

Development in the International Political Economy

LSE SUMMER SCHOOL

Why do some countries get rich but others remain poor? Will trade wars and climate change slow down economic growth? How can we build democracy and gender equality in poorer countries? These are some of the challenges faced by global leaders and explains why International Development studies is now a growing field of social sciences and a focus of public policy.

This course will provide you with an introduction to International Development - the study of how to achieve prosperous, healthy and fulfilling lives. Its objective is to explain the core debates in International Development, and to review potential policy interventions at global, national, and sub-national levels. The multidisciplinary nature of the content means you will explore important topics such as economic globalisation, trade and investment, international aid, armed conflict and climate change from the perspective of political science, international relations and political economy.

Another key feature of the course is to examine the role of international organisations such as the World Bank, the United Nations, and the World Trade Organisation and other aid and civil society organisations. As a result, you will leave the course with the ability to analyse and interpret the complex relationship between different international actors. You will also develop an understanding of important approaches used by governments, international organisations and civil society to create meaningful change at a local and international level.

Lectures: 36 hours

Classes: 18 hours

Assessment*: One examination and one essay

Prerequisites

At least one introductory course in either social science (e.g. political science, international relations, sociology, economics), history or law.

Key topics

What is “Development”?

Getting Rich: Economic Growth and Industrialisation

The Debt Crisis and the rise of Neo-Liberal Governance

Governing Trade, Globalisation, and Financial Crises

Politics: The State and Governance in International Development

Poverty and Inequality

Gender and Development

Disasters and Vulnerability to Climate Change

Aid and Humanitarianism

Population and Resources

Food and Rural Development

International Policy on Climate Change and Development

Programme structure and assessment

This course is delivered as a combination of lectures, class discussions and readings. Due to the highly topical nature of the content students are expected to engage with the course material before each class in order to participate in the lively discussion between faculty and peers.

The course is assessed through a 2,000 word essay (50%) and a final examination (50%). In addition, students have the option to submit a voluntary written assessment during the course to practice their writing skills and receive feedback from faculty.

Further details will be provided at the beginning of the course.

Course outcomes

Understand the core debates in International Development and the development of the discipline within the social sciences

Review potential policy interventions available to governments and international actors at global, national and sub-national levels

Discuss the role of international organisations and their ability to make meaningful change locally and globally

Identify different approaches used by governments, international organisations and civil society to create change

Reading materials

Currie-Alder, B., Kanbur, R., Malone, D. and Medhora, R. (eds), *International Development: Ideas, Experience, and Prospects*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2014).

Additional readings from more advanced journals and book chapters will be recommended as well.