

# Programme-specific part of the Education and Examination Regulations 2024-2025

## Graduate School of Geosciences: Master's degree programme in Development Studies

The Master's degree programme *Development Studies* offers the programme *International Development Studies*.

### Art. 2.1 - Admission requirements

1. Admission to the *International Development Studies* programme is granted to students with a Dutch or a foreign diploma confirming that they have acquired the knowledge, insights and skills at university Bachelor's level. Furthermore, students need to prove that they have gained the following specific knowledge, insights and skills:
  - a) knowledge in the field of *Development Geography*, at the advanced level of the major *Human Geography and Planning* at Utrecht University, or equivalent to this level
  - b) insight into *Development Geography* at the advanced level of the major *Human Geography and Planning* at Utrecht University, or equivalent to this level
  - c) academic and research skills at the advanced level of the major *Human Geography and Planning* at Utrecht University, or equivalent to this level
  - d) good command of the language or languages used in the programme
2. Students will be selected based on objective standards regarding:
  - a) their previous academic performance in a relevant subject area or areas
  - b) relevant skills
  - c) their command of the language or languages used in the programme
  - d) the following additional selection criteria with proven relevance for the opinion on the suitability of the candidate:
    - motivation
    - average grade

This information is used to consider whether the student concerned will be able to complete the Master's programme successfully within the set time period. The admission requirements have been formulated clearly and transparently so that candidates know in advance which requirements must be met in order to qualify for selection.

### Art. 3.1 – Aim of the degree 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 are specified in the prospectus.

### Art. 3.6 - Components of the Master's programme

1. Appendix 1 describes the required courses of the programme, including the course load per course.
2. Students may select an elective course of 5 EC from other UU programmes or from other universities, but these need to be approved by the Board of Examiners (see EER Art. 3.7). The elective components within the programme are listed in Appendix 2.
3. The prospectus provides a detailed description of the contents and form of instruction of the components of the programme, including prior knowledge that is required to participate successfully.

#### **Art. 4.2 - Course admission requirements**

The Executive Board decides the order in which the required components of a Master's degree programme must be completed. This will be published in the prospectus.

#### **Art. 4.7 - Evaluation of the quality of education**

1. The Director of Education monitors the quality of education, and ensures that both the courses and the curriculum are evaluated. The Director takes into consideration the advice and suggestions given by the Education Committee regarding improving and ensuring the quality of the programme.
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

Required/theoretical	15 EC
Methods of research	10 EC
Elective course	5 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)

GEO4-3924	Cultures of Sustainability in Global Perspective	5 EC
GEO4-3519	Migration, Mobilities & Sustainable Futures	5 EC
GEO4-3907	Mobilities, Travel & Networks	5 EC
GEO4-3316	Neighbourhoods and Crime	5 EC
GEO4-3917	Real Estate	5 EC
GEO4-5501	Techniques of Futuring	5 EC
GEO4-3121	Urban Infrastructures	5 EC