

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE

CALENDAR

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

FACULTY
OF ECONOMIC AND
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

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MASTERS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

GENERAL ORIENTATION

Faculty and general regulations

Unless specifically stated otherwise, the general regulations of the university and the faculty, which apply to masters degrees, apply to the MDS and specialised fields.

Information

Purpose of qualification

The Centre for Development Support within the Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences at the University of the Free State is presenting an inter-disciplinary Masters in Development Studies programme with lecturers from 16 different departments and centres at the University and two other collaborating Universities (Monash University and RAU) facilitating course material. The Centre for Development Support has completed several rapid scan-assessments identifying a large demand for qualified development managers and development workers in the public, NGO and private sectors in Southern Africa. This training field is relatively untapped and a definite niche market exists to deepen the understanding of development issues amongst participants. The programme definitely meets the expectations, needs and standards of society.

On completion of this programme, a candidate will be competent in understanding and debating important development related issues in order to design, implement and evaluate development policies and development initiatives in a sustainable human-centred manner. Graduates of the MDS programme will be able to interpret and execute applied development research and critically reflect on development policy.

Teaching and learning methods

The programme involves resource-based learning. This means self-study, with the aid of pre-selected sources of learning material as disclosed in an organised manner with a study guide. The contact sessions are largely devoted to seminars, case studies, group work and applications of theory and methodology. On-campus tuition takes place for one week at the beginning of the year, for a week in the middle of the year and the final week in the last quarter of the year (year one). In the second year students are required to attend one week of lecturers at the beginning of the year and again in the middle of the year. The rest of the second year will involve the completion of the mini-dissertation.

Assessment

Assessment methods can include:

- Class participation and presentations
- Assignments
- Project proposals
- Simulated research/development proposals
- Research reports
- Formal written examinations
- Mini-dissertation

Capabilities and competencies of learners

Learners will have to demonstrate the following capabilities to:

- understand the most important development approaches related to development and underdevelopment and to analyse the development situations according
- analyse and critically debate pertinent development issues in the Southern African context
- identify and understand potential problems/phenomena that lead to underdevelopment and poverty in the Southern African region

- conduct and utilise applied development research techniques to inform policy.

The specific outcomes that learners will have to demonstrate include the following competencies:

- analyse and critically reflect on current and future development approaches and development initiatives in Southern Africa
- design strategies to address underdevelopment and alleviate poverty in the Southern Africa context
- monitor and evaluate development initiatives (i.e. Programmes and projects)
- conduct and utilise applied development research methods in order to make a real contribution in solving development-related problems
- integrate development research findings into development decision-making and development policy making
- manage development programmes and projects in a financial and environmental sustainable and human-centered manner.

REGULATIONS

Faculty requirements

General admission requirements

Over and above the general regulations regarding admission to this university and admission to masters degree, the following admission requirements must be met:

- A recognised three year tertiary qualification, equal to 360 credits on NQF level 6 or Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) equivalent (See paragraph below).
- A satisfactory academic record.
- Work-related learning experience in development.
- Appropriate English language proficiency.

A selection takes place at the end of the year and the admission requirements apply. An admission committee will assess all applicants' prior learning against a set of outcomes written according to level descriptors at the NQF level 7. A policy of limited enrolment will be practiced. Applicants that are not admitted may appeal to the Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences. The outcome of this decision will be final.

Registration

- Annual registration as a student of the University of the Free State is compulsory until the qualification is completed.
- The final registration date of the Centre for Development Support does correspond with the final registration date of the university.

Duration

- The programme is aimed at part-time students.
- The minimum time for completing the programme is 2 years on a part-time basis.
- The maximum time for completing the programme is 5 years (2 years + 3 years additional years). No further admission will be granted beyond this maximum completion time.

Exemptions/Recognition of prior learning

- Exemptions and recognition of prior learning will only be granted for courses passed during the past five years.
- Exemptions and recognition of prior learning will only be granted for postgraduate courses.
- Students may apply for exemption from a maximum of five semester courses (modules).

Degree with distinction

- The MDS is obtained with distinction if an average of 75% is obtained for the required number of courses within six consecutive semesters.
- If a student is granted exemption for certain modules only those modules that have been completed in the MDS programme at the University of the Free State will be taken into consideration in calculating the average mark.

Class attendance

- It is compulsory to attend all contact sessions. Not attending could lead to an incomplete module.

Reg. F 1 MASTERS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (240 credits)
MDS
Study code (06782)

CURRICULUM

Students registering for the MDS degree must meet the requirements of the Faculty and that of the University on completion of their curriculum as set out in the following schedule.

In order to obtain a Master's in Development Studies, the programme consists of five core modules in the first year and two elective modules, as well as a mini-dissertation in the second year.

The curriculum comprises seven modules and a mini-dissertation – the latter might be substituted with one publishable article - or 10 modules without a mini-dissertation/ publishable article. Only the option of seven modules and a mini-dissertation/publishable article allows a student to continue with a Ph.D. in Development Studies. However, admission to a doctor's degree is subject to the general regulations of the university and approval by that particular Programme Director or Chairperson/Head of Department in which the doctorate is envisaged, based on a satisfactory academic background and the

submission of an approved research proposal in conjunction with the prescribed procedures of that particular department and the faculty.

The programme will consist of the following core modules in the first year:

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	CREDITS
MDS 701	Development, Underdevelopment and Poverty	24
MDS 702	Governance and Development	24
MDS 703	Development and Natural Environment	24
MDS 704	Applied Development Research	24
MDS 705	Project Management for Development	24

- In the second year of study, students can, in consultation with the Programme Director and Study leader(s), choose between:
 - a) doing a mini-dissertation/publishable article and 2 (two) elective modules from below
 - or
 - b) five elective modules from below.

Second year elective modules:

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	CREDITS
MDS 706	Rural and Agrarian Development	24
MDS 707	Gender and Development	24
MDS 708	Tourism and Development	24
MDS 709	Entrepreneurship and Development	24
MDS 710	Urban Development Management I	24
MDS 711	Urban Development Management II	24
MDS 712	Health and Development	24
<u>MDS 713</u>	<u>HIV/AIDS and Development</u>	<u>24</u>

Mini-dissertation/Publishable article: MDS 791 (72 credits)

In consultation with the Programme Director and assigned study leader the student may opt for a publishable article instead of the mini-dissertation.

Research Masters in Development Studies: MDS 700 (Research without course work modules) (240 credits)

Students selecting this option have to submit a Research Masters dissertation or the equivalent of three related articles, on one approved topic, and presented in a format suitable for publication as accredited articles.

PHILISOPHIAE DOCTOR IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Ph.D. Development Studies: MDS900

Study code (06960)

Refer to the yearbook of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences and general regulations of the University of the Free State.

Additional prerequisites for admission: Ph.D.

- Admission to a doctor's degree is subject to the general regulations of the University and approval by that particular Programme Director or Chairperson/Head of Department in which the doctorate is envisaged, based on a satisfactory academic background and the submission of an approved research proposal in conjunction with the prescribed procedures of that particular department and the faculty. A further admission requirement to a Ph.D. in Development Studies is that the applicant should have completed a mini-dissertation/dissertation at Masters level.

Curriculum

The qualification is awarded on the basis of a thesis.

SYLLABUSES FOR MDS PROGRAMME

CORE MODULES FOR FIRST YEAR

MDS 701: Development, Underdevelopment and Poverty (24 credits)

The aim of this module is to familiarise learners with the history of the development debate, the nature of development indicators, and the variety of theories attempting to explain development or the lack thereof. Particular emphasis is laid on poverty. The causes and consequences of poverty are studied, while strategies of poverty alleviation are appraised by means of southern African case studies.

This module consists of the following themes:

Theme 1a: Historical overview of Development and Underdevelopment

Theme 1b: Development Indicators

Theme 2: Conventional Theories of Development

Theme 3a: Introduction to Alternative Development Approaches

Theme 3b: Some Alternative Development Approaches

Theme 4a: Conceptions and Dimensions of Poverty

Theme 4b: Poverty Comparisons

Theme 4c: Poverty and Food Security

MDS 702: Governance and Development (24 credits)

This module aims at orientating students towards the topic from a multi-disciplinary point of departure; broadening their knowledge basis on the relationship between governance and development; and sensitising learner to the importance of the political environment and its legal framework to comply with the ideal of good governance. Focus points of this course are:

- concepts, explanations and trends in the field of political development;
- the institutional character and dynamics of the political environment;
- constitutional provisions for governance and development;

- public management.

This module consists of the following themes:

Theme 1: Political science:

Section 1: Political Development

Section 2: Political Environment

Theme 2: Constitutional Law

Section 1: Law, Human rights and developmental governance

Theme 3: Public Management

Section 1: Political and Administrative Phenomena of Governance

Section 2: Normative principles of public management

Section 3: The Public Policy Process

Section 4: Policy Environment and Policy Formation

Section 5: RDP and GEAR

MDS 703: Development and the Natural Environment (24 credits)

The aim of this module is twofold. Firstly, it aims to familiarise students by means of five introductory themes, with environmental processes and dynamics that interact with development programmes and impact upon the stride towards sustainable development. Secondly, the module sets out to sensitise students in respect of the latest strategies and policies that have been formulated and implemented to accommodate and direct the interaction between environmental and developmental interests.

This module consists of the following themes:

Theme 1: Population, Sustainable Living and Development

Theme 2: Conservation and Development

Theme 3: Sustainable settlements

Theme 4: Environmental Law and Policy

Theme 5: Resource Economics and Resource Management

MDS 704: Applied Development Research (24 credits)

The aim of this module is to introduce and explain different research methods and techniques that can be used/applied in the field of development. The module will inform the making of appropriate operational choices (and motivation/justification of these choices) throughout the research process. Furthermore, it will enable the researcher to develop appropriate methodologies and implementation plans for research projects. Attention will also be devoted to the writing of research proposals in order to elicit support and funding for projects and to the preparation of research report, research data and research findings to various stakeholders and audiences.

This module consists of the following themes:

Theme 1: Theoretical Overview of Research Methodology

Theme 2: The Research Proposal

MDS 705: Project Management for Development (24 credits)

This is a competency-based course. The course consists of a number of simple competencies to be mastered by learners. A competency is a practical skill or knowledge required to complete a particular task. Learners will be able to learn a series of competencies, which will enable them to set up and run simple projects. It is expected that the best place to learn about project management is to do it in real life. More complex project management competencies will develop over time, but the initial focus is to master the art of running small and simple projects.

This reading is only a part of the learning process. Learners will add to it from their own experience in the field. It is suggested that learners work together in small groups and discuss the contents of this reading and learn in this way from each other. This module is nothing more than a rough road map; the details have to be completed by the learners whilst developing and implementing real-life projects. The readings alone will not be enough to

develop skilled project managers. It is the aim of this module to suggest one way in which policies can be implemented; it is not the only way and we expect that learners will develop their own approaches as they develop the confidence to run projects.

It is assumed that learning is optimised when learners are engaged in practical tasks (such as running a small project) and then progressing to more complex levels. The setting up and running of well-defined projects is seen as an ideal vehicle to learn about more complex and develop general management skills.

This module consists of the following themes:

- Theme 1: Introduction to Project Management – The process
- Theme 2: Situation Analysis and Sustainability (feasibility study)
- Theme 3: Stakeholder Participation
- Theme 4: Project Selection and Planning
- Theme 5: Network Analysis and GANTT Charts (Time Management)
- Theme 6: Project Estimation and Costing and Procurement Management
- Theme 7: Project Accounts, Project Management Accounting and Budgeting
- Theme 8: Project Implementation (Ensuring quality and dealing with risks)
- Theme 9: Control and Earned Value, Monitoring and Evaluation

ELECTIVE MODULES FOR SECOND YEAR

MDS 706: Rural and Agrarian Development (24 credits)

This module is intended to equip students with an understanding of the following:

- a broad frame of reference concerning the key problems facing people in rural areas;
- the impact of government policies on people in rural areas;
- agricultural systems and how these are influenced by various factors;

- land tenure arrangements in rural areas and their effect on agricultural production, food security, etc.;
- the impact of land reform policies;
- the factors that determine the adoption of new technologies especially in rural areas and
- the way forward for rural areas.

This module consists of the following themes:

Theme 1:	Rural Areas in Perspective
Theme 2:	Role of Physical Factors in Rural Development
Theme 3:	Agricultural Systems, Land Tenure Reform
Theme 4:	Agricultural Research and Adoption of Technology in Developing Areas

MDS 707: Gender and Development (24 credits)

Theme 1 of this module aims to familiarise and sensitise learners in respect of critical variable of gender, in particular its use in analysing roles, responsibilities, constraints and opportunities in developing countries. In addition, the aim is to aim provide learners with skills to do gender planning and to assess development projects in terms of gender.

The second theme on Gender and the Law aims at empowering learners to use the law to effect change in the developing World and to influence policy-makers.

This module consists of the following themes:

Theme 1:	Gender and Development
Theme 2:	Gender and Law

MDS 708: Tourism and Development (24 credits)

The aim of this module is to assist learners in implementing a sustainable approach to tourism development in their communities. This module therefore acquaints learners with the concepts, principles and techniques of planning for integrated and sustainable tourism development.

This module consists of the following themes:

Theme 1: Sustainable Tourism Development

- Unit 1: Defining and Describing Tourism
- Unit 2: Benefits of Sustainable Tourism Development
- Unit 3: Partners for Sustainable Tourism Development
- Unit 4: Preparing Development Plans
- Unit 5: Managing Environmental and Socio-economic impacts

Theme 2: Tourism Policy

Theme 3: Tourist Safety and Security

Theme 4: Management development

MDS 709: Entrepreneurship and Development (24 credits)

The aim of this module is to promote a better understanding of SMME business development, entrepreneurial development and management development.

This module consists of the following themes:

Theme 1: SMME Business development

Theme 2: Entrepreneurial development

Theme 3: Management development

MDS 710: Urban Development Management I (24 credits)

The broad aim of the module is to build and strengthen the capacities of existing and future persons involved in the field of urban development and management to cope with the urban challenges in a more effective, efficient and sustainable manner in order to increase the quality of life of those living in urban areas.

This module consists of the following themes:

Theme 1: Global Urban Challenges and responses to these Challenges

Theme 2: Urban Development Policy Environment

Theme 3: Development and Planning

MDS 711: Urban Development Management II (24 credits)

The broad aim of the module is to build and strengthen the capacities of existing and future persons involved in the field of urban development and management to cope with the urban challenges in a more effective, efficient and sustainable manner in order to increase the quality of life of those living in urban areas.

This module consists of the following themes:

Theme 1: Regional Development

Theme 2: Land Management

Theme 3: Housing and Infrastructure

MDS 712: Health and Development (24 credits)

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the study of health and to engender a basic understanding of the link between health and development. It is endeavored to relate the issues of health policy, or main epidemics and or he situation of high-risk groups to development in general, and specific case study development projects. The module is directed towards an understanding of the South and southern Africa health situation and health care systems and how these impact on development.

This module consists of the following themes:

- Theme 1: Introduction to Health and Development: The Reciprocal Relationship
- Theme 2: The South African Health System: Health Policy and Structure
- Theme 3: The Health of the South African Population: The Impact of the HIV/AIDS – Tuberculosis Dual Epidemic on Development.
- Theme 4: High-Risk Group Case Studies: The Health of Women and Young People

MDS 713: HIV/AIDS and Development (24 credits)

This module consists of the following themes:

- Theme 1: AIDS: Current trends and fuelling factors
- Theme 2: Gender, Poverty and HIV/AIDS
- Theme 3: Impacts: HIV/AIDS as Development Challenges
- Theme 4: Public Policy and HIV/AIDS