Programme Specification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Awarding body</th>
<th>University of London</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Teaching Institution</td>
<td>Birkbeck College</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Programme Title(s)</td>
<td>MSc International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Programme Code(s)</td>
<td>TMSIDEVP_C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UCAS code (if applicable)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Home Department</td>
<td>Geography</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 7 | Exit Award(s)          | PG Certificate International Development  
|   |                        | PG Diploma International Development |
| 8 | Duration of Study (number of years) | 2 |
| 9 | Mode of Study          | FT | PT | DL |
| 10| Level of Award (FHEQ)  | 7 |

11. Other teaching depts or institution (or not applicable)
   N/A

12. Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (or not applicable)
   N/A

13. QAA Benchmark Group (or not applicable)
   N/A

14. Programme Rationale & Aims

   The programme rationale is:
   
   To provide accredited, inter-disciplinary and critical post-graduate courses in international development
   
   To provide unique courses that are predominantly taught outside working hours (evenings and weekends) and address the needs of London’s growing Development sector, and reflect the concerns of people who live and work in London.
   
   The programme aims to
   
   introduce students to key concepts, theories and debates within selected areas of development studies and, where applicable, social anthropology,
   
   introduce students to methods relevant to selected areas of development studies and, where applicable, social anthropology,
   
   enable students to critically apply such knowledge within an inter-disciplinary, social science framework,
   
   enable students to critically apply such knowledge to practical aspects of development practice and management,
   
   introduce students to research skills, and to apply these by undertaking an independent research project.
### Entry Criteria

Entrance requirements: students should hold an Undergraduate Honours Degree 2 i or higher in a relevant subject or an equivalent level of experience. Relevant subjects include inter alia: politics, sociology, geography, anthropology, development studies. Candidates with a 2 ii and/or a humanities background will also be considered but will be asked to submit an entry level essay.

### Prospectus Entry

This interdisciplinary programme aims to provide a critical and theoretical understanding of the issues, processes and institutions central to global poverty, inequality and development.

The programme's compulsory modules introduce you to key debates that have shaped thinking on international poverty, development and aid, and will equip you with knowledge of the conceptual and theoretical bases of development. They aim to improve your skills of evaluation and analysis, enabling you to participate critically in debates on the changing nature of the multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental institutions designed to address development issues, the context in which they operate and the constraints they face.

### Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this programme a student will be able to:

- evaluate key concepts and theories in relation to specific development issues and to assess their efficacy for understanding poverty, inequality and development
- evaluate broad and complex policy debates and assess their applicability to specific contexts
- evaluate the success of 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 from printed and electronic sources
- synthesise a critical and analytical argument using theory, qualitative and quantitative data
- reflect on their individual learning and thinking
- develop innovative approaches to research.

### Learning, teaching and assessment methods

The programme will be delivered using a range of teaching methods including: lectures, seminars, presentations and participative workshops.

Assessment is entirely by coursework including essays, annotated bibliographies, a learning journal, critical literature review and a dissertation.
The programme is made up of two compulsory modules, two option modules and a dissertation. Part-time students take the two compulsory modules in Year 1 and then the two option modules and dissertation in Year 2. In addition non-assessed classes in Research Methods for Dissertation are taught with students from the MSc international Childhood Studies and MSc International Development Studies and Anthropology, which gives students the opportunity for further academic exchange with a wider student community.

The two compulsory modules are:
- Development Studies: Theoretical Approaches
- The Political Economy of Aid

The option modules can be taken from across the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy with the agreement of the Programme Director. Students are required to take at least one module from development studies; modules currently offered are:
- Gender and Development
- Development Management
- War, Conflict and Development, NGOs
- The International Political Economy of Childhood
- Material and Visual Cultures of Development
- South-South Development

Dissertation research in a relevant field is agreed with the programme director.

### Programme Structure

#### Full Time programme

#### Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
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<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>7</td>
<td>FDDV023S7</td>
<td>Development Studies: Theoretical Approaches</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FDDV024S7</td>
<td>The Political Economy of Aid</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FDDV008D7</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Option 1</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Option 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
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Indicative list of options:

- 7 FDDV002S7 Gender and Development 30 Option
- 7 SSGE007S7 Anthropology Theory and Method 30 Option
- 7 FDDV004S7 Development Management 30 Option
- 7 FDDV025S7 International Political Economy of Childhood 30 Option
- 7 FDDV021S7 Culture and Development: postcolonial perspectives 30 Option
- 7 FDDV020S7 War, Conflict and Development 30 Option
- 7 SSGE082S7 South-South Development 30 Option
## Part Time programme

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## Regulations

- **Admissions**
  This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy:  

- **Credit Transfer**
  Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning  

- **Programme Regulations**
  This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme  
  [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations)

- **Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)** N/A

## Student Attendance Framework – in brief

The full version of the ‘Student Attendance Framework’ is available  

**Principle**

Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.

**Attendance expectation**

Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions,
including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.

**E-Registers**

All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.

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### 23 Student Support and Guidance

All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities)

### 24 Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards

The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner’s reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.

For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality)

### 25 Programme Director

Dr Jasmine Gideon

### 26 Start Date (term/year)

September 2002

### 27 Date approved by TQEC

Prior to 2002

### 28 Date approved by Academic Board

Prior to 2002

### 29 Date(s) updated/amended

June 2018 (for 2017/18)

(Note: Programme was formerly known as MSc Development Studies)