

Call for applications

Erasmus scholarships for 5 months study-abroad at International Development Studies, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Are you interested in contemporary international development challenges? Would you like to explore these from a people-centred, human perspective? Then a 5-month study abroad at International Development Studies at Utrecht University might be an option for you!

For 2024-2025, there are two mobility grants available to study in this programme, financed by the European Commission, for MSc students in Forestry and Geography at UGM.

The MSc Degree Programme International Development Studies

The multidisciplinary, one-year Master's programme in International Development Studies addresses current development challenges and engages with these highly important and urgent issues from people-centered, human perspective. In particular, the programme focuses on topics surrounding migration/mobilities, climate change, land governance, urbanisation and corporate social responsibility.

Our students and staff

You will study in an international environment, with peers and staff from diverse disciplinary and cultural backgrounds. Each year in September, approx. 50 students start their IDS programme. The first semester (September - end of January) is dedicated to courses, in the second part students embark upon their individual research project and write their thesis. We count with an international staff, with development geographers, anthropologists, sociologists and irrigation & gender specialists. For more information on our staff and our research please visit this website:

<https://www.uu.nl/en/research/human-geography-and-planning/research/international-development-studies>

Study programme and courses

Students will start their exchange end of August/September 2024 and take courses (total of 30 EC) in the MSc Degree Programme International Development Studies. The exchange period ends in the last week of January 2025.

The following courses will be part of the exchange (see also Annex 1):

- Development Themes (7.5 credits)
- Development Theories (7.5 credits)
- Advanced Methods & Techniques for International Development Studies (10 credits)
- Elective - students can opt for one of the six elective courses (5 EC) offered by the Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning.

More information on the programme?

Please visit this website: <https://www.uu.nl/masters/en/international-development-studies>

Mobility grants

The mobility grants cover airfare (1500 €) and a monthly living allowance of 5 x 1100 € (5500 €). In addition, there's a contribution for costs of visa.

Selection criteria

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Registration in the master programme Geography or Forestry at UGM;
- An academic Bachelor degree in Geography or Forestry or a related subject;
- Knowledge of, and experience with, both quantitative and qualitative methods;
- Proficient in English (at least C1);

If the number of applications exceeds the number of available places and there is equivalence in qualification, preferences will go to students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.

How to apply?

You can apply by submitting the following documents before **March 1, 2024**:

- Motivation letter, indicating motivation, background and the way this exchange contributes to educational (and future professional) career
- CV
- Academic grades
- Statement on English proficiency

An interview with the selection committee will be part of the selection procedure.

Your application should be sent by email to:

MA students in Geography: Dr. Erlis Saputra: erlissaputra@ugm.ac.id

MA students in Forestry: Dr. Ari Susanti: arisusanti@ugm.ac.id

More information?

Please contact Dr. Ari Susanti or Dr. Erlis Saputra.

Annex 1

Course for exchange students, see course descriptions below:

1. Development Themes
2. Development Theories
3. Advanced M&T for IDS
4. One elective of choice (to be discussed)

1. Development Themes (7.5 EC)

Aims

Please note: the information in the course manual is binding.

This course provides students with conceptual and empirical knowledge of current processes of (de)-globalization from an inclusive and sustainable development perspective employing a flows of capital and people framework. How and why do different actors in various settings respond to a variety of forces of globalization? Upon successful completion of the course,

1) students have advanced theoretical and empirical knowledge and understanding of key themes in development studies (in particular: global investment and trade, migration and mobilities, local livelihoods change, climate change and natural resource management, land governance and urbanisation, health and gender, with a focus on the situation in Asia, Africa and Latin America).

2) students are able to analyse development-related issues in a manner that is interdisciplinary, relational holistic and practically oriented.

3) students can use different sources of information and methods of analysis, and interact and communicate with a wide range of audiences (specialists and non-specialists).

4) students are able to co-create knowledge and exchange visions and experiences with different types of development professionals and organizations aiming to contribute to inclusive and sustainable development and achieving the SDGs ('meet the professional' and 'open house visits').

Content

This course starts from the idea that inclusive development – and opportunities to achieve the sustainable development goals – depends on flows of capital and flows of people moving in the 'right' direction. Over the final decade, the total volume and diversity of flows has rapidly increased. Along with the emergence of new flows of capital, we see the emergence of flows of people/ and other mobilities (knowledge, goods and ideas). As the consequence of global investments and migration (including repatriation) policies, many people are limited in their freedom to stay, or forced to move. Taking into account this reality (and accepting that the new Sustainable Development Goals as the new universal agenda for action) the question is to steer *flows of capital* and *flows of people* in the direction of inclusive and sustainable development?

In each of the sessions we will take a particular flows of capital as our point of departure (e.g. large-scale land investments in food and biofuels, but also investments in climate change adaptation and sustainable development, infrastructure, technology, urban development, health care, etc.). In assessing the impact for inclusive development, we analyse these capital flows in close relation to flows of people/goods/ideas, focusing on transformations in livelihoods and capabilities.

In addition to lectures by IDS-staff, 'meet the professional' sessions (including a visit to an organization) and online and offline student workshops will be organized.

Competencies

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Entry requirements

You must meet the following requirements

- Enrolled for a degree programme of faculty Faculty of Geosciences
- Enrolled for one of the following degree programmes
 - International Development Studies
 - Sustainable Development

Prerequisite knowledge

A letter of acceptance to the master's degree programme International Development Studies. Exclusively for IDS master students & students in the Sustainable Development - ID track.

2. Development Theories (7.5 EC)

Aims

Please note: the information in the course manual is binding.

After the course:

- students should have an overview of, and be able to identify, the major theoretical approaches in development studies at present and of the last several decades.
- Students should be able to indicate the relevance and validity of respective development theories in different historical and geographical contexts.
- In this way, students should have acquired the instruments for analyzing and understanding development issues within their contexts and be able to bridge the gap between theoretical reflections and their applications to real-world situations.
- Finally, the course should inspire students to critically examine the assumptions underlying theories and representations of development issues, and find new roads or viable alternatives in conceptualizing sustainable and equitable development.

Content

This module critically examines the major approaches and theories that dominate thinking about development at present, and have done so in the past several decades. The focus here is on sustainable and equitable human development. The course adopts a multidisciplinary approach, discussing contributions by geographers as well as those by other development-oriented scholars. In reviewing different theoretical paradigms, the basic understanding is that each theory is embedded in a particular historical and societal context that inspires useful insights but also imposes certain limitations. No theoretical school has a definitive answer to the problems of human development, while on the other hand several key ideas persist or recur in different guises as newly formulated theoretical insights.

The following schools of development thinking will be discussed:

- dualism, orientalism and the persistence of dichotomies in development thinking;
- modernization theories viewing development as a unilinear process;
- the dependencia school and political-economy approaches;
- neoliberalism and globalization as a development paradigm;
- (new) institutional approaches to development and the role of the state;
- Structuralist versus actor-oriented approaches in development;
- gender approaches to and in development;
- postmodernism, post-development and postcolonialism;
- Sen's capabilities approach and development as freedom;
- sustainable development and its critics;
- social theories of development and the role of culture;
- ethical approaches to development;
- complexity theory and development;

- Geopolitical perspectives on development.

Competencies

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Entry requirements

You must meet the following requirements

- Assigned study entrance permit for the master

Prerequisite knowledge

A letter of acceptance of the master's degree programme International Development Studies or of the International Development track of the Master in Sustainable Development. Students with a finished bachelor programme with sufficient relevant knowledge for this course can hand in a documented request to the course coordinator.

Private study materials

Students write short essays and conduct student seminars for which they search for their own materials.

3. Advanced M&T for IDS (10 EC)

Content

This module deals with research design (for IDS students) and advanced research methods and techniques (both for IDS and SUSD-ID students). It is conducted in close cooperation with the IDS staff and Methodology and Statistics section of the SGPL. During a series of lectures, tutorials and practicals students are introduced to a wide range of aspects pertaining to the design, conducting and analysis of research as well as actually working in other cultural settings. The students are trained in the hands-on implementation of a variety of methods and techniques as commonly applied during the various phases of the project cycle, such as data collection (e.g. interviewing and surveys) and analysis (qualitative and quantitative).

In addition, IDS students are trained in research design, including the clear formulation of the research problem, the research objective and the leading research questions; in the presentation of the relevant contextual information and theoretical perspectives, including the construction of a conceptual model and a set of working hypotheses. Guided by their internship supervisors, IDS students study a selection of literature that is relevant in terms of their internship, and provide a written and oral presentation of a proposal of the research project which is to be carried out during the student's research – oriented internship at a professional organization in a developing or transition country.

Competencies

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Entry requirements

You must meet the following requirements

- Enrolled for a degree programme of faculty Faculty of Geosciences
- Enrolled for one of the following degree programmes
 - International Development Studies
 - Sustainable Development

Prerequisite knowledge

- A letter of acceptance of the master's degree programme International Development Studies or Sustainable Development - ID track;

- Knowledge of research design in social science at intermediate level;
- Knowledge of quantitative data analysis i.e. descriptive statistics; bivariate analysis; correlations.

Prerequisite knowledge can be obtained through

Reading (see below) and practice e.g. online tutorials

Private study materials

- Bryman, A. (2012). Social research methods (4th edition). Oxford University Press;
- Field (A.) (2013). Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS statistics : and sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll. (4th ed.) Los Angeles [etc.] : Sage;
- Bryman, A. (2012). Quantitative Data Analysis with IBM SPSS 17, 18 & 19 : A Guide for Social Scientists. Hoboken : Taylor and Francis.

4. One of the following electives (5 EC)

- Real Estate
- Migration, Mobilities & Sustainable Futures
- Techniques of Futuring
- Urban Infrastructures
- Cultures of Sustainability