

# MPhil/PhD in International Development

Students may follow the PhD pathway in International Development by being based at either SOAS, LSHTM or IoE. All PhD students on the International Development pathway will attend an advanced research training seminar run by LIDC. The series will provide students in the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre's International Development Pathway with a broad understanding of interdisciplinary approaches to development, and a detailed understanding of selected areas of interest.

## All MPhil/PhD in International Development

research students will participate in the compulsory course work and attend research student seminars in the college and department where they are registered for the MPhil/PhD. Each college and department has seminar series associated with the particular discipline (Health in LHSTM, Education in IOE, Economics and Development Studies in SOAS), and students will be expected to involve themselves in the work of relevant research clusters within each institution. All 3 and 4 structure research students will also be required to attend a cross-college interdisciplinary seminar series/module in international development coordinated by LIDC. Each college offers a variety of relevant advanced training courses. In addition LIDC offers some 140 distance learning, specialist training courses in the field of international development through its Distance Learning for Development (DL4D) portal.

## Admissions Process

There are three admission routes to the MPhil and PhD in International Development:

- **The 1+3 structure:** Following successful completion of the MSc Research for International Development at SOAS. ESRC 1+3 studentships are available to fund this route.
- **The +3 structure:** By direct application for MPhil/PhD in International Development admission. ESRC 1+3 studentships are available to fund this route.
- **The 4 structure:** not currently available at SOAS



SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL  
AND AFRICAN STUDIES

MSc Research  
for International  
Development

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

## Contact us

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# MSc Research for International Development

The MSc Research for International Development is a newly established interdisciplinary Taught Masters programme at SOAS, offered jointly by the departments of Economics and Development Studies. The MSc comprises taught modules and a dissertation.

## Core courses:

- Battlefield of Methods: Approaches to International Development (full year) (new course)
- Research Methods in Political Economy I (half year) (15PECC039)
- Research Methods in Political Economy II (half year) (15PECC040)

The **Battlefield of Methods: Approaches to International Development** course equips students with the theoretical background and analytical skills to inquire into the relation between theory and method in the domain of international development. The course provides students with knowledge about the plurality of methodological approaches in key areas of international development research, and the policy choices and strategies associated with these. The course offers students the opportunity to engage with a selection of methods used in international development research.

**Research Methods in Political Economy I and II:** RMI covers the necessary statistical methods for social sciences including survey design and regression analysis. It aims to: a) introduce students to statistical inference; b) encourage the clear and coherent expression of statistical results; and c) promote the critical reading of statistics within the development literature. RMI addresses sources and methods for the social sciences in the context of the political economy of development. The aim of the course is to provide students with the capacity to understand and apply the different methodologies available for applied research in studying development.

## Option modules: (half year)

Students will take option modules in the Departments of Development Studies and Economics, with the possibility of options from other participating institutions in the DTC as appropriate and available. The option modules

will cover the theory and practice of development, including economic and development policy, social preconditions and implications of development, and international aspects of development. They offer strong area content, focusing on the history and institutions of Asia and Africa.

Option modules' descriptions in the Economics and Development Studies departments can be found through the following links (click a Taught Masters programme and then click 'Structure' for course links):

### Economics:

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/economics/programmes/>

### Development Studies:

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/development/programmes/>

From the Department of Economics options may include, for example, theory courses such as micro and macro-economics, as well courses focusing on the economics of particular regions: Africa, Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, Asia Pacific and China. The Department of Development Studies offers a similarly wide range of options focusing on particular topics in development. While options will be

available across a spectrum of development issues, certain options require specialist knowledge, for instance in economic theory, and are only available at the discretion of the associated course convenor, in consultation with the convenors for the MSc itself.

## Dissertation in Research Methods for International Development:

The dissertation is designed to consolidate students' learning in the taught modules and provide them with the opportunity to pilot a potential PhD project.

## Entry requirements:

Normally minimum upper second class honours degree (or equivalent) in the social sciences, including some economics and/or political economy, and preferably a demonstrable interest in research and research methods. Work and other experience may be taken into account. Each student must attend the Preliminary Mathematics and Statistics course, and attend its exam. The preliminary course runs in September prior to the start of teaching in term one.

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