

School of Development Studies

MSc in Environment and International Development

www.uea.ac.uk/dev



University of East Anglia, Norwich

UEA
NORWICH

Introduction

“Let me set the stage. Our era is unique. We’ve never before experienced anything like the human pressures on the environment as well as the human successes in sustained and broad-based improvements of well-being. Ensuring that we can continue those successes without going right over the cliff will prove to be our generation’s greatest challenge.”

**Jeffrey D. Sachs,
Director of The Earth Institute,
May 2007.**

Interest in the global environment and development has never been so intense. Environmental issues and problems have long been on local and national agendas, but increasingly over the last thirty years, on international agendas too. All environmental issues derive from natural processes, but at the same time are social and political, and it is this unique interdisciplinary approach which drives the MSc in Environment and International Development.



The interaction between environment and development is studied through analysing policy processes at local, national and international levels, as played out by a large cast of actors: policy

makers, politicians, business administrators, NGOs, rural and urban resource users. We use a wide range of critical and constructive skills, analytical techniques and contextual knowledge to forward our understanding of these processes.

Who is the course for?

This course is for two broad groups of people. The first are professionals with some background in development or environmental management who wish to improve and broaden their knowledge of these two areas and the many important linkages between them. The second are those who have recently completed undergraduate study and wish to build on and apply their learning in the areas of the environment and international development.

You are eligible to apply if you have a good academic background in a related field (natural or social sciences), or significant professional experience in any agency involved in environment and development issues.

Course Structure

DEV welcomes about 150 postgraduate students each year, to study for one-year taught Masters and Diploma degrees. With 36 teaching staff and a team of support staff, the School offers students a friendly and supportive environment. Particular attention is given to supporting international students: English and academic skills tuition, and computer training from very basic levels upwards, are provided.

Students following the programme, MSc in Environment and International Development are required to gain 180 credits, as follows:

Coursework: 120 credits

Six 20 credit taught units are taken between October and May. Details of compulsory and optional units are found on the following page.

Examination: 20 credits

One examination paper is taken in April/May.

Dissertation: 40 credits

A dissertation of 8,000 to 12,000 words - researched and written from May to September - is a requirement of all courses. Students have complete freedom to choose their dissertation topic and supervisor, with the stipulation that the topic should address an issue of broad relevance to their Masters course. Overseas students who wish to work on issues from their home country should try to organise potential projects and data sources before arriving at UEA.



Units

All students take six units, four of which are compulsory units. These are: **Understanding Environmental Change**, **Research Techniques and Analysis**, **Policies and Issues in Environment and Development** and **Tools and Skills in Environment and Development**. The two remaining units can be selected from around 20 postgraduate units offered by the School which include:

Autumn Semester:

- Development Perspectives
- Gender Concepts for Development
- Governance, Democracy and Development
- Gender and Rural Livelihoods
- Introduction to Education and Development
- Introduction to Social Development
- Microeconomics of Development
- Quantitative Methods for Development

Spring Semester:

- Conflict, Peace and Security
- Contemporary World Development
- Educational Policy and Practice in Development
- Environmental Economics for Development
- Food Systems and Rural Development
- Gender, Difference and Social Policy
- Globalisation, Industrialisation and Development
- International Economic Policy
- Macroeconomics of Development
- Rural Policies
- Research Skills for Social Analysis

Understanding Environmental Change

This unit aims to provide students with an interdisciplinary introduction to the analysis of the diverse perceptions and the understandings of environmental changes, their meanings and implications; and of the relationships between environment and development.

The unit provides students with:

- critical understanding of social constructions of cause and effect relationships in environment and development issues, including a critical understanding of scientific assessments;
- skills to develop their own perspectives of environment and development issues;
- understand the somewhat different perspectives in less developed countries on environment and development issues.

Policies and Issues in Environment and Development

This unit aims to develop critical awareness and analytical skills with reference to the politics and policy components of selected environment and development issues.

The unit provides students with:

- the knowledge to make links between conceptual and theoretical perspectives and the policy and practice of environmental management and sustainability;
- improved understanding of environmental policy processes and impacts at the local, national and international levels;
- ability to critically assess the obstacles to effective decision-making and policy formulation.

Please visit our website for more detailed information on all the units we offer.

Student Experiences

*Esteve (2000-2001)
Spain*

"The reason why I joined the MScEID in 2000 was that I felt a need to acquire more knowledge and analytical skills to understand global environmental problems and development challenges. The course fulfilled my expectations and both teachers and research colleagues were extraordinary. In fact, that year at UEA was so intense that I decided to study for a PhD in Development Studies! I now work for the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research examining the development implications of mitigation policy in Latin America and Africa."

*Lisa (1999-2000)
Sweden*

" There are two main reasons why I recommend this MSc at UEA. First, it is a truly interdisciplinary course taught by individuals who believe strongly in an interdisciplinary approach to addressing the most interdisciplinary of problems - the relationship between the natural environment and human development. Second, not only does the course cater to all disciplinary backgrounds, it also allows students to pursue nearly any focus that they choose."



Teaching Faculty

The core teaching faculty for the programme includes:



Prof. Kate Brown

Professor of Development Studies

I work on environmental change and development, focusing on how people understand, respond to and manage change, including climate change, biodiversity and conservation.



Dr Tim Daw

Lecturer in Natural Resources

I work on links between social and ecological systems, particularly in fisheries, with a focus on the role of local knowledge in fisheries governance. I have recently worked in Seychelles, E Africa, Malaysia and Europe.



Dr Declan Conway

Senior Lecturer in Natural Resources

I work on hydrology and water resources management; climate variability; climate change impacts and adaptation. I work in Egypt, Ethiopia, East Africa, India and China.



Dr Shawn McGuire

Lecturer in Natural Resources

I work broadly in environment and development; technology and agrarian development; ecology; genetic resources management; farming systems ecology and bio-safety.



Dr John McDonagh – ODG Chief Executive

Senior Lecturer in Natural Resources

I work on tropical soil fertility management, sustainable farming systems; nutrient and water balance studies. I work in east and southern Africa.

PLEASE CONTACT US AT:
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