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Postgraduate Prospectus 2019

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# Transform Your World



Ranked **1st**  
in the world for  
**Development  
Studies**



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# World leaders in development studies

The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) is a global research and learning organisation for equitable and sustainable change.

In partnership with the University of Sussex, IDS is ranked first in the world for development studies by the QS University Rankings and offers graduates looking to develop their careers in international development a range of postgraduate courses and a PhD research programme.



## Make a contribution to global transformations

Postgraduate studies have been central to IDS since its foundation in 1966 as the UK's specialist institution for teaching and research on international development. Our teaching and learning is shaped by our distinctive 'engaged excellence' approach. This means working in partnership with those at the heart of progressive change, including policymakers, civil society, activists and practitioners, to produce and mobilise rigorous and operationally-relevant research and evidence.

Our courses are designed to connect cutting-edge research with policy and practice, and IDS' teaching and learning is embedded in our efforts to contribute to global transformations that will reduce inequalities, accelerate sustainability and build inclusive and secure societies.

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## Join the conversation

 /idsuk  
 @IDS\_UK  
 ids\_uk

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## Find out more

[www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids](http://www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids)

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## Photo

University of Sussex

# Our global community

**Currently, we have students of over 60 nationalities studying at IDS. Students and alumni are members of the IDS community, a truly global network that enriches the curriculum experience and provides lifelong professional networks and friendships.**

You'll join an international cohort of learners, participating in seminars, lectures and workshops, and engaging in lots of discussions to ask questions, challenge ideas, contrast examples, draw on new wisdoms, and seek to find ways of promoting equality and social justice.

Our course convenors and instructors are active researchers and aim to enhance the learning experience by bringing their applied knowledge and experiences of working in development, or 'the field', into the classroom.



# Build your career in international development

**IDS postgraduates have gone on to work as Ministers in national governments, high-level officials in development organisations such as UNDP and the World Bank, civil servants, leaders of civil society organisations including Mama Cash and Action Aid and high-profile academics at universities across the world. They are all working to define and solve some of the world's most pressing global challenges.**

Your time at IDS will equip you with both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to make a real difference in bringing about transformative change.

The University of Sussex Careers and Employability Centre provides support throughout your time at Sussex and for three years after you graduate.

Read more about what some of our former students have gone on to do:  
[www.ids.ac.uk/careers](http://www.ids.ac.uk/careers)

## **Our alumni: making a difference**

When you study at IDS you become part of a lifelong community, linking you to a network of thousands of alumni and hundreds of current and former staff committed to improving lives. People such as:

**Carlos Alvarado Quesada**  
48th President of Costa Rica

**Euclid Tsakalotos**  
Greek Minister of Finance

**Jeanette Longfield**  
Member of the British Empire for services to food policy

**Naana Otoo-Oyortey (MBE)**  
Social activist and women's rights defender

**Nancy Okail**  
Egyptian scholar and activist

**Robina P. Marks**  
South African High Commissioner to Sri Lanka

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## **Find out more about our alumni activities around the world**

[www.ids.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.ids.ac.uk/alumni)

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## **Photo**

IDS alumni Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of Costa Rica

Credit: Inter-American Dialogue CC BY 2.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>)

**'IDS has always been my guiding star in the field of development and policy processes with people-oriented and distributive justice as core values.'**

**Ginie Lim Siew Lin, Melaka State Executive Councillor, Malaysia**



Build your career in international development

# Brighton – a city by the sea

The seaside resort of Brighton is a thriving centre for the arts, festivals and concerts, while the South Downs National Park, which surrounds the Sussex campus, offers a glorious landscape and outdoor pursuits.

IDS is only an hour away from Central London by train and 30 minutes from London Gatwick, one of the UK's major international airports.



## Brighton beach and the Lanes

One of the top-ten city beach destinations in the world (Lonely Planet), Brighton's seafront is the ideal place to soak up the sun in the summer, or take bracing walks to clear your head on winter days. Along the prom you'll find cafés, bars and nightclubs, as well as beach and water sports.

The Lanes is a maze of alleyways crammed with quirky boutiques, antique jewellery shops and tempting restaurants offering food from around the globe. North Laine has one of the largest selections of independent shops on England's South Coast and is a perfect spot to grab a coffee and watch the world go by.

## Culture

Throughout May, the city hosts England's biggest arts festival, followed in October by the Brighton Comedy Festival. And all year round there are plays, art exhibitions, gigs and events at many of the theatres, pubs, museums and galleries in the city.

## An international city

Brighton's international community and culture means you are never far from home comforts or trying something new. You can grab some Mexican street food, try Pan-Asian fine dining or buy ingredients from an Afro-Caribbean or Asian supermarket. Or take part in a range of events that celebrate Brighton's diversity, including CINECITY, which showcases films from all over the globe; and formal and informal events hosted by Brighton's expat groups. There are also three mosques and an Islamic centre, Catholic and Anglican churches, a Buddhist centre, four synagogues, and Greek and Coptic Orthodox churches in Brighton and the local area.

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## Find out more

[www.visitbrighton.com](http://www.visitbrighton.com)

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## Photos

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# Learning support and resources

**Whether you're a Masters or PhD student, you'll have access to the learning support and resources you need to succeed.**

## Academic support for Masters students

Learning at IDS combines lectures, classes of varying size, smaller seminars, tutorials and supervision. You can also attend a wide range of lunchtime talks and lectures and develop your professional skills through workshops on critical reading and writing, multicultural teamwork, participatory methods, research communication and policy engagement, research techniques and presentation skills. Each Degree has a course convenor and each student is allocated a dissertation supervisor. The Director of Teaching and Learning has overall responsibility for all taught students.

For information on academic support for PhD students see page 29



## Library and academic facilities

Our study facilities – including a newly installed dedicated learning space – provide the perfect environment for you to study, conduct research and develop academic and professional skills.

Choose from quiet, silent or group study spaces and benefit from wi-fi across the campus. You can also buy academic textbooks from the IDS bookshop and University bookshop.

PhD researchers have access to specialist study facilities including our dedicated study area, as well as one-to-one support sessions tailored to individual research interests.

The University of Sussex campus library provides access to:

- 750,000 books and e-books
- 38,000 online journals
- databases for research
- online subject guides
- digital archives.

As well as the main library, you'll have access to the British Library for Development Studies (BLDS) collection, Europe's most comprehensive research archive on economic and social change in developing countries.

## Student and learning support

You'll benefit from being part of the wider University of Sussex community with all that it offers including sports facilities, housing support and provision, IT facilities, the student union, social activities, the careers centre and student support services.

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**Find out more**  
[www.sussex.ac.uk/student-support](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/student-support)

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**Photos**  
University of Sussex



# Scholarships and funding

## IDS and Sussex scholarships

We want to ensure that the most able students have the opportunity to study at IDS and go on to effect global change. We are delighted to offer a number of full-time scholarship places on our international development masters degrees. For more information on our scholarships, and other sources of financial support, visit [www.ids.ac.uk/funding](http://www.ids.ac.uk/funding)

## Alternative funding sources

Many philanthropic foundations, charities and trusts provide alternative funding for postgraduate study. The [Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding Online](#) provides a wealth of information about alternative sources of funding – especially charities – which can make awards to any student regardless of subject or nationality.

## National postgraduate loans

Loans are available from the Student Loans Company if you're from the UK or are an EU national studying for a masters course. If you are a UK national considering a PhD, you may be eligible for a loan of up to £25,000.

## Applying for funding

Remember that your application for a place to study at IDS is separate from any funding application you may make. If you are applying for funding, please make sure you check the funding deadline and apply for a place at IDS well in advance, using our online system at [www.sussex.ac.uk/apply](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/apply)

## Find out more

[www.ids.ac.uk/get-funding](http://www.ids.ac.uk/get-funding)

## Photo

University of Sussex



# Postgraduate courses →

# MSc Climate Change, Development and Policy

**Study the twin challenges of transition to a low-carbon economy and adaptation to climate change, and how they influence global and regional development. This course (for non-specialists in the climate field) explores the multiple and interconnected dimensions of science and technology, and the economics, politics and policy of climate change.**

There is an emphasis on understanding the implications of climate change and climate policies for equity between, and within, countries. You gain specialist knowledge of the earth system and climate impacts, for example related to water, food and ecosystem services.

You'll be based at the School of Global Studies, and taught by faculty from Global Studies, SPRU – Science Policy Research Unit – and IDS.

## How will I study?

You gain practical experience of the methods, techniques and approaches used in the profession, including the financial and regulatory aspects of carbon management and climate risk management.

You learn through core and optional modules. Research methods and professional skills training prepare you for further research and a professional career, and includes training in climate data analyses.

In the summer term, you undertake supervised work on a 10,000-word dissertation and receive research methods training.

You can apply to take a placement with this course. Research placements run for up to 12 weeks in the summer term and vacation.

## Entry requirements

Successful applicants will have an upper second-class (2.1) undergraduate honours degree or above. Your qualification should be in either the social or natural sciences; alternatively, you should have relevant professional experience.

## Careers

There is a rapidly expanding market for climate professionals. Our graduates are very successful in finding employment and developing careers in the profession, including among others: international organisations and agencies; various NGOs; national government ministries and development agencies; national environment agencies across the world; and a wide range of private sector and public sector organisations.

## Graduate destinations

Recent graduates have gone on to roles including:

- head of conference production, Climate Action
- climate change specialist, World Bank
- public international assistant, United Nations Environment Programme.

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## Duration

One year full-time or two years part-time.

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## Find out more

[www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/msc-climate-change-development-and-policy](http://www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/msc-climate-change-development-and-policy)

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## Photo

In Malawi, Isabel Mvula (34) checks a mobile phone which is charging from a solar power panel.

Credit: Mikkel Ostergaard, Panos



# MA Development Studies

**Develop the analytical and practical skills required to address some of today's most pressing global challenges including inequality, sustainability and security.**

Based at IDS, you'll learn how to approach development problems with creativity, confidence and the ability to work collaboratively.

You'll develop an understanding of the main debates in development, and engage in informed and critical ways with professionals from diverse backgrounds.

## How will I study?

The course is structured to allow strong coherence and some integration with the other specialised MA courses offered at IDS.

Assessment is through term papers, coursework assignments, presentations, practical exercises, examinations (for some modules) and a final 10,000-word dissertation.

## Entry requirements

Successful applicants will have a first or upper second-class (2.1) undergraduate honours degree in the social sciences or a related subject, and preferably one year of development-related work experience. Applications must be accompanied by a detailed two-page personal statement, explaining why you are applying for the degree and the relevance of your previous experience.

## Careers

IDS postgraduates have gone on to work as ministers in national governments, high-level officials in development organisations, civil servants, leaders of civil society organisations and high-profile academics at universities across the world. In their jobs they all work to define and solve some of the most pressing global challenges.

They also apply their expertise to academic research in universities and institutes like: the Women's Research Institute, Educational Trust Malawi, and the British Institute of Human Rights.

## Graduate destinations

100 per cent of students surveyed from the Institute of Development Studies were in work or further study six months after graduating. Recent IDS students have gone on to jobs including:

- aid effectiveness specialist, Korea International Cooperation Agency
- campaigner, Greenpeace
- consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

*(EPI, Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Survey 2015 for postgraduates)*

**'Doing this degree was the best decision I have made. Not only did I get the chance to study at an institute where lecturers are actively engaged in the field, but I also had the opportunity to listen to other students from all over the world talk about their experiences in development in a very rich and diverse classroom environment.'**

**Bassam Kassoumeh, MA Development Studies graduate, and a recipient of the Said Scholarship**

## Duration

One year full-time or two years part-time.

## Find out more

[www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/ma-development-studies](http://www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/ma-development-studies)

## Photos

1. University of Sussex
2. Dieter Telemmans / Panos





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# MA Food and Development

**Food is a cross-cutting development issue that concerns hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition, environment sustainability, power politics, social justice and cultural identity. It is about the global and the local and the hard trade-offs brought about by the globalisation era.**

This MA draws on wide-ranging expertise of faculty at both IDS and School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex (where you will be based). You will gain an advanced understanding of the complex relationship between food and development. We build your analytical and practical skills, improving your ability to engage critically with issues such as: food and nutrition security; sustainable food systems; value chains and corporate power; and agri-food technology and its contestations.

Our faculty have extensive knowledge and direct field experience. And our guest speakers – from government bodies, international organisations, NGOs, and local food networks and movements – introduce you to contemporary policy debates and practices.

## How will I study?

Throughout the year, you'll take core modules and choose options. This includes a module – delivered as a series of workshops – preparing you for further research, your dissertation and a professional career. Most modules are assessed through term papers.

In the summer term, you will research and write a 10,000-word dissertation under the supervision of a faculty member, or undertake a dissertation with placement.

You're responsible for finding a host organisation and location for your placement.

Please note: If you're receiving – or applying for – USA federal Direct Loan funds, you can't undertake your placement/internship in the USA. Find out more about American Student Loans and Federal Student Aid.

## Entry requirements

Successful applicants will normally have an upper second-class (2.1) undergraduate honours degree or above in the social or natural sciences. However, if you do not meet the academic requirements or have other degrees you will also be considered if you can show evidence of relevant work or voluntary experience. Applications must be accompanied by a detailed two-page personal statement, explaining why you are applying for the degree and the relevance of your previous experience.

## Careers

We expect our graduates to become specialists and advisers in food and development issues worldwide, working for either governments, international development agencies, civil society organisations or social movements engaged with food-related themes.

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## Duration

One year full-time or two years part-time.

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## Find out more

[www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/ma-food-and-development](http://www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/ma-food-and-development)

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## Photo

University of Sussex



# MA Gender and Development

**Having recently celebrated its thirtieth anniversary, this is one of the longest running degrees on gender and development.**

You'll gain a solid understanding of debates in feminist thinking, and link them to gendered policy and programming. You will develop in-depth knowledge and capacity for gendered analysis of specific issues such as: women's empowerment; political economy, and the environment; and masculinities and patriarchy.

Our groundbreaking work challenges ideas about gender. We work with nuanced, fluid perspectives on gender and sex, and the ways they interact. On this course you will develop the skills required to participate effectively in gender- and development-related research, policymaking and programme implementation.

This degree is based at IDS, which has been at the cutting edge of debates on gender and development for the last 50 years. You'll benefit from our international research faculty's expertise and our strong working relationships with partner organisations around the world.

Your course teachers are all active in the field, working on high-level policy-oriented programming and cutting-edge academic research funded by UK and European research councils, and philanthropic organisations from across the world.

## How will I study?

You'll take core modules and options across the autumn and spring terms. In the

summer, you'll work on your dissertation, supported by a research design module.

Assessment is through term papers, coursework assignments, presentations, practical exercises, and the final 10,000-word dissertation.

## Entry requirements

Successful applicants will have a first or upper second-class (2.1) undergraduate honours degree in the social sciences or related subject, and at least one year of development and gender-related work experience. Applications must be accompanied by a detailed two-page personal statement, explaining why you are applying for the degree and the relevance of your previous experience.

## Careers

Many of our graduates become specialists and advisers in gender and human rights for governments and development organisations worldwide – including ministries of foreign affairs in countries such as Azerbaijan and Indonesia, UNIFEM, USAID, and the UK Department for International Development (DFID). Others also go on to teach gender studies in universities around the world.

## Graduate destinations

Recent IDS students have gone on to jobs including:

- assistant to child protection, UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency)
- campaigner, Greenpeace
- project manager, European Women's Lobby.

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## Duration

One year full-time or two years part-time.

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## Find out more

[www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/ma-gender-and-development](http://www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/ma-gender-and-development)

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## Photo

After enquiring about using fertiliser on his crops, Info Lady Mahfuza answers farmer Nojrul Islam's question by showing him an advice video on her laptop. In rural Bangladesh the Info Ladies are bringing internet services to men and women who need information but do not have the means to access the web.

Credit: G.M.B. Akash / Panos

**‘The most rewarding experience of studying at IDS was the fact that I had amazing classmates from all over the world who shared different experiences in regards to gender and development. It was so rewarding and nourishing to discover commonalities and particularities in our personal and professional experiences. This has stayed with me throughout my career because it has made me a more open-minded professional, with a wider definition of the concept of “development”.’**

**Nayelli Torres Salas, MA Gender and Development graduate 2014**



# MA Globalisation, Business and Development

**We believe that business plays a significant role in providing solutions to the many local, national and global developmental challenges we face today, particularly during the age of globalisation. Based at IDS, you will examine the key elements of business operations and its growing relevance to international development.**

You will gain an in-depth understanding of economic power shifts and rapid technological transformation amid global inequalities. You will be equipped with the analytical and practical skills needed to understand globalisation processes and their drivers, and to participate in the formulation of policies for sustainable development.

## How will I study?

You'll take a combination of taught modules in the autumn and spring terms. In the summer, you'll work on your supervised dissertation. Teaching combines lectures and workshops with interactions with business, the public sector, NGOs and international organisations.

Assessment is primarily through term papers, coursework assignments, presentations, practical exercises, and the final 10,000-word dissertation.

## Entry requirements

Successful applicants will have a first or upper second-class (2.1) undergraduate honours degree in the social sciences or a related subject, and preferably one year of business or development-related work experience. Applications must be accompanied by a detailed two-page

personal statement, explaining why you are applying for the degree and the relevance of your previous experience.

## Careers

Our graduates pursue careers in a wide range of organisations including:

- bilateral agencies such as the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- international organisations such as UNIDO, UNCTAD and ILO
- development finance institutions.

Graduates also follow careers in the private sector and in corporate social responsibility and social enterprises, as well as in NGOs and the media.

## Graduate destinations

Recent IDS students have gone on to jobs including:

- aid effectiveness specialist, Korea International Cooperation Agency
- programme director, Center for Public Policy Transformation
- consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Some of our graduates have also continued their research as PhD researchers.

**‘The MA in Globalisation, Business and Development broadened and challenged my thinking about the development realm in which I have been operating. IDS faculty are not only researchers but practitioners whose global professional experiences provide topical, real-world perspectives.’**

**Thandiwe Moyana-Munzara, MA Globalisation, Business and Development graduate.**

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## Duration

One year full-time or two years part-time.

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## Find out more

[www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/ma-globalisation-business-and-development](http://www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/ma-globalisation-business-and-development)

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## Photo

University of Sussex



# MA Governance, Development and Public Policy

**This degree provides you with a theoretical and practical understanding of debates on political change and how public authority is created and exercised.**

Based at IDS, you'll build your critical and analytical skills, and improve your ability to develop and implement policies across state and non-state organisations.

## How will I study?

You learn through governance-related core modules on democracy, public policy and political economy, a series of thematic options offered across IDS and a research design module that helps prepare you for writing your dissertation.

You also receive skills training including critical and analytical thinking, communication and argumentation, and teamwork. We bring policy-oriented research and practice into the classroom through lunchtime talks, afternoon seminars and peer learning.

You'll be assessed through term papers, coursework assignments, presentations, practical exercises, and a 10,000-word dissertation.

## Entry requirements

Successful applicants will have a first or upper second-class (2.1) undergraduate honours degree in the social sciences or a related subject, and preferably one year of development-related work experience. Applications must be accompanied by a detailed two-page personal statement, explaining why you are applying for the degree and the relevance of your previous experience.

## Careers

Our graduates go on to work as legal and policy advisers on governance and human rights for:

- government ministries
- UN agencies
- bilateral and multilateral agencies, including international finance institutions
- national and international NGOs
- professional services networks.

Some also go on to work in academic research.

## Graduate destinations

Recent IDS students have gone on to jobs including:

- senior adviser, Westminster Foundation for Democracy
- assistant director Foreign Service, Department of International Relations and Cooperation
- consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

**'IDS has given me intercultural fluency; an ability to work across cultures; through learning from IDS and interacting with diverse peer groups.'**

**Basser Omaid, MA Governance,  
Development and Public Policy graduate**

## Duration

One year full-time or two years part-time.

## Find out more

[www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/ma-governance-development-and-public-policy](http://www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/ma-governance-development-and-public-policy)

## Photo

© Lance Bellers / IDS





# MA Poverty and Development

**Poverty reduction is the ultimate measure of development effectiveness. Gain the knowledge and skills to engage professionally with the design, implementation and assessment of national and international efforts to reduce poverty.**

Through an interdisciplinary lens, you'll gain a sound understanding of the main theories of development and poverty reduction in development, and a solid grounding in the concepts and skills needed to engage in debates on poverty and development.

## How will I study?

You'll study a range of modules across the autumn and spring terms. In the spring and summer terms, you'll take a research module to help you prepare for writing your dissertation. In the summer term, you work on your dissertation.

Assessment is through term papers, coursework assignments, presentations, practical exercises, and a 10,000-word dissertation.

## Entry requirements

Successful applicants will have a first or upper second-class (2.1) undergraduate honours degree in the social sciences or a related subject, and preferably one year of development-related work experience. Applications must be accompanied by a detailed two-page personal statement, explaining why you are applying for the degree and the relevance of your previous experience.

## Careers

IDS postgraduates have gone on to work as ministers in national governments, high-level officials in development organisations, civil servants, leaders of civil society organisations and high-profile academics at universities across the world.

They are all working to define and solve some of the most pressing global challenges. Some also go on to work in academic research.

## Graduate destinations

Recent IDS students have gone on to jobs including:

- assistant to child protection, UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency)
- monitoring and evaluation specialist, Aga Khan Foundation Canada
- consultant, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Some of our graduates have also continued their research as PhD students.

## Duration

One year full-time or two years part-time.

## Find out more

[www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/ma-poverty-and-development](http://www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/ma-poverty-and-development)

## Photo

University of Sussex

**'The MA in Poverty and Development at IDS gave me a solid grounding in issues at the core of development, with a focus on the most vulnerable. It enabled me to gain specialist knowledge – in inequality and social protection, for example – as well as a range of new analytical tools to use going forward.'**

**Gregg Smith, MA Poverty and Development graduate**



# MA Power, Participation and Social Change

**Explore the challenges of power relations, participation and citizen engagement, and what it means to facilitate change processes in pursuit of social justice.**

Designed for experienced practitioners and social activists, the MA combines coursework with work-based learning and action research.

You'll critically reflect on your own practice, and deepen and enrich it by learning about different concepts and debates related to power, participation and social change. Further, you will develop your analysis and facilitation skills to engage critically and constructively with change processes at various levels.

A core component of this degree is the four-month period of work-based action learning for which students attach themselves to a host organisation or social process. Students examine their own practice and that of the host, and seek to apply their learning to the benefit of the host.

## How will I study?

You'll learn through core modules and options, and a three-month student-led Critical Enquiry into Practice project. You'll be assessed through term papers, coursework assignments, presentations, practical exercises, an action research project, and a 15,000-word synthesis paper.

## Entry requirements

Successful applicants will have a first or upper second-class (2.1) undergraduate honours degree in the social sciences or a related subject, and preferably two years of

work experience in development or social change. Applications must be accompanied by a detailed two-page personal statement, explaining why you are applying for the degree and the relevance of your previous experience.

## Careers

IDS postgraduates have gone on to work in:

- conservation, agriculture and food organisations
- finance and state ministries
- UN agencies such as UNESCO
- government departments such as the UK Department for International Development (DFID)
- NGOs including ActionAid.

They are all working to define and solve some of the most pressing global challenges. Some also go on to work in academic research.

## Graduate destinations

Recent IDS students have gone on to jobs including:

- project manager, European Women's Lobby
- campaigner, Greenpeace
- project assistant, International Organization for Migration.

**'What a year! Studying at IDS made me see why it is the first ranking institute in development studies as it gives you a holistic approach of how humanitarian development should be in order to navigate the complexity of our challenging world. In IDS, I had the chance to meet dedicated and passionate people from all over the world, with them and with their commitment I know that we will contribute in making a just world for everyone.'**

**Yasmine Zeid, MA Participation, Power and Social Change graduate**

## Duration

One year full-time or two years part-time.

## Find out more

[www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/ma-power-participation-and-social-change](http://www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids/ma-power-participation-and-social-change)

## Photo

University of Sussex



# Development Studies PhD by Research

**Doctoral research is a vital part of IDS, with about 50 PhD students at any one time exploring a range of topics in Asia, Africa, the Balkans, Latin America and the Middle East. Students work under the supervision of two Research Fellows and have access to the thriving community of research centres, knowledge programmes, postgraduate courses, training, lectures and seminars.**

## **Our distinct approach to research**

IDS is dedicated to research on processes of social, political and economic development and change in order to understand problems of poverty and development-related issues in local, national and global realms. Through our research, and that of our PhD researchers, we seek to achieve our vision of equal and sustainable societies, both locally and globally, where everyone can live secure, fulfilling lives free from poverty and injustice.

Our research is shaped by our distinctive ‘engaged excellence’ approach. This means that the quality and impact of our work depends upon us collaborating with governments, international NGOs, local civil society, citizens, in-country researchers, donors, businesses and many others to achieve positive change, strategically informed by high-quality – and operationally relevant – research and evidence.

## **Areas of study**

We are looking for PhD researchers interested in working on projects that respond to the following global challenges and their intersections:

- reducing inequalities
- accelerating sustainability
- building inclusive and secure societies.

We are particularly interested in work that shows originality in addressing topics related to the work of our research clusters, namely: business, cities, conflict, digital, gender, governance, green transformations, health, participation, power, resource politics and rural futures. Read more about the work of IDS clusters and teams at [www.ids.ac.uk/teams](http://www.ids.ac.uk/teams)

## **Supervision and assessment**

Each PhD researcher has a minimum of two supervisors. The number of hours of formal supervision will vary over the course of the PhD depending on the student, supervisors and type of research. IDS publishes a Memorandum of Understanding which sets out expectations regarding supervision.

During the course of your PhD, you are expected to give two seminars to the IDS community. The first, about six months after starting, is called the Research Outline Seminar and this provides an overview of your PhD plans prior to beginning fieldwork. The second occurs halfway through Year 3. This is called the Work in Progress Seminar and it focuses on your research findings and overall arguments made in the dissertation.

Your PhD course is examined by thesis and viva. The thesis must be no longer than 80,000 words including footnotes and bibliography but excluding any appendices.

## **Requirements**

You should have a strong academic record and graduate training that demonstrates a high standard of achievement, combined with substantial professional work experience in a developing country or in development-related work. Only in

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## **Duration**

Three to four years full-time or six years part-time.

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## **Find out more**

[www.ids.ac.uk/phd](http://www.ids.ac.uk/phd)

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## **Photo**

University of Sussex

exceptional circumstances will candidates with other backgrounds be considered. You're normally expected to have a merit (an overall average of 60 per cent) in a masters degree. As well as having methodological and theoretical grounding in one of the social sciences, or another degree highly relevant to the proposed course of study, you will have the language skills necessary for the proposed research.

### Fees and study costs

IDS requires that researchers register for a minimum of three years.

Almost all IDS PhD researchers choose to do empirical research and fieldwork for their PhDs. Fieldwork usually lasts between 8 and 12 months and costs depend on the scope and scale of the activities. Where you stay, how you travel to your fieldsite, what technology you use to collect and analyse

data and how long you stay will all influence the costs. IDS does not fund fieldwork.

During fieldwork, students are registered as distance learners and are charged a fee which is normally 65 per cent of the full-time fee but may be subject to change.

For current fees see:

[www.ids.ac.uk/phd](http://www.ids.ac.uk/phd)

**'IDS offers doctoral researchers an enriching environment with access to a broad range of experts with different disciplinary backgrounds. The IDS community is always bustling with energy and a commitment to answering difficult questions and this makes it an exciting place in which to undertake research. I feel particularly blessed to be among a supportive group of peers who offer guidance at every turn.'**

**Dina Zayed, IDS PhD researcher**



# How to apply

**To apply for an IDS masters course or PhD by Research, complete the online application form on the University of Sussex website:**

[www.sussex.ac.uk/apply](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/apply)

## Masters courses

Once you've completed and submitted your application form, it'll be passed to directly to the relevant admissions selector. You'll then be able to track the progress of your application via your online account and will be notified by email once a decision is reached. If you're successful, you can accept your place online.

We begin to consider applications in October for entry in the following academic year. All masters courses start at the beginning of the autumn term, in September. Early application is strongly encouraged and some courses are in high demand. The deadlines for applications are: 1 August (overseas applicants) and 1 September (UK/EU applicants).

## PhD by Research

We consider applications throughout the year, although the official academic year begins in September. We strongly encourage doctoral students to align their studies to this academic calendar.

When completing the application form, please identify IDS on the application; the code for this is L1604R – Development Studies (IDS) (PhD).

As part of the application process, you must submit a three- or four-page outline research proposal indicating the nature, ambitions and primary questions of the research project you wish to undertake for your PhD. It would also be advantageous to include an article or writing sample demonstrating your ability to undertake research and write academic papers.

You are not responsible for finding a supervisor. However, you may express a preferred supervisor on your application form. Applicants are assessed both on their academic credentials and on the relevance of their proposed research to the work of one or more IDS Fellows.

IDS is unable to accept applications for distance learning. We believe it is in the best interests of both PhD students and the Institute that the majority of the study period is spent at IDS. This offers the opportunity for ongoing interaction with other IDS members and students.

## English language requirements for IDS courses

Higher level (IELTS 7.0, with not less than 6.5 in each section), except for the MSc Climate Change, Development and Policy and MA Food and Development: Standard level (IELTS 6.5, with not less than 6.0 in each section).

## Contact us

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact us: [pg.applicants@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:pg.applicants@sussex.ac.uk)

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## Find out more

[www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids](http://www.ids.ac.uk/learn-at-ids)

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## Photo

University of Sussex





How to apply



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2



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**‘Doing this degree was the best decision I have made. Not only did I get the chance to study at an institute where lecturers are actively engaged in the field, but I also had the opportunity to listen to other students from all over the world talk about their experiences in development in a very rich and diverse classroom environment.’**

**Bassam Kassoumeh,  
MA Development Studies 2016–17**

**‘Studying at IDS made me see why it is the first ranking institute in development studies as it gives you a holistic approach to navigate the complexity of our challenging world. In IDS, I had the chance to meet dedicated and passionate people from all over the world, with them and with their commitment I know that we will contribute in making a just world for everyone.’**

**Yasmine Zeid,  
MA Power, Participation and Social Change  
2016–17**

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