MA International Development.
“Students on our MA International Development course join a vibrant and engaged community of scholars working across disciplinary boundaries. The course is designed to provide rigorous training in development theory, concepts and socio-political concerns that are grounded in the realities of working within the development sector.”

Dr Daniel Hammett, Programme Director

“MA International Development

The MA International Development brings together expertise in rural and urban development, governance, citizenship and sustainability to engage with the challenges of social and environmental justice in the Global South.

The course prioritises a critical understanding of international development theories and debates through applied training and professional activities. During the course, students undertake a programme of professional skills development, carry out hands-on research during an overseas field class, and complete a placement-based dissertation which links together academic theory and development practice. We ensure that our students develop the practical and theoretical skills needed to work within development organisations across the world.

Our MA programme reflects our research strengths and our internationally recognised position at the forefront of current issues and debates. In addition, our teaching involves industry and sector specialists, helping students to make connections and contacts with a global network of expertise beyond the University.

The course provides high-quality, in-depth teaching dedicated to preparing students both for further academic studies and developing or continuing their careers in development and environmental research and practice in both the public and private sectors.

The programme is driven by our practical engagements with development as well as by theory, making this course of interest to both recent graduates and those with existing professional experience. Students from, or with work experience in, the Global South are particularly encouraged to apply.

We are looking for students who will respond positively to the intellectual challenges this degree programme will present, and who will use the experience to inform their professional practice on graduation.
Full-time students complete 180 credits of study over a 12 month period. Modules are delivered through lectures, seminars, workshops, supervision and independent study. Each module draws heavily on the latest research and developments in the field and utilizes the individual expertise of each of our academic staff.

A wide range of assessment methods - including research reports, policy briefs and oral presentations provide students with a core set of communication skills tailored for the international development sector. Full details of our course structure can be found on our web pages at: www.sheffield.ac.uk/geography/masters/maid

Example optional modules:
- Data, Visualisation and GIS
- Introduction to Quantitative Analysis
- Theory and Debates in Food Security and Food Justice
- Understanding Environmental Change
- Key Issues in Global Public Health
- Theorising the City in the Global South
- Urban Development in the Global South
- Key Issues in Environment and Development
- Living with Climate Change in the Global South
- Disaster and Emergency Management
- Using Policy to Strengthen Health Systems
- Cities of Diversity
- Cities of ‘the South’: Planning for Informality
- Governance and Participation in the Global South

Core modules:
- Ideas and Practice in International Development
- Research Design and Methods for Development
- Professional Skills for Development
- International Development Field Class
- Dissertation with Placement

The placement-based dissertation offers students the opportunity to work within an international development organisation in the UK, Europe or the Global South whilst conducting research for their dissertation thereby gaining valuable experience for future careers. Our MA students have worked with organisations ranging from the WHO, MSF, IFAD to NGOs such as Sightsavers and SolidarMed to smaller NGOs and CBOs working on public health and international development projects across the globe.

The core field class to a country in the Global South provides students with practical field skills in a unique environment. Each field class is designed to ensure that students gain experience of applying their learning in a real world context as well as practicing specific research methods and techniques. We offer a range of field class destinations each year. In recent years, field classes have visited Kenya, Tanzania, India, Nepal and the Galapagos Islands.

Unique Features

Professional Skills Training provides students on the MA International Development course with the opportunity to tailor a portfolio of specialist and transferable skills that are designed to enhance student employability. Skills are often taught through scenario-based problem-solving activities run by external experts and international development professionals. Specialist skills include how to tender for contracts and make funding applications; Monitoring and Evaluation; and GIS. Transferable skills include foreign languages, writing for different audiences, presentations and workshop organisation.
“The main attraction of the course at Sheffield was its practical and professional opportunities. The chance to conduct overseas research alongside NGOs importantly offered a holistic understanding of the sector by bringing the sometimes distant worlds of academia and practice together.

A highlight of the course was getting to know people from all around the world and also the employees and beneficiaries of the NGOs I was able to work with. It was so interesting getting to hear different opinions from people who had diverse experience in different countries, and this made the course more valuable, allowing me to have a more rounded understanding of development practice. I am now working in London for a global humanitarian aid and development organisation. I am glad to put what I learnt into practice. I love knowing that my work contributes to transforming the lives of others, turning emergency situations into opportunities for communities across the globe.”

Claudia Winn, MA International Development
The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it is up-to-date and relevant. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research; funding changes; professional accreditation requirements; student or employer feedback; outcomes of reviews; and variations in staff or student numbers. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication, for the reasons detailed above, changes may need to be made to modules, course, entry requirements and fees between the date of this publication and the start of your course.

This publication is correct at the time of print, but please see our website for the most up-to-date information. If there is any inconsistency between this publication and our website, the information on our website should be taken as correct.