The Master of International Development with specialisations in:

- Development Policy and Practice
- Economics of Development
- Politics and Development

Course description, features and facilities

The Master of International Development engages you with the contemporary challenges of addressing poverty and inequality globally through an emphasis on empirical evidence, real-world case studies, and debates.

You will develop the knowledge and skills to approach practical and policy challenges in a wide range of contexts by drawing on expertise from development geographers, development practitioners, political scientists and resource economists.

All students take the core units of:

- POLS5672: Critical Perspectives in International Development
- GEOG5002: Case Studies in Development Practice

Specialisations

Development Policy and Practice:
uses spatial scale, and the relationship between human populations and their physical environments, as key frameworks for understanding the various dimensions of poverty and under-development as well as techniques and approaches for addressing underlying inequalities. Units in this specialisation critically explore key contemporary development debates regarding the challenge of global population growth; the development implications of displaced peoples; the drivers of increasing socioeconomic polarisation within and between populations; participatory development; place-based development dilemmas; trade-offs between resource conservation and human survival; and the spatially and socially uneven nature of local development in the context of major resource extraction projects in various developing regions.

You will also be introduced to a suite of tools and frameworks employed by development practitioners and researchers at local and regional scales, such as participatory rural appraisals and the logical framework approach for designing and evaluating development projects.

Economics of Development: provides you with the tools of economic analysis to address challenges in developing countries with a focus on agriculture, environment and rural development. You will understand what can be done to promote development through multiple interventions, and how to analyse the economic, social and environmental impacts of specific initiatives.

You will learn how to conduct development analyses, such as poverty assessments and environmental impact assessments, commonly used by development agencies and policy makers. You will explore themes such as the relationship between economic growth and development; the role of trade and foreign aid in development; the effectiveness of microfinance and rural credit schemes in poverty alleviation; measuring risk and vulnerability in developing contexts; global food systems and agricultural development; and institutional and market failure.

Politics and Development: uses social theory to analyse and interpret the geopolitical dimensions of development. You will gain an understanding of the key conceptual, historical and policy issues surrounding development. This specialisation considers the changing role of states, markets, firms, institutions and non-governmental organisations in the process of negotiating and implementing development policy. It also introduces you to a range of approaches and frameworks employed by policymakers and practitioners in designing, implementing, and evaluating development policy.

You will explore issues such as the role of gender in development; the origin and impact of ‘good governance’ agendas; the politics of aid programing and foreign policy; the historical and contemporary relationship between security and development, particularly in Africa; and the development dimensions of natural resource governance.

For all unit details see: handbooks.uwa.edu.au/courses/coursedetails?id=c385
Five reasons to study International Development:
1. Our world is increasingly connected, and technologically and economically advanced. Yet the gaps between rich and poor people and countries are growing, and complex environmental, political, and socio-economic challenges are increasing.

2. You will gain a broad suite of skills to take up career opportunities in the development sector at various scales – from engagement with small, subsistence farmers, to consulting on Corporate Social Responsibility for major mining agencies, to shaping responses to climate change, food security, and adult literacy and maternal health challenges with major government or multinational agencies.

3. You are taught to approach challenges holistically – understanding not just the technical components of each challenge, but how they intersect with the broader political, socio-cultural, environmental, and economic context. Engaging with broader context is vital to nurturing sustainable development outcomes.

4. You will engage with a broad range of cultures, social systems, and environments.

5. The knowledge and skills acquired are increasingly demanded by communities, governments and private industry in response to the globalised nature of development challenges.

Why study International Development at UWA?
- The program has a multi-disciplinary approach, being co-taught by the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Arts, to ensure you graduate with a well-rounded capacity to affect global and local change.
- This multi-disciplinary focus also promotes an appreciation of different disciplinary perspectives, which is valued by employers.
- Specialisations are unique and provide you with both focus and flexibility.
- Taught by high-profile academic staff with rich field and consultancy experience.
- You will be equipped with analytical and practical skills to engage critically in development policy, research and practice.

Career opportunities
The Master of International Development enables you to build a diverse and rewarding career path in local and international development, from field-based roles to research and policy within education and government.

Prospective employers include aid and development agencies, government departments, non-governmental organisations, private sector firms, research organisations, and international institutions such as the United Nations. Each specialisation is also a pathway to Higher Degree by Research and an academic career in international development.

Admission requirements
A relevant bachelor’s degree, or an equivalent qualification, as recognised by UWA. You must also demonstrate a minimum level of English Language Competence. See studyat.uwa.edu.au/postgraduate-coursework/requirements/english

UWA is ranked 1st in Australia and 25th in the world for Agriculture and Life Sciences!

Key Information
The Master of International Development is offered by coursework or coursework and dissertation. While the standard timeframe for completion of this degree is two years (full time), if you have previously completed an undergraduate degree in a cognate (related) area it may be possible to complete within 1.5 years.

The course offers a focused, advanced learning experience that will enhance career choices. You must complete all core units and specialisation core units. This degree also provides the flexibility to choose from a range of units to complement your specific interests.

- Intake periods: February and July each year
- Scholarships for international students: visit: science.uwa.edu.au/courses/scholarships
- Domestic students: this course qualifies for a Commonwealth Supported Place
- Visit the Future Students website for more information, including fees, refund policy and support services: studyat.uwa.edu.au/courses
- How to apply: visit: studyat.uwa.edu.au/applynow
- Course enquiries: ask@uwa.edu.au

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