

Study guide
Master programme
International Development
Studies
2021-2022



Universiteit Utrecht

Faculteit Geowetenschappen

Addresses

The **visiting address** of the faculty is:

Faculty of Geosciences
Princetonlaan 8a,
3584 CB Utrecht
Tel. +31 30 253 7210, Internet: www.uu.nl/geo

The **postal address** of the faculty is:

Faculty of Geosciences
PO Box 80.115
3508 TC Utrecht
The Netherlands

The desk of **Student Affairs Geosciences**:

Victor J. Koningsbergergebouw, first floor
[More information and opening hours](#)
Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 9559
E-mail: studentaffairs.geo@uu.nl

Secretariat Human Geography and Spatial Planning

Room 6.96, floor 6, Vening Meinesz
Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 1399

The **V.U.G.S. - study association** of human geographers and planners Utrecht

Buys Ballotgebouw, rooms 266 & 267
Princetonplein 5
3584 CC Utrecht
Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 2789
E-mail: Vugs@uu.nl, Internet: <http://vugs.uu.nl>

European Geography Association (EGEA), for students and young geographers

Buys Ballotgebouw, room 274
Princetonplein 5
3584 CC Utrecht
Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 9708
E-mail: Egea@uu.nl, Internet: <http://www.egea.eu/entity/utrecht>

The **Examinations Board** can be contacted through examencommissie.geo@uu.nl. Hard copy paperwork can be handed in at the Student Affairs Desk (Victor J. Koningsbergergebouw, floor 1).

You can hand in your hard copy assignments at the reception of Vening Meinesz. Be sure to clearly state your name and the lecturer's name.

Preface

For most students the Master's is the final stage of a long educational career. It will be also the shortest one, lasting only one or two years. It is the last step on your way to a professional career. This consideration dictates the character of the Master's program. The program starts with a consolidation and update of the students' knowledge already acquired from earlier specializations, but most time is dedicated to the application of academic research in the professional field, sometimes in combination with an internship.

The Master's programs of the Department of Human Geography and Planning are coordinated by the Academic School Human Geography and Planning.

In this guide you will find specific information about your Master's program. Information about services, the faculty, the education and examination regulation and the schedule of all the courses in the different Master's programs can be found in the latter part of the guide.

I hope you will experience an inspiring and successful master year!

Dr G. Nijenhuis
Chair Academic School Human Geography and Planning

Teaching approach

Activating education is what the Academic School aims for. We believe that you can best activate your own learning process by carrying out individual and group assignments and exercises, participation in debates, and the application of methodology taught. As far as possible, work is carried out in small groups. Additionally, there is active support from lecturers, instructions, manuals and feedback about your performance. Feel free to ask questions and to engage in discussions with your peers and lecturers.

Active participation

The Academic School is committed to realize the maximum acquisition of knowledge, in cooperation with our students. All lecturers and support staff share a similar philosophy that if students are fully committed to their studies, individual courses can be successfully completed. The ground rules for "active participation" are as follows:

- We expect you to be present during all classes and activities. For compulsory classes and activities attendance is registered. The course manual spells out which classes and activities are compulsory. Be sure to inform yourself of this information.
- If your attendance in the compulsory sessions falls below 75 per cent, you lose the right to complete the course, irrespective of the reasons for your absence.
- Be sure to catch up individually if you have had to miss a class. Ask fellow students what was discussed in class and what is expected of you in terms of preparation for the next class.
- Absence during assessments is a serious matter. There is no automatic right to do a replacement test. A replacement test may be taken only if you have had to miss the test because of circumstances demonstrably beyond your control and if you have informed the lecturer immediately of your situation.
- Assignments must be handed in by the due date. If not, this will result in a fail (or a deduction of grade points).

Lectures

During lectures we ask you to take the following into account:

- A lecture usually comprises two sessions of 45 minutes with a 15-minute break in between.
- Be in time, and if not, be very silent in entering the room, if possible, through the back door.
- Listen carefully, do not disturb the lecture, take notes, it could be part of a test.
- Switch off your phone.
- Eating is not permitted.
- Attending the first lecture of a course is always compulsory.

Your opinion counts

The department is very interested in students' opinion about the programmes. We value the participation of students in the Faculty board, [the Education Committee](#) and the study association. For every course we ask participating students how they evaluate the course. This gives you the possibility to give your opinion in order to improve the quality of the programme.

[Complaints](#)

If you feel you have not been treated properly by someone employed by Utrecht University, or if you disagree with a decision that affects you personally, you can respond in a number of ways. To help you decide which response is most appropriate in your case, please consult [this overview](#).

Course registration explained

Academic periods

The academic year has four periods of nine to ten weeks.

Period	Dates	Remarks
1	6 September 2021 - 14 November 2021	
2	15 November 2021 – 6 February 2022	No classes in week 52 & week 1
3	7 February 2022 – 24 April 2022	
4	25 April 2022 – 17 July 2022	

Scheduling of courses

When choosing your courses in period 2, you should keep in mind that at Utrecht University each course is placed in a time slot. Lectures and seminars are scheduled within that slot. This enables you to easily combine courses (up to 15 EC), provided that they are in different timeslots. The time slots are:

A: Monday morning, Wednesday morning

B: Tuesday morning, Thursday afternoon

C: Monday afternoon, Thursday morning

D: Wednesday afternoon, Friday whole day

On Tuesday afternoon there are no scheduled lectures, but it can be used for individual discussions (with a lecturer).

During non-Covid times you can find the actual course schedules in [MyTimetable](#) or the MyUUapp four weeks before the courses begin. Check the studyguide and blackboard during periode 1 and 2.

[Course registration procedure](#)

- You are required to register for every course via OSIRIS Student during the stipulated registration period (see below). The first period is an exception: students are automatically registered for the courses in this period.
- Per period you can register for a maximum of 15 EC (= fulltime workload). In exceptional cases it is allowed to take more than 15 EC. If you wish to do so, you will have to apply with a digital form (to be found on the students website) during the standard registration period.
- Timely registration will ensure placement in compulsory courses.
- You have a second chance to register for courses during the late registration days, however this only holds for courses where places are still available.
- Registration for an elective course does not guarantee placement. In case of over-registration, participants are selected at random or based on suitability. Depending on the nature of the course, either of these methods will be used to determine placement.
- If need be, you can formally drop a course up to two weeks after the courses started. This should be done through OSIRIS student (but please also inform your lecturer). If you quit a course at a later stage, a fail will be registered for this course.
- Please note that lecturers have no say in registration/deregistration. Should you have any questions, [Student Affairs Geosciences](#) is your first point of contact.
- A one-time registration is required for the Thesis and/or internship. This may be done throughout the year.

For period	Registration dates	Late registration days
1	31 May – 27 June 2021	23 and 24 August 2021
2	20 September – 3 October 2021	25 and 26 October 2021
3	1 November – 28 November 2021	24 and 25 January 2022
4	31 January t/m 27 February 2022	4 en 5 April 2022

Completion of courses

In every course there will be multiple assessments, so your final grade will not depend on a written exam only.

Should you fail a course, be aware that at the faculty of Geosciences certain conditions apply for supplementary tests.

- If the overall course result is between 4.00 and 5.49 before rounding and the student has made every effort to successfully complete the course, he/she will be given one opportunity to take a supplementary test. The lecturer will determine the form and content, as well as date and time, of the supplementary test. In case of a successful outcome the result of the course will be a 6, regardless of the grade obtained for the supplementary test.
- An average of less than 4.00 before rounding results in failure to complete the course without possibilities to repair the result. The entire course must be followed again.

The formal rules for successful completion of courses are found in the Education and Examination Regulations (O.E.R.).

'Every effort to successfully complete the course' means no absence for compulsory lectures and activities including tests, and assignments must have been handed in in time.

During a test you must be able to show your (digital) student card.

Typically, supplementary tests are scheduled in the third week of the next period.

For period	Supplementary tests
1	week 48
2	week 8
3	week 19
4	week 28

[Fraud and plagiarism](#)

Fraud and plagiarism will be strongly punished. Details are stipulated in the Education and Examination Regulations (O.E.R.). It is intolerable to submit work that has been done by someone else, to copy from sources without due acknowledgement and so on. A lecturer must report instances of fraud and plagiarism to the Examinations Board which can impose severe penalties.

Master's programme International Development Studies

Programma coordinator: [dr. F.van Noorloos](#)
[Studentsite International Development Studies](#)

Content

The programme in International Development Studies (IDS) leads to a (academic) Master of Science (MSc) degree in Development Studies. The kind of questions asked in this master programme:

- How should we think about 'development' and formulate strategies for equitable and sustainable development in our increasingly inter-connected world?
- How can natural resource management contribute to sustainable and improved societal well-being, especially for the poor?
- How can (international) migration and other forms of human mobilities contribute and pose challenges to development and other societal transformations at places of origin, transit and destination?
- What strategies are local businesses in the Global South using to link up to the global economic networks? What are the developmental effects of these operations?
- What impact does the rise of 'new' world powers like BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) have in the international development sector?

Utrecht University has been teaching development studies for more than four decades. We have a good reputation in this field and very experienced staff. We offer an international learning environment, with lecturers and students of diverse geographical, cultural and disciplinary backgrounds. The emphasis of the programme is on Development Geography. It is particularly suitable for students who want to learn about (i) the recent changes in theories, policies and practices in international development; (ii) the complex and dynamic inter-relationship between development, mobility and access to natural resources; (iii) how households, businesses and institutions in the Global South are responding to climate change, migration, urbanisation and economic globalisation; (iv) the world through different lenses and from different disciplinary perspectives; and if you have a people-centred view of development. The one-year MSc in International Development Studies comprises five course modules, an internship with a host organisation in the Global South and a Master's thesis.

Aim of the programme

The central objective of the MSc-IDS programme is to equip students with conceptual and empirical knowledge as well as research skills necessary in understanding and analysing contemporary issues pertaining to international development in broad geographical contexts (local, regional and international levels).

Further down below the intended learning outcomes are listed in detail.

The labour market

Upon graduation, students should have acquired theoretical, methodological and practical competency that will be useful for their career in further academic research, development policy and practice sector as well as other work fields in both the public and private sectors that require understanding of world affairs, international experiences as well as analytical, communication and project implementation skills. Graduates of our programme have established their career in governmental and non-profit organisations, as well as the private sector. Job opportunities include:

- Research positions: conducting scientific, exploratory and evaluative research into development issues;

- Policy positions: preparing and coordinating policy, advising on and planning international development cooperation;
- Management and other positions on programmes at international organizations, businesses and NGOs.

In our programme we organize regular events, including the Intro/Alumni Day, 'Meet the Professionals' sessions, to enlarge our students' network and provide more insight into the various career options. In addition, our IDS Alumni Association (IDSAA) also helps current and former students and IDS affiliates connect with each other through a wealth of professional and social networking activities.

Structure of the Master International Development Studies

The MSc programme in International Development Studies comprises one year of study (60 credits). It consists of five course modules and an internship with a host organization in a developing or transition country followed by a Master thesis (total 30 credits).

Period 1 (Sept – Nov)	Period 2 (Nov – Jan)	Period 3 (Feb – April)	Period 4 (May – August)
GEO4-3510 Development Themes (7.5 EC) GEO4-3505 Development Theories (7.5 EC)	GEO4-3518 Advanced Methods & Techniques (10 EC) You can choose one elective course (5 EC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEO4-3519 Migration, Mobilities & Sustainable Futures • GEO4-3917 Real Estate • GEO4-3918 Healthy Cities • GEO4-5501 Techniques of Futuring • GEO4-3121 Urban Infrastructures • GEO4-3919 Urban Heritage 	GEO4-3509 Thesis/Internship (30 EC)	

- Development Themes:

Cursusdoelen

This course will provide students with conceptual and empirical knowledge of current development and poverty trends in Asia, Latin America and Africa, offering a geographical perspective on how different actors respond to a variety of institutions, macro-policies and forces of globalization. The course will start with a comparative overview of major development trends in Asia, Latin America and Africa, covering the overarching theme of: *Translocal development in the global south: new scarcities, new mobilities*. The course will then focus on a number of IDS's research themes (which are linked to the research internship / thesis programme), such as private sector development, global value chains and local economic development; land and food security; urbanization and

urban governance; climate change and environmental justice; energy transitions; education and work; transnationalism, migration and development; and global health. In addition to lectures by IDS-staff, a number of key-note speakers will be invited ('meet the professional').

- **Development Theories:** This module critically examines the major approaches and theories that dominate thinking about development at present, and have done so in the past several decades. The course adopts a multidisciplinary approach, discussing contributions by geographers as well as those by other development-oriented scholars;

- **Advanced Methods & Techniques for International Development Studies:** This module deals with research design and advanced research methods and techniques. During a series of lectures, tutorials and practicals students are introduced to a wide range of aspects pertaining to the design, conducting and analysis of research as well as actually working in other cultural settings. The students are trained in the hands-on implementation of a variety of methods and techniques as commonly applied during the various phases of the project cycle, such as data collection (e.g. interviewing and surveys) and analysis (qualitative and quantitative). In addition, IDS students are trained in research design, resulting in a research proposal for the project which is to be carried out during the student's research - oriented internship.
- **Research Internship/MSc Thesis:** The research internship is designed to give students an opportunity to conduct a substantial, fieldwork-based individual research on a chosen topic related to international development and hence gain deeper understanding of development practices. In the course of the year, a number of required workshops are provided to give students the optimal preparation for their future careers.

Intended learning outcomes

The IDSM 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 underline the links between global flows of capital and of people, and the associated implications for sustainable livelihoods and human wellbeing. As such, the IDSM is rooted in the departmental Urban Futures programme which investigates urban issues in the context of an ongoing worldwide trend of increasing urbanisation. While the regional foci are on Asia, Africa and Latin America, students are guided to understand these geographical regions as linked to each other and to other regions in the world.

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

The aim of the IDSM programme has been translated into the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs). We first identified six main learning goals for the programme:

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

Important contacts for students

[Master coordinator International Development Studies](#)

[Find a lecturer](#)

[Student Affairs Faculty of Geosciences](#)

[Secretariat department Human Geography and Spatial Planning](#)

[Study advisor Human Geography and Spatial Planning](#)

[Board of examiners](#)

[International Office Faculty of Geosciences](#)

Important information for students/Where are ...? Services

[Attendance and effort requirements](#)

[Blackboard](#)

[Books, readers and printing](#)

[Buildings](#)

[Career Services UU](#)

[Complaints, objections and appeals](#)

[Department Human Geography and Spatial Planning](#)

[Disability or chronic illness](#)

[Education and examination regulation \(OER\)](#)

[Education committee](#)

[Blackboard](#)

[Faculty of Geosciences](#)

[Fraud and plagiarism](#)

[Graduation](#)

[Honours](#)

[Illness and absence](#)

[Internship](#)

[IT-facilities](#)

[KNAG](#)

[Library](#)

[Map collection](#)

[Nethur](#)

[Osiris Student](#)

[Registration for a course](#)

[Re-enrolment](#)

[Schedules](#)

[Student Service Centre \(UU for U\)](#)

[Study regulations](#)

[Student Statute](#)

Study associations

[V.U.G.S.](#)

[EGEA](#)

[Helix](#)

[U.A.V.](#)

Career Services

During your masterprogram you can find out what kind of job you would like after graduation. Find out what you like, where you are good at and what your possibilities are on the job market.

During your master you will gain a lot of geographical knowledge and skills and you will train the skills you need in your first job. While following courses, try to find out what you like, which skills you are good at and your interests and ambition. Within the course you will be able to explore the job market by attending guest lectures, meeting alumni, studying abroad or doing an internship. This will all help you to get an idea what is needed on the job market.

Career Services will help you as well towards your step to the job market: you can do online tests to find out what is important for you, follow workshops, meet a career officer and practice job-interviews. The once a year career event of Utrecht University will be held in February.

Check the website of your master program or www.uu.nl/careerservices. The Career Officer of the faculty of Geosciences is Mrs. Franca Geerdes (f.geerdes@uu.nl)

2021-2022

36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
6 Sep 1	13-Sep 2	20-Sep 3	27-Sep 4	4-Oct 5	11-Oct 6	18-Oct 7	25-Okt 8	1-Nov 9	education free

MSc open
day

46	47	48	49	50	51	52	1	2	3	4	5
15-Nov 1	22-Nov 2	29-Nov 3	6-Dec 4	13-Dec 5	20-Dec 6	Xmas holiday	Xmas holiday	10-Jan 8	17-Jan 9	24-Jan 10	Education free

Re-exam
P1

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
7-Feb 1	14-Feb 2	21-Feb 3	28-Feb 4	7-March 5	14-March 6	21-March 7	28-March 8	4-Apr 9	Education free	Education free

Re-exam
P2

17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25-Apr 1	2-May 2	9-May 3	16-May 4	23-May 5	30-May 6	6-June 7	13-June 8	20-June 9	27-June 10	Education free	Re-exam P4

V.U.G.S.
symposium

Re-exam
P3

Good Friday	week 15	Friday	15-04-22
Easter	week 16	Monday	18-04-22
Kings Day	week 17	Wednesday	27-04-22
Libaration Day	week 18	Thursday	05-05-22
Ascension Day	week 21	Thursday	26-05-22
Pentecost	week 23	Monday	06-06-22