Agriculture: The MSc Global Development in Practice degree can be completed as a dual Master level programme over two years, with component parts taken at the University of Reading and at Tokyo NODAI. This allows experience of study abroad, includes delivery of teaching at an excellent overseas University and the student completes only one dissertation or report. This option should be discussed with the Programme Director.

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

Teaching is organised in modules that typically involve a combination of lectures and seminars. Some lecture-based modules are supported by workshops, group work, or computer lab sessions. Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is – 240-260 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module 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.

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

Modules are assessed by a combination of course work and/or formal examination. Most course work and examinations will normally take place at during the assessment periods at the end of each semester.

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

Master's 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) no credits with a mark below 40%
- (iv) a mark of 50% or more for any module of special significance

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

Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, a mark of at least 60% in any module of special significance

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) no 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
- (ii) No credits with a mark below 40%

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

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 and for day trips is considerably less.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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

MSc Global Development in Practice (full-time) for students entering in session 2027/28
4 August 2026

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