

MA International Development Management Programme Specification

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/international-development-management/>

Academic Year: 2023/24

Degree Awarding Body:

The University of Bradford

Target award:

Degree of Master of Arts [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7]

Interim awards:

Postgraduate Diploma [FHEQ Level 7]; Postgraduate Certificate [FHEQ Level 7]

Programme Admissions:

September and January

Programme duration:

1 year full-time or 2 years part-time; with internship or placement, 15 months full-time or 27 months part-time

Date last approved by Faculty Board:

April 2018; July 2019; September 2020, September 2022

Please note: This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. The curriculum may change, subject to the University's programme monitoring and review processes. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

Minor Modification Schedule

1. June 2019: Module and curriculum changes
2. June 2020: January Intake included
3. December 2020: Specification made accessible
4. April 2021: Reformatted and further accessibility improvements
5. June 2021: Annual changes for 2021 academic year
6. April 2022: Annual changes for 2022 academic year
7. May 2023: Annual changes for 2023 academic year

Introduction

International, national and human development processes and practices continue to be at the forefront of most governmental and societal concerns, particularly for developing countries or countries in political transition. Similarly, debates about principles, policies and practices of international development co-operation assistance and investment, and their links with humanitarian challenges and wider processes of globalisation, remain highly prominent and dynamic. In this context, issues of international development management need to be addressed in their full political, institutional, economic, social and cultural contexts. The issues are complex, and efforts to understand and inform policies and processes need to be addressed through multi-disciplinary approaches, developed through constructive interactions between research, policy and practitioner communities.

This MA in International Development Management enables students to advance to the cutting edge of development theory, policy and management. It provides students with the critical and analytical skills to enable them to operate effectively in international development environments, and to develop their careers in these areas. Covering macro and micro level perspectives, the programme offers analytical approaches and rich insights into the challenges of contemporary development theory, policy and management. It has strong vocational and skill-based elements, in line with the University's mission of 'Making Knowledge Work' and is designed to be relevant to contemporary issues and professions.

Why Bradford?

The MA International Development Management is offered by the internationally recognised Division of Peace Studies and International Development, drawing on over 40 years of experience as a leading centre of multidisciplinary development and peace research, education and training. Academic staff at the Division are actively engaged in international research on the issues addressed in this course, with academic backgrounds in branches of economics, politics, management, and other social sciences, and have specialist areas of expertise in topics such as development institutions; public policy making and implementation; project and programme management; globalisation and trade, community development and institutional change. They also engage in a variety of ways with development policy and practitioner communities across virtually every region of the world.

Many postgraduate students at the Division have a strong personal commitment to development and have some work experience in related areas of the public, private and voluntary sectors. This programme can serve as a means to change careers: to acquire the necessary skills, knowledge and qualifications to become a development professional. Furthermore, students may already have embarked on a career that has some involvement with international development. A high proportion of postgraduate students at the Division are from overseas, studying for a higher qualification with the support of their employer. A postgraduate programme here provides students with the knowledge and skills required for advancement to more senior, specialist posts.

Students further benefit from studying at a major international centre for research and engagement with policy and practitioner communities working in the areas of development, peace, conflict and management studies, providing many opportunities for interested students to participate or observe regular workshops, international conferences, research seminars, and engagements in or near Bradford with relevant NGOs, community organisations, governmental and international agencies, and with UK and other foreign and development agencies and police, military or justice services. Peace Studies and International Development is a very dynamic division, within a diverse and active Faculty and wider University. It arranges numerous events and opportunities each semester beyond the taught modules to engage with not only academic but also policy and practitioner events and issues. These include invited speakers, seminars, workshops, activities and conferences, both off and on-campus.

Please note that off-campus learning activities may involve an extra cost, and that during the Covid pandemic some of our usual opportunities may not be available.

Programme Overview

This MA programme in International Development Management is intended to enable students to develop an advanced knowledge and understanding of international development policies and practices and of associated development management issues, peace, conflict and development issues and their inter-relationships. The programme will equip students with advanced understanding and skills for work for example in national and local government; international development or global governance institutions; research institutes; international, national and local development agencies; development or environmental advocacy and policy work; private sector strategy and governance for sustainability; and NGOs.

The academic modules for this programme include a range of innovative approaches to teaching, learning and assessment, to enable students to actively engage with the key concepts and syllabus and to develop not only their academic knowledge and understanding but also to their skills and experience for the worlds of policy, practice and employment. Every student will participate in at least two intensive laboratory workshops/webinars or 'immersion days' on key cross-cutting thematic issues including on: the roles and significance of gender; the skills of using conflict analysis methods and conflict sensitivity guidelines for assessing and ensuring conflict sensitivity in fragile and conflict affected areas. These are incorporated into the core modules for the programme.

There are opportunities to take specialist pathways including thematic specialisms and also specialising in selected regions (e.g. Africa, Middle East), with opportunities for selected study visits. This includes the high-profile Africa Study Visit, which includes a study visit of approximately 12 days to an African country recovering from conflict as well as preparatory and post-visit study and analysis (which can be taken as an assessed element of the programme). It also includes further voluntary study visits which have recently included annual visits to Northern Ireland, Hiroshima or to major locations of International Organisations, such as The Hague or Brussels as well as London. Students have opportunities to participate in an extended 'crisis response game' or similar international simulation games.

Note that any visits are subject to travel and quarantine restrictions and risk assessments and there may be an extra charge to students participating in some of these activities, but there may also be scholarship funding available on a competitive basis by application to help with the costs.

After completing the taught modules, students then undertake a substantial Dissertation project on a subject of their choice (relating to the Programme's aims and learning objectives), This involves research and analysis, and preparation of a Dissertation of up to 15,000 words. This is a major opportunity not only to research and prepare a substantial scholarly analysis of a specialist area in which the student is particularly interested, but also to demonstrate an advanced understanding of relevant policy and practitioner agendas and debates to increase the value of the Masters degree to you when pursuing relevant careers.

A part time route for this Programme, both with or without internship, is available on application. The Division has an excellent track record of integrating part-time students into this and its other programmes. Part-time students are able to join with programme activities of interest to them, and to discuss their learning trajectory with the academic programme team at key points, and when requested.

This programme runs both full-time and part-time with intakes in the Autumn (September, Semester 1) and Spring (January, Semester 2):

September Full-time Intake	January Full-time Intake
Semester 1 Modules	Pre-enrolment
Winter Holiday Period	
Semester 2 Modules & Dissertation Preparation	Semester 2 Modules
Summer Holiday Period & Dissertation	Summer Holiday Period
Dissertation Submission (September)	Semester 1 Modules & Dissertation Preparation
Graduation (Winter)	Dissertation
Studies completed	
Graduation (Summer)	Dissertation Submission (March)

Work Placement Opportunity

There is an option to select an internship or placement opportunity which extends your programme duration by 3 months. Students may transfer to the placement route any time up to the middle of Semester 2 (specific deadline dates are provided in the Programme Handbook each year). The 15-month option (full-time) or 27-month option (part-time) provides students with further opportunities for developing professional experience and practical skills during their Masters programme by undertaking a voluntary placement or internship in a relevant organisation for a period of up to three months. This internship or placement normally starts shortly after the end of Semester 2.

After an internship is completed, students return to the University to proceed with researching and preparing their Masters dissertation, with the same requirements and academic supervision as for students on the shorter programme, except that the dissertation submission date is extended by approximately three months (actual submission dates are specified annually in the Programme Handbook) as appropriate for a longer programme.

All of the Masters programme routes provide excellent opportunities for engaging with the spheres of policy and practice as well as with academic studies. However, the 3-month placement options provide further enhanced opportunities for integrating practitioner community engagement (such as internship experience) with their academic studies. This element of the programme is student-centred and student-led, and thus the initiative for identifying and applying for internships is driven by the students. The academic staff in the programme team can facilitate and support such searches for suitable placements with leads and suggestions, help with the writing of applications, and provide supporting letters of reference. They provide customised preparatory training before students who choose the placement route, and mentoring support as useful during the period of the placement or internship.

Students who transfer to the 15-month/27-month programme may be charged an additional tuition fee, reflecting this additional support. Please see the Placement and Study Abroad section for more details.

Programme Aims

This programme aims to develop students to become informed and skilful analysts and practitioners who can;

- Evaluate and apply theoretical concepts relevant to international development theory and develop and analyse international development policy and practice.
- Use autonomous learning skills for lifelong learning.
- Use personal and transferable skills in communication, research and planning.
- Apply advanced knowledge and skills as reflective and critical managers and practitioners.
- Critically analyse current and emerging research and practice; and critically appraise the nature of evidence guiding international development management.
- Formulate and independently investigate a complex research question and communicate the findings at an advanced level.

Programme Learning Outcomes

For the FHEQ level 7 **Postgraduate Certificate** award eligible students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate advanced theoretical concepts in international development theory.
2. Critically appraise the policy of regional and global development institutions.
3. Evaluate complex information on a range of issues related to international development management.
4. Use initiative in self-directed learning and construct written argument.

For the FHEQ Level 7 **Postgraduate Diploma** award eligible students will additionally:

5. Critically reflect on advanced concepts in international development policy and management.
6. Critically appraise current development policy and practice.
7. Develop a critical reflective approach to practice or policy-based intervention.
8. Apply originality and creative problem solving in dealing with complex issues.

For the FHEQ Level 7 **Degree of Master** award eligible students will additionally be able to:

9. Demonstrate a detailed and critical knowledge of current research and scholarship in a specialist area of international development management.
10. Identify appropriate research designs and methods for specific purposes and applications.
11. Identify gaps and inconsistencies in the evidence base guiding policy and practice.
12. Apply critical reasoning to the existing evidence base and scholarship.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

The learning and teaching strategy for this programme emphasises the acquisition of academic skills, familiarity with contemporary policy and professional competencies related to work in development and associated areas. The strategy provides a wide range of teaching and learning methods and opportunities in and across modules, including lectures and directed study, but also discussion of in-class and pre-class student research findings; simulations, presentations and other methods of communicating arguments - within groups and to whole class audiences. A range of innovative approaches to teaching and learning are incorporated at each stage of the programme, enabling active study and analyses of important recent and contemporary issues relating to international development management, so that learning about theories develops closely with understandings about the application to real challenges.

In addition to student learning within modules, personal academic tutors will support individual students' academic development, helping them to analyse their learning needs, develop appropriate learning strategies and reflect on their progress. Employability and professionalism capabilities and attributes are developed through group and pair work, in and out of class, and experience with oral, written and other audio-visual presentations. In some modules, these skills are given a sharp focus, and self-reflection on skill development is an explicit learning outcome for the modules.

Extensive optionality is provided within some modules in all Stages, where students are supported to select their own projects, case-studies and topics within the overall syllabus. The dissertation project is also chosen (within the overall scope of International Development Management issues), designed and undertaken by each student, under academic supervision. Furthermore, during the first and second semesters of the programme, students will undertake at least two intensive laboratory workshops or 'immersion days' on key cross-cutting thematic issues including on: the roles and significance of gender; and the skills of using conflict analysis methods and conflict sensitivity guidelines for assessing and ensuring conflict sensitivity of development policies and programmes in fragile and conflict affected areas; These are incorporated into the core modules for this programme.

Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategy is based on principles of rigour, constructive alignment, diversity and inclusion. It employs a well-developed range of formative and summative assessments tasks which are designed to help students to develop and demonstrate their understandings and skills as set out in the staged learning outcomes for each module and for the Programme overall. Our overall strategy attempts to strike a balance between developing students' abilities to succeed in a balanced and diverse range of assessment tasks and to stretch beyond existing comfort zones on the one hand and allowing them to play to their strengths on the other hand.

The formative assessment strategy includes monitoring learning throughout each semester using a range of class activities, tutorials and coursework, including reports, essays, reflective notes, literature reviews, oral or audio-visual presentations, and group and individual tasks; for which formative feedback is given. During the process of selection, refinement, research and drafting of the dissertation project, formative feedback and guidance will be provided by a personal supervisor, as well as by other members of academic

staff on request. The dissertation module has been designed with a view to maximising students' engagement in a structured process of research, with formative feedback built in from the start.

Summative assessment is similarly through a variety of tasks, including essays, reports, policy briefs, case study analyses, oral and audio-visual presentations, and reflective notes. Each module is assessed by specified modes of assessment, as described in the relevant module descriptor. Some of the modules may be assessed through submission of a portfolio of work. A Portfolio is a specific set of assignments of varying types and lengths, including reports, essays, and written or oral project presentations; with a total word length as appropriate for the Stage and module.

While all of our assessment tasks will be designed with the aim of promoting an inclusive and accessible curriculum for all, we will, in co-ordination with the Disability Service, work with any individual students who might have additional access requirements to find solutions appropriate to their needs.

Curriculum

The curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure coherence and progression through the different stages of study. This programme also provides the opportunity for granular personalised learning and specialism where students can take one option in semester 1 and two options in semester two.

Semester 1 (September)

The first semester provides an advanced understanding in two core areas. First, key concepts, theories, and developments in development theory are explored and critically debated. Second, the changing roles of the state and markets in development processes in the context of globalisation, and theories and approaches to governance in development policy processes and challenges. The provision of an elective allows further specialisation in relation to a number of key areas, with options including: African politics and security dynamics; Security and development in fragile and conflict-affected areas; contemporary security challenges; sustainable development, applied conflict research; International relations; project planning and design; and economic growth and development.

Students will take 60 credits of modules including one option or elective in Semester 1:

Module Code	Module Title	Module Type	Credits	Study Period	FHEQ Level
DEV7003-B	Issues in Development Theory	Core	20	Sem 1	7
DEV7037-B	Policy Analysis for Governance and Development	Core	20	Sem 1	7
PES7035-B	African Politics and Security Dynamics	Option	20	Sem 1	7
DEV7026-B	Critical Perspective on Sustainable Development	Option	20	Sem 1	7
DEV7007-B	Economic Growth and Development	Option	20	Sem 1	7

Module Code	Module Title	Module Type	Credits	Study Period	FHEQ Level
PES7065-B	Social-Ecological Systems and Crises	Option	20	Sem 1	7
Any	University Semester 1 Elective	Elective	20	Sem 1	6/7

Semester 2 (January)

Semester 2 offers opportunities to deepen knowledge of particular contexts, themes or policies relating to international development management issues, building directly on the previous core modules. One core focus is on debates and experience with development practices, drawing heavily on case studies, and on the methods and challenges of assessing development needs and of the outcomes of development programmes and processes. In addition, students can then develop their knowledge by choosing two options from a range of modules. For example, specialist regional understanding can be developed through engagement with either the module on Middle East Politics and Security Dynamics or the Africa Study Visit.

Thematic knowledge may be developed through study of natural resource governance; gender, conflict and development; transnational challenges and international governance relating to environmental problems, trafficking and crime; or urban development challenges and sustainable cities, while familiarity with skills and competencies associated with contemporary policy paradigms may be gained through participation in the modules Project Implementation and Management or Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding.

Students will take 60 credits of modules including two options in Semester 2:

Module Code	Module Title	Module Type	Credits	Study Period	FHEQ Level
DEV7039-B	Assessing Development Practices, Needs and Outcomes	Core	20	Sem 2	7
PES7034-B	Africa Study Visit	Option	20	Sem 2	7
PES7041-B	Gender, Conflict and Development	Option	20	Sem 2	7
PES7043-B	Middle East Politics and Security Dynamics	Option	20	Sem 2	7
PES7045-B	Natural Resource Governance	Option	20	Sem 2	7
DEV7040-B	Project Implementation management	Option	20	Sem 2	7
PES7052-B	Sustainable Cities	Option	20	Sem 2	7

Dissertation

The preparation and submission period will vary depending on the student's route (academic or internship) and mode of study (full-time or part-time).

Full-time students will prepare begin to prepare their dissertation in semester 3 and submit in the autumn/winter. Students who undertake the part-time route will commence the dissertation process and submit their dissertation in the second year of study.

All students will be supported in their dissertation work by an academic supervisor.

Module Code	Module Title	Type	Credits	Study Period	FHEQ Level
PES7040-E	Dissertation	Core	60	Full Year, Academic Year or Non-Standard Academic Year	7

Placement and Study Abroad

The Professional Experience is a work experience element of the programme. This normally takes the form of an internship in another organisation and can be either undertaken in the UK or abroad. Students normally use their placement period and experience to inform and shape their dissertation.

Planning for the placement/internship starts several months in advance usually in the first semester itself. The Division will provide information sessions. The process may involve several steps including:

- Identifying and searching for voluntary placement/internship opportunities
- Preparing applications, covering letters, supporting letters of reference
- Contacting relevant organisations, arranging for and agreeing specifics such as location, domain of work, start and end dates, focal point, terms of reference of placement and what the student is expected to do and the days and hours
- Sorting out financial planning issues, visas, travel risk assessments and permissions
- Discussing with the relevant contact person in the host organisation about aims and reviewing arrangement.

Students are required to complete a form detailing their proposed activities and obtain permission from the Division before they are able to go on placement/internship. Many organisations also offer virtual placements or virtual internships and in the context of Covid19 and such health risks, these may be a more feasible option.

Upon completing the period of placement/internship, students should come back on the programme and submit a completion report summarising key learning points before they can formally continue work on their dissertation. For those choosing the 15-month Full Time option or a Part Time route (on application) including voluntary placement/internship, the degree of master will be awarded on successful completion of a voluntary placement or internship of up to three months. Those on the 15-month Full Time route are expected to start the placement/internship shortly after the end of Semester 2, that is to undertake it

during the summer period (semester 3). Those on the Part Time route are able to do this (on application) after they complete the 120 credits of taught programme.

Placement, Students on the Rotary route

Module Code	Module Title	Module Type	Credit	FHEQ Level	Study Period
PES7023-Z	Professional Experience (Rotary Peace Fellows Applied Field Experience)	Core	0	7	Sem 3

Placement, All other students

Module Code	Module Title	Module Type	Credits	FHEQ Level	Study Period
PES7056-Z	Voluntary placement/ internship	Core	0	7	Sem 3

Other Study Abroad

Students are welcome to explore available opportunities for a Study Abroad Semester that may be viable for them via our International Opportunities team.

A Study Abroad Semester can be available **ONLY** if the modules offered by the host institution allow the student to meet the learning outcomes of the Bradford Programme during Semester 1 **OR** Semester 2.

Any student wishing to study abroad for a semester should first contact the International Opportunities Team to explore the opportunities and funding in place and, secondly, the Faculty Exchange Coordinator to check if the available options and relevant modules are in line with the University requirements. Following these checks, the International Opportunities Team and the Faculty Exchange Coordinator will liaise with the relevant Programme Leader to validate the modules and the semester exchange.

The semester exchange requires students to study only modules suitable to the Bradford programme when abroad. Therefore, all modules selected for the exchange will have to be mapped to the Bradford programme learning outcomes and be approved by the Programme Leader and the Director of Studies in Bradford in advance of the exchange. During the exchange, if the student needs to change the modules, this can only be done after approval of the Programme Leader and Director of Programmes.

If the student fails a module abroad, the student must:

- a) inform immediately the International Opportunities Team and the Faculty Exchange Coordinator
- b) explore the possibility of re-taking any exams at the host institution.

During the exchange, students will have support from the relevant University services. All credit successfully obtained whilst on study abroad semester will count towards the student's final degree. Our International Opportunities team can advise students about the available funding to support their study or work experience abroad.

The list of exchange partners and network of Universities available for Study Abroad Semester, as well as further information about international opportunities can be found online at www.bradford.ac.uk/exchanges/current-students.

Please note: Some exchange institutions are only available to undergraduate or postgraduate students. Any potential overseas exchange is dependent on student eligibility, student finance, and the appropriate modules required to fulfil the requirements of the programme being available at either institution.

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Postgraduate Assessment Regulations which are available at the link: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations/>

Achievable Awards

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of **Postgraduate Certificate in International Development Management** if they have successfully completed 60 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of **Postgraduate Diploma in International Development Management** if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be eligible for the degree award of **Master of Arts in International Development Management** if they have successfully completed at least 180 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Admission Requirements

We take into consideration a number of factors when assessing your application. It's not just about your grades; we take the time to understand your personal circumstances and make decisions based on your potential to thrive at university and beyond.

Academic Admission Requirements

The standard entry requirements for this postgraduate programme are that all applicants have at least a Bachelor's degree with honours classified as lower second-class (2:2, or equivalent). Relevant professional or voluntary activities would be desirable as the course will draw on your experience and the experiences of your fellow students.

Language Competency

As the programme is taught in English, all applicants are required to have GCSE Grade 4 (national grade C) or above in English Language. Alternative RQF Level 2 qualifications such as Key Skills are also acceptable if equivalent. For international students, the standard postgraduate English language requirements for the University apply and these are listed at <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/international/entry-requirements/> .

Access and Recognition of Prior Learning

Applications are welcome from students with non-traditional qualifications, or with significant personal and professional experience.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and

recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

The University of Bradford has always welcomed applications from disabled students. To discuss adjustments or to find out more about support and access, you may wish to contact the Disability Service before you apply: www.bradford.ac.uk/disability/before .