



Development Studies

Universal equality is not just a theoretical concept to us, it is the vision underlying our research priorities and our working practices. Choose SOAS and you will join a worldwide network of people who are passionate about seeking better alternatives to mainstream approaches to development.

Combining political economy, globalisation, migration and displacement, conflict, agrarian change, labour movements and political ecology, Development Studies at SOAS is engaged with understanding, challenging and contributing to vital debates about social, political and economic change. We critically evaluate development practices in the context of societal change, seeking new insights that can benefit communities as well as international and local agencies working with the people affected.

Our staff have unrivalled, practical knowledge across the discipline - not content to study the subject passively, they are practitioners, actively engaged with urgent issues that affect our world. The UN, NGOs and international governments regularly call upon our work to inform their own.

Structure and assessment

Students take taught modules to the value of 120 credits and complete a dissertation (60 credits) – unless stated otherwise

Entry requirements

Minimum upper second-class honours degree (or equivalent) – unless stated otherwise

English language requirement

Overall IELTS grade of 6.5 with 6.5 in writing and speaking and 6.0 in reading and listening. Visit www.soas.ac.uk/english-requirements for alternative acceptable qualifications

Duration

One calendar year (full-time); two, three years (part-time, daytime only)



Taught Masters Programmes

- MSc Development Studies
- MSc Development Studies (Central Asia Pathway)
- MSc Development Studies (Contemporary India Pathway)
- MSc Development Studies (Palestine Pathway)
- MSc Environment, Politics and Development
- MSc Globalisation and Development
- MSc Labour, Social Movements and Development
- MSc Migration, Mobility and Development
- MSc Research for International Development
- MSc Violence, Conflict and Development
- MSc Violence, Conflict and Development (Palestine Pathway)



More Information

www.soas.ac.uk/development



Changing policies to tackle the war on drugs

Wars on drugs have been declared by leaders across countries who are concerned about the impacts of illicit drugs on security, development and health. However, a new approach is needed which is defined by the drug-producing countries themselves, and which recognises what the trade-offs are and who bears the costs of drug policies.

'Drugs and (Dis)order: Building Sustainable Peacetime Economies in the Aftermath of War' is a major £7 million RCUK funded project led by Professor Jonathan Goodhand, Professor in Conflict and Development Studies, which will generate a new evidence base, and build the capacity of researchers in drug affected countries, so that polices can better address the challenge of transforming illicit economies.

Professor Jonathan Goodhand

Project title: Drugs and (Dis)order: Building Sustainable Peacetime Economies in the Aftermath of War



I already knew about SOAS, and I liked the sound of the SOAS development studies course with its broad content and opportunities to specialize. The course has lived up to my expectations one hundred percent. What has been great has been hearing the views of my fellow students, who come from a range of ages and backgrounds, some from academia, others who have already been working in NGOs, in government, and in big companies. This has complemented the theoretical studies by being able to have discussions with people who already have a wealth of practical experience and knowledge. SOAS has opened my eyes to a wider viewpoint of the world, particularly in subjects like globalization, where it can be easy to get blinkered and only look at the topic from a UK perspective.

Lucy Rawlings

Degree: MSc Globalisation and Development, 2017



MSc Development Studies

Also available as: MSc Development Studies (Central Asia Pathway); MSc Development Studies (Contemporary India Pathway); and MSc Development Studies (Palestine Pathway)

Convenor: Dr Subir Sinha

Whether you are seeking to strengthen your understanding of development issues for professional or academic reasons, this programme provides a highly sought after opportunity for customised, interdisciplinary study.

Independent and critical analysis are cultivated amongst all our students, ensuring that you leave with a firm understanding of social science and development theory, and an enhanced knowledge of the challenges involved in tackling global poverty and insecurity.

Some of the areas you will explore include neo-liberalism, industrialisation, globalisation, gender, poverty, the role of NGOs and agrarian policies.

Students taking the pathway programmes will gain a thorough grounding in these issues and will further develop a special understanding of development issues in the context of Central Asia, Contemporary India or Palestine studies.

Fees

- £12,120 (Home/EU)
- £20,715 (Overseas)

Structure

Students take 180 credits comprised of 120 taught credits (including core and option modules) and a 60 credit dissertation.

Core modules

- Political Economy of Development (30 credits)
- Theory, Policy and Practice of Development (30 credits)
- An additional, non-assessed module may also be taken in Economics for Beginners

For students taking the **Central Asia Pathway**, the programme is structured as follows:

Core modules

- Political Economy of Development (30 credits)
- Theory, Policy and Practice of Development (30 credits)

Compulsory modules (both)

- Geopolitics and Security in Central Asia and the Caucasus (15 credits)
- State and Society in Central Asia and the Caucasus (15 credits)
- Students must also complete a dissertation with special reference to Central Asia

For students taking the **Contemporary India Pathway**, the programme is structured as follows:

Core modules

- Political Economy of Development (30 credits)
- Theory, Policy and Practice of Development (30 credits)
- Contemporary India: Methods, Issues and Approaches (30 credits)

Compulsory module

- Contemporary India: Issues, Methods and Approaches (30 credits)
- Students must also complete a dissertation with special reference to Contemporary India

For students taking the **Palestine Pathway**, the programme is structured as follows:

Core modules

- Political Economy of Development (30 credits)
- Theory, Policy and Practice of Development (30 credits)

Compulsory modules (both):

- Critical Perspectives on Palestine Studies I: History and Politics (15 credits)
- Critical Perspectives on Palestine Studies II: Culture and Society (15 credits)
- Students must also complete a dissertation with special reference to Palestine

Optional modules

(MSc Development Studies) Students choose options worth a further 60 credits (see table, p.58-59)

(Central Asia) Students choose options worth a further 30 credits (see table, p.58-59)

(Contemporary India) Students choose options worth a further 30 credits (see table, p.58-59)

(Palestine) Students choose options worth a further 30 credits (see table, p.58-59)

Please note: the modules are not all applicable to students taking the Central Asia/Contemporary India/Palestine pathways.

MSc Environment, Politics and Development

Convenor: Dr Andrew Newsham

This MSc explores the processes which give rise simultaneously to global poverty, inequality and environmental problems, and asks: is global neoliberal capitalism reconcilable with the goals of social justice and environmental

sustainability? This programme will equip you with the knowledge and critical analytical skills to be able to form your own views on this, one of the defining questions of our era.

Taught by leading political ecologists and combining economics, sociology and social anthropology, this programme explores how environmental policy intersects with development from a social justice angle.

Key issues you will analyse include water, forestry, climate, fisheries, agricultural production, biodiversity, conflicts and energy supply.

Fees

- £12,120 (Home/EU)
- £20,715 (Overseas)

Structure

Core module

- Political Ecology of Development (30 credits)
- An additional, non-assessed module may also be taken in Economics for Beginners

Compulsory modules (choose one)

- Political Economy of Development (30 credits)
- Theory, Policy and Practice of Development (30 credits)
- Political Economy of Violence, Conflict and Development (30 credits)
- Law and Natural Resources (30 credits)

Optional modules

Students choose options worth a further 60 credits (see table, p.58-59)

MSc Globalisation and Development

Convenor: Professor Gilbert Achcar

This degree provides an exciting opportunity for those who are interested in how global economic and political dynamics are influencing development processes at national, regional and local levels. This can provide an excellent basis for those wanting to work, and for those wanting to continue on into the doctoral studies in the social sciences, in the advocacy or policy analysis fields, as well as for research-orientated work.

This degree draws its strength from SOAS's celebrated critical expertise in this dynamic and far-reaching area. For practitioners, activists, and scholars alike, it is a chance to understand how globalisation influences the developing world and how the poor majority responds to these challenges.

Through a critical analysis of mainstream thinking and an exploration of alternative theories and practices, you will study the political, social and cultural aspects of globalisation and development. Alongside that, you will look into historical and contemporary ideas from imperialism to democracy to alternatives to globalisation.

Fees

- £12,120 (Home/EU)
- £20,715 (Overseas)

Structure

Core module

- Globalisation and Development (30 credits)
- Dissertation (60 credits)

Compulsory modules (choose one)

- Political Economy of Development (30 credits)
- Theory, Policy and Practice of Development (30 credits)

Optional modules

Students choose options worth a further 60 credits (see table, p.58-59)

MSc Labour, Social Movements and Development

Convenor: Dr Tim Pringle

On this degree, you will experience labour campaigns and policy-making in practice by participating in our interactive sessions on designing and implementing international, regional and national initiatives. The programme is designed for those currently involved in or interested in working with NGOs, labour organisations, social movements or development agencies and draws on SOAS's experience and contacts in those sectors. You will explore the links between labour, capitalism, development, gender and poverty, by critically examining models in classic and newly emerging social movements. You will analyse the contemporary features of different forms of often informal labour conditions, labour relations and movements in manufacturing, agriculture, services, transport, logistics and the emerging gig economy across the globe. Approaches to and debates on labour standards, CSR, modern-slavery, forced labour and child labour, and domestic and reproductive labour in the global economy will be critically assessed.

Fees

- £12,120 (Home/EU)
- £20,715 (Overseas)



Structure

Students take 180 credits comprised of 120 taught credits (including core and option modules) and a 60 credit dissertation.

Core module

- Dissertation (60 credits)
- Labour, Social Movements and Development (30 credits)

Compulsory modules (choose one):

- Political Economy of Development (30 credits)
- Theory, Policy and Practice of Development (30 credits)

Optional modules

Students choose options worth a further 60 credits (see table, p.58-59)

MSc Migration, Mobility and Development

Convenor: Dr Anna Lindley

Trafficking, economic migration, environmental displacement and refugees – never before have issues of migration and development been so critical to our global society. This programme will see you studying this increasingly important field, giving you the knowledge and skills to contribute to the debate professionally and/or academically.

This degree is one of the only programmes in the world that combines a solid foundation in development studies with specialist training related to migration and mobility.

Combining study and a multidisciplinary analysis of critical perspectives, you will cover a range of themes from migration policy to, refugee protection, diasporas and development and migrant rights. You will also benefit from regular seminars and events co-sponsored by the Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies, which the department co-hosts. Our approach will ensure that you leave with the confidence to think in policy-relevant terms valued by international organisations, NGOs, government bodies and researchers.

Fees

- £12,120 (Home/EU)
- £20,715 (Overseas)

Structure

Core module

- Dissertation (60 credits)
- Migration, Mobility and Development (30 credits)

Compulsory modules (choose one)

- Political Economy of Development (30 credits)
- Theory, Policy and Practice of Development (30 credits)

Optional modules

Students choose options worth a further 60 credits (see table, p.58-59)

MSc Research for International Development

Convenors: Dr Elisa Van Waeyenberge and Dr Matteo Rizzo

Exploration of development issues requires a mind that is both intellectually and creatively engaged – this interdisciplinary degree is designed to help you excel in both areas.

Drawing on the expertise within our Economics and Development Studies departments, this programme will equip you with the theoretical and analytic tools to look at how theory and practice unfold in international development.

By the time you leave, you will be adept at using statistical methods for social sciences, you will be able to express statistical results clearly and coherently and promote the critical reading of statistics within the development of literature.

This degree is funded and supported by The Economic and Social Research Council as part of the Bloomsbury Doctoral Training Centre.

Fees

- £12,120 (Home/EU)
- £20,715 (Overseas)

Structure

Students must take 180 credits comprised of 120 taught credits (including core and option modules) and a dissertation:

- Dissertation in Development Studies (60 credits)

Core modules

- Dissertation (60 credits)
- Battlefields of Method: Approaches to International Development Research (30 credits)
- Statistical Research Techniques in International Development (15 credits)
- Research Methods in International Development (15 credits)

Optional modules

Students choose options worth a further 60 credits (see table, p.58-59)

MSc Violence, Conflict and Development

Also available as: Msc Violence, Conflict and Development (Palestine Pathway)

Convenor: Dr Zoe Marriage

If you are committed to applying innovative thinking and critical insights in a humanitarian, violence-affected or post-conflict context, this programme will equip you with the skills to do so.

Designed for people who are either working in or intending to move into development or NGO work, this programme will advance your detailed empirical knowledge and your analytical skills.

Many of those teaching you are involved with international organisations, giving you access to the latest insights from the field as you take a detailed, multidisciplinary look at the causes of and responses to conflict.

Students taking the Palestine Pathway will gain a thorough grounding in these issues and will further develop a specialist understanding in the context of Palestine.

Fees

- £12,120 (Home/EU)
- £20,715 (Overseas)

Structure

Core modules

- Dissertation (60 credits)
- Political Economy of Violence, Conflict and Development (30 credits)

Compulsory modules (choose one)

- Political Economy of Development (30 credits)
- Theory, Policy and Practice of Development (30 credits)
- Anthropology of Development (30 credits)

For students taking the **Palestine Pathway**, the programme is structured as follows:

Core modules

- Dissertation (60 credits)
- Political Economy of Violence, Conflict and Development (30 credits)
- Critical Perspectives on Palestine Studies I: History and Politics (15 credits)
- Critical Perspectives on Palestine Studies II: Culture and Society (15 credits)

Compulsory modules (choose one)

- Political Economy of Development (30 credits)
- Theory, Policy and Practice of Development (30 credits)
- Anthropology of Development (30 credits)

Optional modules

(MSc Violence, conflict and development)
Students choose options worth a further 60 credits (see table, p.58-59)

(Palestine), Students choose options worth a further 30 credits (see table, p.58-59)

Please note: the modules are not all applicable to students taking the Palestine Pathway.





Development Studies: optional modules

Key



MSc DS - choose options worth a further 60 credits;
for pathway options - choose options worth a further 30 credits



Choose options worth a further 60 credits



MSc VCD - choose options worth a further 60 credits; Palestine pathway - choose options worth a further 30 credits

The options below are recommended due to their relevancy to the programme. However, students are allowed to take any postgraduate optional module that SOAS offers (see website for a full list), provided they receive the approval of the degree convenor and the relevant course convenor.

MSc Development Studies *
MSc Environment, Politics and Development
MSc Globalisation and Development
MSc Labour, Social Movements and Development
MSc Migration, Mobility and Development
MSc Research for International Development
MSc Violence, Conflict and Development *

15 credits							
African and Asian Diasporas in the Modern World						●	
African Economic Development 1							●
African Economic Development 2							●
Agrarian Development, Food Policy and Rural Poverty	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Aid and Development	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Borders and Development	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Civil Society, Social Movements and the Development Process	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Development Practice	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Energy Transition, Nature and Development in a Time of Climate Change	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Fundamentals of Research Methods for Development Studies	●	●	●	●	●		●
Gender and Development	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Gender in the Middle East						●	
Gendering Migration and Diasporas						●	
Global Commodity Chains, Production Networks and Informal Work	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Issues in Forced Migration	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Marxist Political Economy and Global Development	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Migration and Policy	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Neoliberalism, Democracy and Global Development	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Security	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Understanding Economic Migration: Theories, Patterns and Policies	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
War to Peace Transitions						●	●
Water: Justice and Governance	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

MSc Development Studies *
 MSc Environment, Politics and Development
 MSc Globalisation and Development
 MSc Labour, Social Movements and Development
 MSc Migration, Mobility and Development
 MSc Research for International Development
 MSc Violence, Conflict and Development *

30 credits							
Alternative Dispute Resolution							●
Battlefields of Method: Approaches to International Development Research	●	●	●	●	●		●
Culture and Conflict in the Himalaya							●
Economic Problems and Policies in Modern China	●		●	●	●	●	●
Global Energy and Climate Policy		●					
Government and Politics in Africa	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Government and Politics of Modern South Asia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Taiwan's Politics and Cross-Strait Relations	●		●	●	●	●	●
War to Peace Transitions					●	●	●

* Students on the Central Asia, Contemporary India and Palestine pathways on the MSc Development Studies course may take War to Peace Transitions as an optional module.