

## Development

Convener: Professor Michael Webber (School of Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies)

Development studies at the University of Melbourne is one of the fastest growing programs in Australia. The program considers economic, environmental and social changes that occur in societies undergoing development. It offers students the opportunity to study these issues in depth and from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

Development studies is an interdisciplinary program within the School of Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies (SAGES) that encompasses a range of related disciplines including anthropology, geography, environmental studies, politics, indigenous studies, public policy, sociology, health, law and economics. Students will develop a wide range of skills in analysis, survey writing, communication, group work and computing and will enrich their knowledge of social and environmental interactions.

The development studies program covers areas that have direct relevance to practical and impact-oriented developmental practices. Recent growth in the development industry (international aid agencies, non-government organisations and private sector consulting companies) testifies to the relevance of the program in development studies at the University of Melbourne. Students who specialise in development studies develop transferable skills that will substantially enhance their career options. Alternatively, they are able to expand on their interest and knowledge through an articulated structure of higher degree study at the University of Melbourne.

### Prerequisites

The program commences in first year. However, students who have completed 50 points of first-year social science subjects may apply to the convener for entry.

### Requirements for a major

A major in development usually consists of nine 12.5-point subjects, totalling 112.5 points. It comprises:

- two first-year subjects (25 points), which must include:
  - 121-110 Famine in the Modern World (*p.2*); and
  - at least one other subject from the list of first-year social science subjects below; and
- seven second/third-year subjects (87.5 points) which must include:
  - 121-015 Development and the Third World (*p.3*); and
  - 131-038 Gender and Development (*p.7*); and
  - five subjects from the list of optional subjects below.

Students seeking to make a career in development are strongly advised to construct an undergraduate program that combines a major in development with a major in one of the social sciences (anthropology, economics, geography, political science, sociology).

<b>First-year compulsory subjects</b>	Sem.
<b>Geography</b>	
121-110 Famine in the Modern World ( <i>p.2</i> )	1
<b>First-year optional subjects</b>	Points
<b>Anthropology</b>	
121-107 Social Order and Social Change ( <i>p.1</i> )	12.5
<b>Economics</b>	
316-101 Introductory Macroeconomics ( <i>p.1</i> )	12.5
316-102 Introductory Microeconomics ( <i>p.1</i> )	12.5
<b>Geography</b>	
121-103 Australia in Asia ( <i>p.2</i> )	12.5
<b>History</b>	
131-154 The World Since World War Two: 1945-1972 ( <i>p.3</i> )	12.5
131-155 The World Since World War Two: 1973-2002 ( <i>p.3</i> )	12.5
<b>Linguistics and applied linguistics</b>	
175-108 Cross-Cultural Communication ( <i>p.2</i> )	12.5
<b>Management</b>	
325-103 The Asian Economies ( <i>p.1</i> )	12.5
<b>Political science</b>	
166-123 The World is an Amazing Place ( <i>p.2</i> )	12.5
166-103 Global Politics ( <i>p.1</i> )	12.5
166-130 Globalisation, the Social & Identity ( <i>p.2</i> )	12.5
<b>Core second/third-year subjects</b>	Sem.
<b>Geography</b>	
121-015 Development and the Third World ( <i>p.3</i> )	2
<b>History</b>	
131-038 Gender and Development ( <i>p.7</i> )	2

<b>Optional second/third-year subjects</b>	Sem.
<b>Anthropology</b>	
121-054 Applied Medical Anthropology ( <i>p.2</i> )	N/A
121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality ( <i>p.2</i> )	2
121-061 Applied Anthropology ( <i>p.3</i> )	2
121-063 Culture Change and Protest Movements ( <i>p.3</i> )	1
121-065 Working with Value ( <i>p.3</i> )	N/A
<b>Architecture</b>	
705-289 Urbanisation and Urban Development ( <i>p.15</i> )	2
705-320 Urban Development in Asian Megacities ( <i>p.15</i> )	1
<b>Chinese studies</b>	
110-442 Contemporary Chinese Society ( <i>p.9</i> )	2
<b>Geography</b>	
121-006 Urban Economic Geography ( <i>p.2</i> )	1
121-023 China in Transition ( <i>p.4</i> )	1
121-026 The Mobile World: Migration and Tourism ( <i>p.4</i> )	1
121-028 Sustainable Development ( <i>p.5</i> )	2
121-224 Garma Fieldwork ( <i>p.5</i> )	2
121-436 The Geopolitics of Peace and Development ( <i>p.2</i> )	1
121-225 Place and Possession ( <i>p.5</i> )	N/A
121-226 Native Title ( <i>p.5</i> )	2
121-432 Environmental Field Class ( <i>p.7</i> )	N/A
121-433 China Field Class ( <i>p.6</i> )	2
121-434 Fieldwork Research Project ( <i>p.7</i> )	2
<b>History</b>	
131-034 Gender, Culture and Identity Politics ( <i>p.6</i> )	1
131-076 Asia, the Pacific & the West in History ( <i>p.10</i> )	Summer
<b>Indonesian studies</b>	
110-419 Popular Cultures in Indonesia ( <i>p.4</i> )	1
<b>Linguistics and applied linguistics</b>	
175-044 Conflict, Culture and Language ( <i>p.5</i> )	N/A
<b>Management</b>	
325-226 Business and Economy in South East Asia ( <i>p.3</i> )	1
<b>Political science</b>	
166-018 Chinese Politics and Society ( <i>p.3</i> )	1
166-022 Public Policy Making ( <i>p.4</i> )	1
166-024 International Gender Politics ( <i>p.4</i> )	1
166-029 World Politics in Transition ( <i>p.5</i> )	2
166-038 Indigenous Rights: Land and Heritage ( <i>p.6</i> )	1
166-045 Postcolonial Maps & Narratives ( <i>p.6</i> )	1
166-081 Quantitative Social Research ( <i>p.2</i> )	1
166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies ( <i>p.3</i> )	2
166-105 Gender and Politics in Southeast Asia ( <i>p.6</i> )	N/A
166-106 Colonial/Postcolonial S.E.Asian Politics ( <i>p.7</i> )	1
166-212 Global Environmental Politics ( <i>p.7</i> )	2

Students should note that some of the above subjects have prerequisites. Consult the relevant area of study entries of this Handbook for details.

### Honours requirements

<b>Pure honours</b>	Points
Students undertaking pure honours in development must complete a thesis (50 points) and four coursework subjects (50 points) comprising:	
One thesis subject	
121-525 Development Studies Thesis ( <i>p.2</i> )	50
<i>or</i>	
121-526 Development Studies Thesis (MYE) ( <i>p.2</i> )	50
and three compulsory subjects	
121-439 Directed Study in Development ( <i>p.2</i> )	12.5
121-503 Research Methods and Design ( <i>p.8</i> )	12.5
121-545 Understanding Development ( <i>p.3</i> )	12.5
and one elective subject from the following list:	
121-421 Social Impact Assessment ( <i>p.2</i> )	12.5
121-516 Gender Issues in Development ( <i>p.2</i> )	12.5
131-546 Gender, Globalisation and Development ( <i>p.21</i> )	12.5
166-413 Globalization and its Discontents ( <i>p.9</i> )	12.5
166-427 Global Economic Governance ( <i>p.10</i> )	12.5
166-444 The Emerging World (Dis)Order ( <i>p.11</i> )	12.5
166-445 Postcolonial Concerns, Postmodern Theory ( <i>p.11</i> )	12.5
705-289 Urbanisation and Urban Development ( <i>p.15</i> )	12.5
705-218 Transport and Land Use Planning ( <i>p.15</i> )	12.5
or other fourth-year subject/s with permission from the honours coordinator and subject coordinator.	

**Combined honours**

Students undertaking their thesis in the combining department must complete 37.5 points of development coursework subjects comprising:

the core subject:

121-545 Understanding Development (p.3) 12.5

and two elective subjects from the following list (note that you may not elect to undertake more than one subject from the same department):

121-439 Directed Study in Development (p.2) 12.5

121-421 Social Impact Assessment (p.2) 12.5

121-516 Gender Issues in Development (p.21) 12.5

131-546 Gender, Globalisation and Development (p.21) 12.5

166-413 Globalization and its Discontents (p.9) 12.5

166-427 Global Economic Governance (p.10) 12.5

166-444 The Emerging World (Dis)Order (p.11) 12.5

166-445 Postcolonial Concerns, Postmodern Theory (p.11) 12.5

705-289 Urbanisation and Urban Development (p.15) 12.5

705-218 Transport and Land Use Planning (p.15) 12.5

or other fourth-year subject/s with permission of the honours coordinator and subject coordinator.

**Combined honours with thesis in development**

Students undertaking their thesis in development must complete 62.5 points in development studies comprising:

121-525 Development Studies Thesis (p.2) 50

or

121-526 Development Studies Thesis (MYE) (p.2) 50

and

121-545 Understanding Development (p.3) 12.5

and 37.5 points of coursework from the combining department.

**Further study**

Students who wish to undertake further study can enrol in postgraduate courses in development studies, or in anthropology, geography, environmental studies and gender studies.

**For more information**

Professor Michael Webber or Rachel Hughes  
SAGES

Old Commerce Building  
The University of Melbourne  
Victoria 3010

Tel. +61 3 8344 6339 / 6329

Fax. +61 3 8344 4972

Email: [development@geography.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:development@geography.unimelb.edu.au)

Web: <http://www.development.unimelb.edu.au>

**Third/fourth-year subjects****121-436 The Geopolitics of Peace and Development**

**Availability:** 3rd and 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Jon Barnett

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 200 points of study including at least 50 points of geography, development studies or politics.

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** This subject examines the ways in which geopolitical thought shapes practices of peace and development, and the ways in which peace and development are themselves interrelated. States shape their security and development policies according to their understanding of the geography of the world and other states. It is therefore important to understand these geopolitical reasonings in order to comprehend the causes of violence and poverty and strategies for their elimination. This subject uses key texts and case studies to illustrate the interconnections between geopolitics, peace and development, including a focus on the geopolitical rationales behind Australian and US security and development policies. Students will develop an ability to think clearly and critically about past and contemporary world affairs.

**Assessment:** 4000 words of written work for 3rd year, comprising a report of 1000 words, an associated tutorial presentation, and a 3000-word essay; 4000 words of written work for 4th year, comprising a report of 1000 words, an associated tutorial presentation, a 3000-word essay, and an associated 20-minute seminar presentation based on essay material for 4th year.

Points

**Fourth-year subjects****121-525 Development Studies Thesis**

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 50 **HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Prof Michael Webber

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in development.

**Contact:** Regular contact with the supervisor (*Year long*).

**Description:** An original, supervised research project on a topic to be decided in consultation with members of the School and the supervisor.

**Assessment:** A thesis of 15 000 words. A hurdle requirement is the submission of a statement of a research problem at a date to be specified by the first week of the first semester of enrolment.

**121-526 Development Studies Thesis (MYE)**

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 50 **HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Prof Michael Webber

**Prerequisites:** Mid-year admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in development.

**Contact:** Regular contact with the supervisor (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

**Description:** An original, supervised research project on a topic to be decided in consultation with members of the School and the supervisor.

**Assessment:** A thesis of 15 000 words. A hurdle requirement is the submission of a statement of a research problem at a date to be specified by the first week of the first semester of enrolment.

**121-503 Research Methods and Design**

See full subject details on page 8.

**121-439 Directed Study in Development**

**Note:** Formerly available as 121-106. Students who have completed 121-106 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Prof Michael Webber

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in development, and prior permission of the course coordinator.

**Contact:** A 1-hour weekly meeting with the supervisor (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

**Description:** This subject involves a critical assessment of the literature of a research area in development studies, chosen by the student in consultation with the supervisor and Head of SAGES. The area of review will be determined during regular meetings and discussions between student and supervisor. Regular meetings will be held to discuss the development of academic arguments in the review. Preparation of the review will include an extensive literature search by the student on the defined topic and critical appraisal of drafts by the supervisor prior to final submission of the review.

**Assessment:** A written review essay of 5000 words.

**121-516 Gender Issues in Development**

**Availability:** 4th year and postgraduate

**Credit points:** 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Anthony Marcus

**Prerequisites:** Admission to postgraduate studies or fourth-year honours in development.

**Contact:** This subject is taught in intensive mode. Details of teaching arrangements can be obtained from the subject coordinator. Twenty-four hours of seminars (*Semester 2*).

**Description:** This subject addresses the complexities of development by systematically reviewing the conceptual, ideological and sociocultural context in which development planning decisions are made, particularly in developing countries. This subject concentrates on the theory and practice of development, theories of social change and development in the light of challenges to traditional goals of development, ie. economic growth, poverty alleviation and social justice. Consideration is also given to the role of the state and international organisations, and alternative strategies and paradigms of development. Case studies of the patterns of development in the Asia-Pacific region will be utilised to highlight development strategies, successes and failures. Particular focus will be given to consideration of issues of gender and environment.

**Assessment:** Written work totalling 5000 words.

---

**121-545 Understanding Development**

**Note:** Formerly available as 121-105. Students who have completed 121-105 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 4th year and postgraduate

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Prof Michael Webber & Dr Salim Lakha

**Prerequisites:** Admission to postgraduate studies or fourth-year honours in development.

**Contact:** Twenty-four hours of seminars (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** This subject forms an introduction to the main past and current theories of development, involving the approaches of several social science disciplines. Students should become familiar with the relationship between global trends in development, on-the-ground changes to people's lives, and the activities of government and non-government organisations. Some seminars will consist of participants' and other professionals' reflections about the relations between their activities and larger scale development problems.

**Assessment:** Individual and group reports totalling 5000 words.

