Overview

The following information applies to students commencing from 2017.

If you commenced prior to 2017, please refer to the program rules for the year you started.

The Master of Development Studies (MDS) is offered by the School of Social Sciences and is a flexible and interactive program that provides specialist studies in international development at the local, national and international level. It is based on a philosophy of human rights, social justice, community development and participatory approaches.

The program will provide you with the knowledge base and analytical framework to understand and negotiate the complexities of the geopolitical, economic, social, ethical and cultural contexts in which development takes place. You will be equipped with practical professional skills which may be applied to a diverse array of career options which relate to development. The Master of Development Studies will be of value to those who see themselves playing a role in understanding and promoting development, whether from a community, government, civil society, donor or other organisational role.

You will develop substantial knowledge and a range of skills related to the planning, delivery and management of programs relevant to international and local social and community development, aid work (policy and practice) and human rights.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Faculty</strong></th>
<th>Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Campus</strong></td>
<td>Kensington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study Level</strong></td>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Typical duration</strong></td>
<td>2 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Delivery Mode</strong></td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intake Period</strong></td>
<td>Term 1, Term 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Calendar</strong></td>
<td>3+ Calendar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum Units of Credit</strong></td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Award type</strong></td>
<td>Masters (Coursework)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Award(s)</strong></td>
<td>Master of Development Studies - MDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CRICOS Code</strong></td>
<td>083236D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate advanced knowledge relevant to international development and possess an ability to apply this knowledge in a diverse range of contexts and environments.

   Scholars  Leaders

2. Show significant knowledge and skills in research methodologies specific to the discipline of Development Studies and through the application of these show an in-depth understanding of a core area of development theory and practice.

   Scholars  Professionals

3. Provide evidence of advanced critical thinking and problem solving skills relevant to development.

   Scholars  Leaders  Professionals

4. Communicate complex ideas to a diverse range of audiences, undertake both independent and collaborative enquiry, apply the principles, practices and skills learnt and be reflective, adaptive and ethical learners and professional practitioners.

   Global Citizens  Professionals  Leaders  Scholars

5. Demonstrate an understanding of both local and global issues in the field of development studies.

   Global Citizens  Professionals

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Graduate Capabilities:

For more information on Graduate Capabilities, please click on this link.
**Program Structure**

Students must complete 96 UOC as a standalone program.

**48 UOC specialisation (SOCWTS)**

1. Core Research Course (6 UOC)
2. Prescribed Research Course (6 - 12 UOC)
3. Core Disciplinary Courses (12 UOC)
4. Prescribed Disciplinary Elective (6 UOC)
5. Prescribed Electives (12 - 18 UOC)

**72 UOC specialisation (SOCWUS)**

1. Core Research Courses (18 UOC)
2. Prescribed Research Course (6 - 12 UOC)
3. Core Disciplinary Courses (12 UOC)
4. Prescribed Disciplinary Elective (6 UOC)
5. Prescribed Electives (24 - 30 UOC)

**96 UOC specialisation (SOCWWS)**

1. Core Research Courses (18 UOC)
2. Prescribed Research Course (6 - 12 UOC)
3. Disciplinary Core Courses (24 UOC)
4. Prescribed Electives (42 - 48 UOC)

**Specialisation Requirements**

You must complete one of the following specialisations:

**SPECIALISATION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIALISATION</th>
<th>UOC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCWTS</td>
<td>48 UOC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Studies A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCWUS</td>
<td>72 UOC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development Studies B</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCWWS</td>
<td>96 UOC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Studies C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample Programs

To access sample program(s), please visit:

UNSW Arts & Social Sciences

Enrolment Disclaimer

Unless advised otherwise by your program authority, you should follow the rules for the handbook for the year you commenced your program. You are also responsible for ensuring you enrol in courses according to your program requirements. myUNSW enrolment checks that you have met enrolment requirements such as pre-requisites for individual courses but not that a course will count towards your program requirements.
Related Programs

Master of International Relations - MIR

8233 International Relations

Faculty: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 96
Typical Duration: 2 Years

Read More
Admission Requirements

Entry Requirements

The entry requirements are as follows:

**For the 1 year stream (A)**

- Honours degree or Graduate Diploma* (or equivalent qualification) in a relevant discipline with a record of academic achievement equivalent to a UNSW credit average of 65%
- Bachelor degree (or equivalent qualification) in a relevant discipline with a record of academic achievement equivalent to a UNSW credit average of 65%, plus one year relevant professional experience

**For the 1.5 year stream (B)**

- Bachelor degree (or equivalent qualification) in a relevant discipline with a record of academic achievement equivalent to a UNSW credit average of 65%
- Bachelor degree (or equivalent qualification) in any discipline with a record of academic achievement equivalent to a UNSW credit average of 65%, plus one year relevant professional experience
- Honours degree or Graduate Diploma* (or equivalent qualification) in any discipline with a record of academic achievement equivalent to a UNSW credit average of 65%

Relevant disciplines include: Social Sciences; Humanities; Business; Economics; Law; Public Health; Communications; Social Work; Psychology/Psychological Science.

Applicants with a degree in a discipline not listed here but who wish to make a case for its academic relevance to these programs should enquire here: studyarts@unsw.edu.au.

*It is expected that a Graduate Diploma will have been completed after an undergraduate degree.*

**For the 2 year stream (C)**

- Bachelor degree (or equivalent qualification) in any discipline with a record of academic achievement equivalent to a UNSW credit average of 65%

For more information about admission requirements for various UNSW programs,
visit the following website(s):

Domestic Students
International Student
Program Requirements

Recognition of Prior Learning

The maximum credit transfer for a Masters is 50% of the stream, that is, up to 24 UOC credit transfer for the 1 year stream, 36 UOC credit transfer for the 1.5 year stream, and 48 UOC credit transfer for the 2 year stream.

Progression Requirements

Progression rules are in accordance with university policy.

For more information on university policy on progression requirements please visit Academic Progression.
Pathways

Post Graduate

Doctor of Philosophy - PhD

1272 Social Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 144
Typical Duration: 3 to 4 Years

Read More
Professional Outcomes

Career Opportunities

The program is designed to address the continuing education needs of specialists in development as well as to provide a general orientation to social and community development for professionals wanting to enter the field.
Recognition of Achievement

Award with Excellence

The Award with Excellence is awarded in coursework masters programs, including Masters (Extension) but with the exception of Masters (Extended) such as JD and MD, when a Weighted Average Mean (WAM) of at least 80% has been achieved and at least 50% of the requirements of the award are completed at UNSW. All eligible programs will award 'with Excellence' except in special circumstances where approval of Academic Board has been given for a program to opt out.

For more information, please visit:

Current Students Award with Excellence
Additional Information

Further information

Contact the UNSW Arts and Social Sciences Student Services for advice.
**Program Fees**

At UNSW fees are generally charged at course level and therefore dependent upon individual enrolment and other factors such as student's residency status. For generic information on fees and additional expenses of UNSW programs, click on one of the following:

- Domestic Students
- Commonwealth Supported Students
- International Students
Pre-2019 Handbook Editions

Access past handbook editions (2018 and prior)

Pre-2019 Handbook Editions
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Authorised by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
CRICOS Provider Code 00098G
ABN: 57 195 873 179