

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE

## CALENDAR

# GRADUATE PROGRAMME IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AS HOSTED BY THE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT (CDS)

FACULTY  
OF ECONOMIC AND  
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

**2009**



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## **MAGISTER 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 magister 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 Magister in Development Studies programme with lecturers from 16 different departments and centres at the University and several other collaborating Universities facilitating module 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 and needs 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
- Group work and group presentations

### ***Capabilities and competencies of students***

Students 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 students 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-centred manner.

## **REGULATIONS**

### **Faculty requirements**

#### ***General admission requirements***

Over and above the general regulations regarding admission to this university and the admission to magister 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 appeal 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 corresponds with the final registration date of the university.

### ***Duration***

- The programme is aimed at part-time adult learners.
- The minimum time for completing the programme is 2 years on a part-time basis.
- The maximum time for completing the programme is 4 years (2 years + 2 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 modules passed during the past five years.
- Exemptions and recognition of prior learning will only be granted for postgraduate modules.
- Students may apply for exemption from a maximum of five semester modules.

### ***Degree with distinction***

- The MDS is obtained with distinction if an average of 75% is obtained for the required number of modules and/or mini-dissertation/dissertation or publishable article(s) within four 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.

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**Reg. F 1      MAGISTER IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (240 credits)**  
**MDS**  
**Study code (6782)**

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## **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 degree 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 the option to do seven modules and a mini-dissertation/ 1 (one) publishable article, or 5 (five) modules and a dissertation/2 (two) related publishable articles. After successfully completing the programme, a student will be able 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:

<b>CODE</b>	<b>NAME OF MODULE</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>
MDS 701	Development, Underdevelopment and Poverty	24
MDS 702	Governance and Development	24
MDS 703	Development and the 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 (72 credits) and 2 (two) elective modules (24 credits each) from below
  - or
  - b) dissertation/2 (two) related publishable articles (120 credits)

**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 Development	24
MDS 709	Entrepreneurship and Development	24
MDS 710	Urban Development Management	24
MDS 711	Local Economic Development and Housing Policies	24
MDS 712	Health and Development	24
MDS 713	HIV and AIDS and Development	24
MDS 714	Migration and Development	24

**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 on an approved topic instead of the mini-dissertation.

**Dissertation/2 (two) related publishable articles: MDS 794 (120 credits)**

In consultation with the Programme Director and assigned study leader the student may opt for 2 (two) publishable related articles, on one approved topic, instead of the dissertation.

**Research Magister in Development Studies: MDS 700 (Research without module work modules) (240 credits)**

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

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**PHILOSOPHIAE DOCTOR IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES****Ph. D. Development Studies: MDS900**

Study code (6960)

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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 general regulations of the University and approval by that particular the 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 Magister level.

*Curriculum*

The qualification is awarded on the basis of a thesis.

Or

5 (five) related publishable articles on one approved topic.

## **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 conventional and alternative approaches to development, this in the context of development goals. With these approaches to development as background, the causes and consequences of poverty and underdevelopment are explored, this at the hand of relevant (southern) African case studies. The module also presents the learner with an overview of strategies to fight poverty and of tools for conducting poverty assessments, this to assess progress towards achieving international, regional, national and/or local development goals.

This module consists of the following themes:

- Theme 1: Development goals
- Theme 2: Sustainable, pro-poor growth as development strategy
- Theme 3: Alternative approaches to development
- Theme 4: Conceptions and dimensions of poverty
- Theme 5: Strategies for fighting poverty
- Theme 6: Tools for poverty assessments

#### **MDS 702: Governance and Development (24 credits)**

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

- International relations.

This module consists of the following themes:

- Theme 1: Political science:
  - Section 1: Political development: Key Concepts
  - Section 2: State structure, governance and decentralisation
  - Section 3: Policy-making.
  
- Theme 2: Constitutional Law
  - Section 1: The role of law in the developmental process
  - Section 2: Human rights, socio-economic rights and governance
  - Section 3: Developmental laws in South Africa.
  
- Theme 3: International relations
  - Section 1: Global environment
  - Section 2: Human security and development
  - Section 3: Global framework for governance and development.

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

The aim of this module is twofold. Firstly, it aims to familiarise learners 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, Environment and Development
- Theme 2: Sustainable settlements
- Theme 3: The law and policy frameworks with regard to environmental protection and development programmes
- Theme 4: Climate change and development in Africa
- Theme 5: Food security and development

### **MDS 704: Applied Development Research (24 credits)**

The aim of this module is to equip learners with the basic knowledge on research methods required to conduct a literature review, to write a research proposal, and to develop and execute an independent, applied development-related research project.

This module consists of the following themes:

- Theme 1: From research idea to research objectives: conducting and documenting a literature review
- Theme 2: Writing a research proposal
- Theme 3: Choice of research design and methods:
  - Research design
  - Qualitative research methods
  - Quantitative research methods
  - Mixed methods
  - Sampling strategies
  - Experimental research designs
  - Participatory/action research
  - Research ethics
- Theme 4: Towards the final product: you, your supervisor and your dissertation

### **MDS 705: Project Management for Development (24 credits)**

This is a competency-based module. The module consists of a number of simple competencies to be mastered by learners. Learners will be able to learn a series of competencies that 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.

The textbooks are only a part of the learning process. Learners will supplement what they have learned from textbooks with knowledge learned from their own experience in the field. It is also proposed that learners work together in small groups and discuss the content of their reading and, that they thus learn from each other.

It is assumed that learning is optimised when learners are engaged in practical tasks informed by some theoretical input. Learning complex tasks is also best approached by starting with simple - though fully integrated - 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 for learning about more complex projects and developing general management skills. The overall aim of the module is that the learner should be able to apply the project management principles within the actual development environment.

This module consists of the following themes:

- Theme 1: Introduction to Project Management – The process
- Theme 2: Planning for development
- Theme 3: Operational planning
- Theme 4: Monitoring and evaluation

## **ELECTIVE MODULES FOR SECOND YEAR**

### **MDS 706: Rural and Agrarian Development (24 credits)**

This module is intended to equip learners 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 production, food security, etc.;
- the impact of land reform policies;
- the factors that determine the adoption of new technologies especially in rural areas and
- developmental strategies for rural areas.

This module consists of the following themes:

- Theme 1: Rural Areas in Perspective
- Theme 2: Government policies, land reform and spatial dynamics in rural development
- Theme 3: Agricultural Systems, Land Tenure and Land Reform



Theme 4: Innovative natural resource management techniques for agriculture

### **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 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: Development Theories and Tourism Theory

Theme 2: Relationship between Development and Tourism

Theme 3: Barriers to Tourism Development

Theme 4: Tourism Policy in South Africa

Theme 5: Tourism and development issues in contemporary South Africa

Theme 6: Urban tourism in the developing world: the South African experience

### **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: Entrepreneurial development
- Theme 2: SMME Business development and business plan
- Theme 3: Management development

### **MDS 710: Urban Development Management\_\_\_\_ (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 and development planning
- Theme 3: Development and Planning

### **MDS 711: Local Economic Development and Housing Policies (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 and local economic development
- Theme 2: Housing and infrastructure

### **MDS 712: Health and Development (24 credits)**

The aim of the module is to equip learners with knowledge on how the implementation of appropriate policies and interventions aimed at addressing health issues and problems, may contribute to development and *vice versa*.

This module consists of the following themes:

- Theme 1: The nature of magnitude of the health challenge
- Theme 2: The national and international health agenda
- Theme 3: Different views on health and determinants of health
- Theme 4: Key aspects of the mechanics of health care delivery
- Theme 5: The reciprocal relationships between health and development
- Theme 6: Identification of interventions aimed at improving population health
- Theme 7: Evaluation of interventions aimed at improving population health

### **MDS 713: HIV and AIDS and Development (24 credits)**

The aim of this module is to familiarize learners with the nature and characteristics of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, its root causes, issues of gender and HIV and AIDS, development impacts of the epidemic, and policy responses to the epidemic. The HIV and AIDS epidemic is studied in the context of development and development work.

This module consists of the following themes:

- Theme 1: HIV and AIDS: Current trends and fuelling factors
- Theme 2: Gender, poverty and HIV and AIDS
- Theme 3: Impacts: HIV and AIDS as development challenges
- Theme 4: Policy responses to the HIV and AIDS epidemic

### **MDS 714: Migration and Development (24 credits)**

The aim of this module is to introduce the learners to the field of migration studies, including not only the conceptual and theoretical issues pertaining to migration studies, such as defining and measuring migration and describing migration patterns, but also the particular links between migration and development, including for example the role that employment plays in explaining migration patterns, as well as the links between

quality of life and migration, including health. Issues of forced migration are also tackled from a development perspective. In addition, the module focuses on the role of migration policy and of development policy in making the most of the positive relationships between migration and development in achieving development goals, but also in addressing the negative consequences of these interrelationships between migration and development for fighting underdevelopment and poverty.

This module consists of the following themes:

Theme 1: Definitions and measures of migration

Theme 2: Migration patterns in Africa, Southern Africa and South Africa

Theme 3: Theoretical and conceptual approaches to migration studies

Theme 4: Linkages between migration and aspects of development, including amongst others employment, access to basic services, housing, infrastructure, health and population, political stability, environment, livelihoods and other aspects of quality of life

Theme 5: Development and forced migration

Theme 6: Migration, developmental and other related policies