
Programme Specification: BA Honours Development Studies

1. Programme title	Development Studies
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Programme accredited by	
5. Final qualification	BA Honours Development Studies
6. Academic Year	2008/2009
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full time/part time

9. Criteria for admission to the Programme

See the Undergraduate prospectus for general entry requirements. Offers normally will be made on 160 – 200 Tariff points. International students for whom English is not a first language should normally have one of the following: IELTS at 6.0; Cambridge Advanced Proficiency at grade C. We welcome applications from people over the age of 21, with or without formal qualifications.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- Develop specialist in-depth understanding of development issues
- Provide students with a multi-disciplinary understanding of the changing trends in development thinking with an in depth knowledge of evolving theoretical, conceptual and policy debates
- Foster students' ability to collect, analyse and interpret information on key issues in Third World Development and to use this to construct reasoned, evidenced argument
- Develop students' ability to apply knowledge, to work in cultures other than their own and within a multicultural environment
- Develop abilities and skills as a self-motivated, autonomous learner
- Develop a range of analytic and graduate skills adequate for a range of professional and life situations

11. Programme outcomes	
<p>A. Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The issues that face the Third world and their fundamental causes 2. Historical and contemporary processes of underdevelopment and development over space and time 3. Key development policy, the policy formulation process and issues around implementation and monitoring 4. Debates over the key concepts within development and their consequences 5. Critical examination of a range of research strategies and their appropriate use 6. The relationship between environment and development 7. The gendered consequences of development processes 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students gain knowledge and understanding through a programme of lectures, seminars, workshops and fieldwork in core modules at levels 1, 2 and 3, and through independent study</p> <p>Assessment Method</p> <p>Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by a variety of assessment methods, including essays, reports, field logs and policy critiques. Formal examinations and a range of coursework submissions allow students to demonstrate their understanding of theory and practice and their ability to sustain a coherent and reasoned argument. Assessment is both formative – providing feedback to students as they progress through a module – and summative – work that is given a grade at the end of the module and counts toward their final degree classification.</p>
<p>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe and assess a range of established theories and concepts. 2. Review, synthesise and critically evaluate published materials, from a wide range of sources 3. Critically review and evaluate evidence and use this to construct reasoned, evidenced argument 4. Critically evaluate policy and policy implementation 5. Apply knowledge to practical development problems 6. Apply conceptual and theoretical approaches to empirical material evaluate policy and policy 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through interactive lectures, workshop, seminars, directed reading and coursework.</p> <p>Assessment Method</p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by a variety of methods and includes formative and summative assessment. The core modules place considerable emphasis on the acquisition of skills 1 –4 and students are given the opportunity to demonstrate these in both oral and written form. The field trip and work placement allow students to develop and demonstrate skill 5 while skill 6 is best demonstrated through the dissertation module.</p>
<p>C. Practical skills</p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make oral presentations to staff and peers 2. Interpret quantitative and qualitative information 3. Identify key issues and search for relevant information 4. Plan and deliver an individual piece of research 5. Undertake fieldwork successfully 6. Work within an office or project environment 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn practical skills progressively throughout the programme. Formative assessment which provides detailed feedback to students enhances skill development. Skills 1 – 4 are developed within the core modules. Research methods are introduced at level one within the core modules and developed in the specific research methods module for application in, the dissertation. Fieldwork skills are developed through the field trip and during placements, while the latter also allows the students to develop their work based skills.</p>

	<p>Assessment Method Students' practical skills are assessed by a variety of methods. Students are given the opportunity to demonstrate skills 1 – 3 in a variety of modules. Skills 2 – 4 are best demonstrated by the dissertation module. Assessment associated with the field trip and the work placement allows monitoring of skills 5 and 6, this includes the writing of log books, reflective journals, and reports.</p>
<p>D. Graduate Skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reflect on current knowledge to plan for the future, effectively organise their own timetable of work and meet deadlines 2. Take initiative and direct their own learning 3. Work effectively within a team collaborating with others to achieve common goals 4. Demonstrate IT skills including the use of PowerPoint and an ability to interpret numerical information 5. Demonstrate oral and written communication skills 	<p>Teaching/learning methods Students acquire graduate skills through lectures, seminars and workshops. Many of these skills are introduced at level one through the programme of study designed for the student. Skills are integrated into the curriculum of the core DEV modules allowing development throughout the 3 years of study. In the final year students have the opportunity to further develop these skills via the work placement and/or the dissertation, and through the student led final year core module (DEV3001)</p> <p>Assessment method Students' graduate skills are assessed by a variety of methods. Formative assessment allows students to learn from detailed feedback. All modules seek to develop written communication skills and many also allow students to demonstrate oral presentation skills. Graduate skills are also demonstrated through the dissertation and work placement.</p>
<p>12. Programme structure</p>	
<p>12. 1 Overall structure of the programme</p>	
<p>Development Studies is studied full time over three years or part-time over four years. Full time students may elect to take the programme over four years by taking a full time placement in the third year. Students normally study 4 modules (120 credits) in the teaching year (90 credits is the maximum for part-time students). The majority of modules have a credit rating of 30 points and each module will usually have two to three hours of contact per teaching week. Each module has summative assessment in the form of coursework and/or an examination which is graded and there is formative coursework during the module on which students are given feedback before the summative assessment takes place. This allows students to develop their knowledge and skills over time and through supportive feedback.</p> <p>During the first year of study, Level One, students will take four modules each worth 30 credit points. The Development Studies module (DEV1001) introduces students to the development issues and concepts that will be raised and studied in more detail in later modules. Students also take an introduction to Politics (POI1001), an introduction to Social Policy (SPL1510) and a broader Social Science module (SPL1608). Level One modules also seek to provide the skills basis for future study and each provides a specialised skill focus to ensure that all students have acquired key study skills and have basic IT competency by the end of year one.</p> <p>The second year develops student knowledge of core theoretical material through DEV2001 and also introduces students to subject specific skills through the overseas field visit (DEV2052). The core module DEV2001 emphasises the development of critical thinking skills. The field visit emphasises the systematic collection and analysis of data and its presentation in a report format. The field visit also provides an opportunity for the development of a case study approach to</p>	

development issues and provides the students with first hand material that can be used in later modules (students unable to travel overseas for the field visit will be exempt and alternative arrangements made). The second year also develops student research skills through a generic social science module (HSS2001). This module provides grounding in both quantitative and qualitative methods and these are an important underpinning for the dissertation module in the final year. For their fourth module students are allowed to choose from a number of optional modules, to gain more in depth knowledge in an area of their choice, including the environment, gender, tourism, disasters and globalisation.

After successfully completing the second year of studies, students may choose to undertake a year long placement (HSS3003) in an institution or organisation in the UK or overseas.

Exchange opportunities with universities in Europe and elsewhere are also available. All students are encouraged to undertake some sort of placement and if a year long placement is not a feasible option then students may take a 30 or 60 credit placement option during their final year of study (HSS3001/3002). The 60 credit option may be taken overseas during the first term of the final year. During the final year of study students must take a core development studies module (DEV3001) and the dissertation. Students choosing to take a 30 credit placement in the UK (not overseas) must also take one optional modules.

In the final year the emphasis is upon developing independent learning skills and module content focuses on policy issues in the contemporary developing countries. All students must take the core module in Development Policy (DEV3001). This module is intended to integrate issues and concepts acquired over the course of study and experience gained through placement, and to take consideration of this material to a higher level through more detailed discussion of a specific topic or theme. The module is student led and consists of student presentations in 'policy panels' that take place during the second term of the final year. All students must also complete a dissertation (HSS3330). Some pieces of work will be desk based studies but many are based upon fieldwork undertaken in the vacation or upon material collected during the placement. The dissertation module is intended to demonstrate the student's ability to carry out a short research oriented piece of work and to relate the theoretical knowledge gained through the programme to empirical data. Those students who choose not to undertake a placement, or are unable to do so for whatever reason, will take two optional modules during their final year in order to complete their studies. Similarly, those who take advantage of a year long placement on their return take DEV3001, two optional modules and the dissertation.

12.2 Levels and modules		
Level 1		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: DEV1001 The construction of the Third World POI1001 Introduction to politics SPL1608 Citizenship and contemporary society SPL1510 Introduction to Social Policy	No choice at Level 1	DEV1001 POI1001 SPL1510 SPL1608
Level 2		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: DEV2001 Development in theory and practice DEV2052* Overseas Field Trip HSS2001 Social Science Research Approaches	Students must also choose ONE from the following: Disasters and Development Environment and Development Comparative Politics Middle East International Political Theory Globalism Migration Society and policy Cross-cultural studies of gender Managing Sustainable Tourism	DEV2001 DEV2052* HSS2001
*Unless a student is unable to travel overseas when an alternative programme will be agreed		

Level 3		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>DEV3001 Development policy seminars (30 credits) HSS3330 (30 credit Dissertation)</p>	<p>Students must also choose at least 60 CREDITS from the following:</p> <p>Disasters and Development (30 credits)</p> <p>Environment and Development (30 credits)</p> <p>*HSS3001 (30 credit placement) or *HSS3002 (60 credit placement)</p> <p>Comparative Politics (30 credits)</p> <p>Middle East (30 credits)</p> <p>International Political Theory (30 credits)</p> <p>Globalism (30 credits)</p> <p>Migration Society and policy (30 credits)</p> <p>Cross-cultural studies of gender (30 credits)</p> <p>Managing Sustainable Tourism (30 credits)</p> <p>* Cannot be taken with HSS3003</p>	<p>DEV3001 HSS3330</p>

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	Module code
Two	DEV2001
	DEV2052
	HSS2001
Three	DEV3001
	HSS3330

13. Curriculum map	
See attached.	
14. Information about assessment regulations	
The DEV subject area adheres to the Middlesex University Regulations on all assessment regulations.	
15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)	
<p>Work experience is a standard part of many programmes at Middlesex University, including Development Studies. Placements are available with organisations both in the UK and overseas and can last for 3 months or one year. Some of the benefits to be gained from undertaking a work placement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You gain professional experience that is highly valued by future employers and gain the practical skills that are needed for working in the field and which cannot be taught in the classroom. Employers want people who have developed the ability to be flexible and adaptable, work in teams, communicate with fellow employees and customers, take initiatives and responsibility and, when necessary, take the lead. Many of these qualities can be learned and developed through placements. • You will be applying the ideas that you have learnt in the classroom to 'real life' situations and conversely you will be evaluating your experience 'in the field' in the light of the modules that you have taken before placement and when you return. This process makes your education a much more meaningful experience. • The experience will help you develop your own ideas about the career you want, what will suit you best, and perhaps the kind of work or employers you wish to avoid. It is much easier to identify the positive and negative aspects of a particular career if you have experienced it first hand. 	
16. Future careers (if applicable)	
<p>The implementation of the Middlesex University and School of Health and Social Sciences Graduate Skills strategy provides students with opportunities to develop a range of graduate skills. Students most usually find work within the not-for-profit sector both in the UK and overseas. A relatively high proportion of students go on to study further at Masters and to doctoral level. Feedback from those organisations who have received students on placements indicates the usefulness and applicability of this skills strategy. A number of students each year are offered full time employment with their placement organisations after graduation further suggesting that DEV students have the skills and knowledge required to work within the field. Students who have done a relevant placement tend to get a first job easier than those who have not and their starting salaries tend to be higher.</p>	
17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)	
<p>Students are encouraged to take full advantage of the learning support schemes and facilities at Campus and University levels, particularly the English Language and Learning Services and the Disability Support Services, and services available from the Student Union.</p>	
18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	M920 E BADEV
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	None

20. Reference points

The following reference points were used in designing the programme:

- Middlesex University and School of Health and Social Science Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies
- Middlesex University Regulations 2008-09
- QAA framework for higher education qualification
- Knowledge of other University Departments
- Student, staff, External Examiner and Graduates feedback
- Learning Framework documentation
- Other comparable undergraduate programmes

21. Other information

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the University Regulations.

Curriculum map for BA (Honours) Development Studies

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
3	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Module Title	Module Code by Level	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
		Level One																							
	DEV1001	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X
	POI1001				X				X	X	X				X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	SPL1510			X					X	X	X	X			X		X				X	X	X	X	X
	SPL1608					X			X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Level Two																									
	DEV2001	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X				X	X					X			X
	DEV2052	X				X	X				X		X	X	X	X			X		X		X		X
	HSS2001					X											X	X	X					X	X
Level Three																									
	DEV3001	X		X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X
	HSS3001/ 3002/3003												X						X	X		X	X		X
	HSS3300					X			X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X		X	X		X	X

Programme learning outcomes BA (Hons) Development Studies

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills
The problems that face the Third world and their fundamental causes	C1	Make oral presentations to staff and peers
Historical and contemporary processes of underdevelopment and development over space / time	C2	Interpret quantitative and qualitative information
Key development policy, the policy formulation process and issues around implementation and monitoring	C3	Identify key issues and search for relevant information
Debates over the key concepts within development and their consequences	C4	Plan and deliver an individual piece of research
Critical examination of a range of research strategies and their appropriate use	C5	Undertake fieldwork successfully
The relationship between environment and development	C6	Work within an office or project environment
The gendered consequences of development processes	C7	
Cognitive skills		
Describe and assess a range of established theories and concepts	D1	Reflect on current knowledge to plan for the future, effectively organise their own timetable of work and meet deadlines
Review, synthesise and critically evaluate published materials, from a wide range of sources	D2	Take initiative and direct their own learning
Critically review and evaluate evidence and use this to construct reasoned, evidenced argument	D3	Work effectively within a team collaborating with others to achieve common goals
Critically evaluate policy and policy implementation	D4	Demonstrate IT skills including the use of PowerPoint and an ability to interpret numerical information
Apply knowledge to practical development problems	D5	Demonstrate oral and written communication skills
Apply conceptual and theoretical approaches to empirical material	D6	

