

Programme-specific part of the Education and Examination Regulations 2019-2020

Master's degree programme in Development Studies

Graduate School of Geoscience

The master's degree programme Development Studies offers the programme International Development Studies.

art. 2.1 - admission requirements of the degree programme

1. Admission to the programme International Development Studies is given to a student holding a Dutch or foreign diploma confirming that he has gained the knowledge, insights and skills at university Bachelor's level. Furthermore, the student needs to prove that he has gained the following specific knowledge, insights and skills:
 - a) knowledge in the field of Development Geography, at advanced level of the major Human Geography and Planning at Utrecht University, or equivalent to that level.
 - b) insight in Development Geography at advanced level of the major Human Geography and Planning at Utrecht University, or equivalent to that level.
 - c) academic and research skills of the major Human Geography and Planning at Utrecht University, or equivalent to that level.
 - d) control of the language or languages used in the programme.
2. Students will be selected on the basis of objective standards concerning:
 - a) previous academic performance in a relevant subject area or areas;
 - b) relevant skills;
 - c) command of the language(s) used in the programme.This information is used to consider whether the student concerned is able to complete the Master's Programme successfully within the nominal time period.
The admission requirements have been formulated clearly and transparently so that candidates are aware beforehand of the requirements they must meet in order to qualify for selection.

art. 3.1 – aim of the degree programme

The aim of the programme:

The programme emphasises the most influential processes that facilitate or hinder sustainable and inclusive development at various geographical scales. They include climate change, rapid urbanisation, migration and other forms of human mobilities, large-scale investment in land (e.g. for food and biofuels, nature conservation, real estate development, infrastructure, etc.), food security, the role of different actors and institutions (i.e. the state, the private sector, civil societies) in development processes.

We also emphasise practical implications, guiding students to think critically about the ways policymakers, businesses, NGOs and other actors can foster conditions for equitable and sustainable development.

The learning objectives of the programme:

1. To make sense of societal challenges and transformations from an inter-disciplinary perspective
2. To analyse social issues with a holistic, system approach
3. To be able to conduct fieldwork research, collecting data on the ground
4. To be sensitive to the importance of context (place, space and time)
5. To focus on the well-being of the people and communities
6. To be solution-oriented.

The intended learning outcomes of the programme have been specified in the prospectus.

art. 3.6 - components of the master's programme

1. The required courses of the programme including the course load per course have been specified in appendix 1.
2. Upon approval of the Board of Examiners students have the possibility to select an elective course of 5 EC from other UU programmes or from other universities, see EER Art. 3.7. The elective components within the programme are listed in appendix 2.
3. In the prospectus, the contents and form of instruction of the components of the programme are described in detail, stating the prior knowledge desirable to pass the relevant component.

art. 4.2 - course admission requirements

The Executive Board will decide the order in which the required components of a master's degree programme must be completed. This will be announced in the prospectus.

art. 4.7 - evaluation of the quality of education

1. The Director of Education is responsible for monitoring the quality of education. To this end, the Director ensures that courses are evaluated as well as the curriculum. The Director takes the advice and suggestions given by the Education Committee on improving and ensuring the quality of the programme into consideration.
2. Students who have participated in the course will be informed of the results of the course evaluation.

Appendices

Appendix 1 : Structure of the programme

Starting from 1 September 2017		Starting date before 1 September 2017	
Required / theoretical	15 EC	Required / theoretical	20 EC
Methods of research	10 EC	Methods of research	10 EC
Elective course	5 EC	MSc research/thesis	30 EC
MSc research/thesis	30 EC		

Compulsory components (55 EC)

GEO4-3505	Development Theories	7,5 EC
GEO4-3510	Development Themes	7,5 EC
GEO4-3518	Advanced Methods & Techniques for International Development Studies	10 EC
GEO4-3509	Thesis/Internship International Development Studies	30 EC

Appendix 2: Elective courses (5 EC)

GEO4-3917 Real Estate	5 EC
GEO4-3519 Migration, Mobilities & Sustainable Futures	5 EC
GEO4-5501 Techniques of Futuring	5 EC
GEO4-3121 Urban Infrastructures	5 EC
GEO4-3919 Urban Heritage	5 EC