PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**MSc International Development and Social Justice** **PG Dip International Development and Social Justice** **PG Cert International Development and Social Justice** (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Dip International Development and Social Justice PG Cert International Development and Social Justice
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Social Sciences
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
[QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England](#)	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMSIDSJU_C (MSc) TPDIDSJU_C (PG Dip) TPCIDSJU_C (PG Cert)
HECoS Code	100471 social science 100645 international social policy 100488 international development
Start date of programme	Before 2002 (previously named MSc Development Studies and MSc International Development)
Date of programme approval	Before 2002
Date of last programme amendment approval	March 2024
Valid for academic entry year	**2024-25**
Programme Director	Kalpana Wilson
Date of last revision to document	14/08/2024

Admissions requirements

A second-class honours degree (2:2) or above in social sciences or humanities. Other applicants will also be considered.

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Course aims

The programme rationale is:

- To provide an inter-disciplinary and critical post-graduate programme in international development
- To provide unique courses that are predominantly taught outside working hours (evenings and weekends) addressing the needs of those who work, or seek to work in future, in the growing International Development sector in London and beyond, as well as those who are generally interested to learn more about International Development from critical perspectives.

The programme aims to

- introduce students to key concepts, theories and debates within selected areas of international development
- introduce students to methods relevant to selected areas of international development and enable students to critically apply such knowledge within an inter-disciplinary, social science framework
- enable students to critically apply such knowledge to aspects of development practice, • Introduce students to specialised research skills, and (for MSc students) enable them to apply these by undertaking an independent research project.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
MSc International Development and Social Justice, Full-time – 1 year					
7	SSGE125S7	International Development and Social Justice	30	Comp	T1
7		Option 1	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7		Option 2	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7		Option 3	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7	SSGE083Z7	Research Methods	0	Comp	T1-3
7	FDDV008D7	Dissertation	60	Core	T2 and T3
MSc International Development and Social Justice, Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
7	SSGE125S7	International Development and Social Justice	30	Comp	T1
7		Option 1	30	Option	T2 or T3
		Option 2	30	Option	T2 or T3

Year 2					
7		Option 3	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7	SSGEO83Z7	Research Methods Training	0	Comp	T1-3
7	FDDV008D7	Dissertation	60	Core	T1-3

PG Dip International Development and Social Justice, Full-time – 1 year

7	SSGE125S7	International Development and Social Justice	30	Comp	T1
7		Option 1	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7		Option 2	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7		Option 3	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3

PG Dip International Development and Social Justice, Part-time – 2 years

Year 1					
7	SSGE125S7	International Development and Social Justice	30	Comp	T1
7		Option 1	30	Option	T2 or T3

Year 2					
7	SSGE122S7	Option 2	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7		Option 3	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3

PG Cert International Development and Social Justice, Part-time – 1 or 2 years

7	SSGE125S7	International Development and Social Justice	30	Comp	T1
7		Option	30	Option	T1-3

Indicative list of options

7	FDDV002S7	Gender and Development	30	Option	
7	FDDV016S7	Race, Environment and International Development	30	Option	
7	FDDV025S7	International Political Economy of Childhood	30	Option	
7	SSGE128S7	Rebels, Riots and Revolutions in International Development	30	Option	

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*

Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

Teaching on this course is a combination of lectures (pre-recorded) and seminars. Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment:

Essays, bibliographies, literature reviews and learning journals, case studies, short oral presentations, and for the MSc, a dissertation.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- evaluate key concepts and theories in relation to specific development issues and to assess their efficacy for understanding poverty, inequality, social justice and development
- evaluate broad and complex policy debates and assess their applicability to specific contexts
- evaluate specific development policies and assess their outcomes
- critically appreciate the institutional mechanisms within multi-lateral, bi-lateral and non-governmental sectors for addressing development issues within their relevant contexts
- evaluate arguments made with qualitative and quantitative data
- critically survey the literature on a set theme, including the capacity to locate and critically analyse qualitative and quantitative data
- synthesise a critical and analytical argument using theory, qualitative and quantitative data
- reflect on your individual and collective learning and thinking
- develop innovative approaches to research.

Careers and further study

Students on the MSc in International Development and Social Justice go on to work in a variety of fields including:

- International Institutions
- NGOs and Civil Society Organisations
- Media
- Planning
- Research
- Local and Central government
- Development Education

The transferable skills developed/enhanced during the programme include the capacity to analyse debates and issues in international development, team-working, and written and oral communication. Students will also learn to locate and analyse qualitative and quantitative data, and will acquire specialised research skills in the field of international development.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

Please check our website for more information about student support services. This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.