M.A. (Development Studies) Student Handbook
2023-2025
Department of Liberal Arts
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad

Introduction to the Master's in Development Studies programme

The concern with development encompasses all aspects of human life - physical, psychological, cultural, political, economic and ecological. How can we address each of these while simultaneously appraising their interdependence? The challenge is to train and conceive of professionals and roles that can critically inform ways in which these different areas of life affect one another. The Development Studies programme at the Department of Liberal Arts, IIT-H does just that. Through its interdisciplinary approach, it offers a plurality of ways in which the discourse of Development can be innovatively adapted to the ever-changing fabric of human life. Faculty coordinating the different courses in this programme come from disciplines of Sociology-Anthropology, Development Studies, Economics, Psychology and the Humanities. With courses offered in the fields of Development Theory and Policy, Social Exclusion, Social Justice and Development, Health Economics, Environment and Sustainability and Disease Management, and a dedicated Internship component, this two-year programme offers students a formidable platform to engage with contemporary research in India and globally.

Programme Structure

The Master's programme in Development Studies is a two-year full-time programme with a total of 60 credits spread over four semesters and a two-month internship period. Each semester comprises 16 weeks with one mid-term break week. Kindly consult IIT academic calendar for enquiries about mid-term break week.

A typical 3 credit course has 3 lectures a week leading to 42 lecture hours in a semester. Fractional credits can be 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 having 7, 14, 21, 28, 35 and 42 lecture hours respectively.

Below is a table containing a semester-wise list of core and elective courses that will be taught in the course of the programme:

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Semester	Courses	Core/Elective	Credits
1 (August - December 2023) Requirement: 5 core courses	1.1. Social Exclusion, Social Justice and Development	Core	3
	1.2. Development Economics	Core	3
	1.3. Quantitative Research Methods for Behavioural Sciences	Core	3
	1.4. Health and Society	Core	3
	1.5. Contemporary India	Core	3
2 (January – April, 2024) Requirement: 3 core, 2 elective courses	2.1. Environment and Society	Core	3
	2.2. Development Theory and Practice	Core	3
	2.3. Qualitative Research Methods	Core	3
	2.4. Disability, Mental Health and Development	Elective	3
	2.5. Population and Development	Elective	3
	2.6. Impact Evaluation	Elective	3
	2.7. Statistics	Elective	3
	2.8. Free Elective**	Elective	3
May – July 2024	Summer internship		6
3 (August – December 2024) [1 core + 2 elective + phase 1 of dissertation (2 credits) + seminar series (1 credit) = 12	3.1. Labour and Development	Core	3
	3.2. Health Economics and Policy	Elective	3
	3.3. Media and Development	Elective	3
	3.4. Cultural Perspectives on Development: Examining Race, Class, Gender	Elective	3

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credits]	3.5. Chronic Disease Management	Elective	3
	3.6. Migration, Mobility and Development	Elective*	3
	3.7. Free Elective**	Elective	3
	Dissertation Proposal Seminar		2
	Seminar Series		1
4 (January – April 2025)	Dissertation		12

*Subject to availability
**Free Elective allows a student to register for a course in any discipline within IITH.
Please see Annexure I for short descriptions of courses.

Timetable August to December 2023

	9:00 10:25	10:30 11:55	12:00 13:25	13:30 14:30	14:30 15:55	16:00 17:25
MON						
TUE	LA60090: C522	LA50190: C514	LA50120: C522	LUNCH		
WED	LA60090: C522	LA50200: C522	LA60143: C514	LUNCH	Department Seminar	
THU		LA50190: C514		LUNCH		
FRI		LA50200: C522			LA50120: C522	LA60143: C514

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Course No.	Course Title	Instructor
LA60143	Quantitative Research Methods for Behavioural Sciences	Neeraj Kumar
LA60090	Contemporary India	Chandan Bose
LA50200	Social Exclusion Social Justice and Development	Aardra Surendran
LA50120	Health and Society	Shubha Ranganathan and Nanda Kishore Kannuri
LA50190	Development Economics	Gaurav Dhamija

Attendance

A minimum of 10% of the final marks in a course is allotted for attendance. However, the Department of Liberal Arts encourages students to try and maintain 100% attendance as far as possible as class participation is very important for an interactive programme like the MA (Development Studies).

Grading System

Grade	A+	A	A-	B	B-	C	C-	D	AU	S	U	F
Points	10	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	0	0	0	0

Note: A+ (Outstanding Performance in the Course, typically in the top 2% of the Class), AU (Audit), S (Satisfactory), U (Unsatisfactory), F [Fail].

Assignments

The structure and nature of assignments will vary for each course and with each faculty. Students will be informed about this at the beginning of each course in a semester by the respective faculty. However, students can expect intermittent presentations, written essays, and a final examination/term paper as part of assignments over the period of a course.

MA Dissertation Guidelines

Students will typically begin working on their dissertation in the second year of the programme, although they can begin thinking about it from earlier as well. For an M.A.

dissertation, it is generally expected that students would select a specific topic, and engage with an extensive review of the literature on the topic, or analysis of related data (either primary or secondary). The dissertation is typically prepared in consultation with the thesis supervisor.

Choice of Guide

The allotment of dissertation supervisor will be done in the second semester between 1 March and 30 April. Students have the freedom to request for a supervisor in accordance with their research interests. The selection of the supervisor must be done based on the topic of study, guide availability, and mutual consent between student and faculty-advisor.

If the student is unable to decide her/his supervisor within the stipulated deadline then the Department Post-Graduate Committee (DPGC) in consultation with the MA (Faculty Advisor) will allot the supervisor based on mutual discussion between the concerned student and plausible supervisor.

If a change of supervisor is required, this must be done by 30th November (semester III).

Minimum Requirement of Dissertation

Word count: The MA dissertation should not be less than 8000 words. There is no upper limit for the dissertation.

Dissertation Proposal and Pre-submission Seminars

A dissertation proposal seminar will be held in the third semester, where the student will make a presentation of their proposed research. Prior to submission of the dissertation, the student is required to make a pre-submission seminar in the department. This will be an open seminar presided by the MA Dissertation Committee. The MA Dissertation Committee comprises the dissertation supervisor and one internal faculty member. Comments and remarks coming from the Committee need to be incorporated into the thesis. The seminar will be scheduled in the end of April—over the last two working days of the month.

Final Submission of Dissertation

The final submission of the dissertation must be done by 15th May. One hard copy and one soft copy in a document format must be submitted to the Committee.

Dissertation Evaluation

After submission, the dissertation is then sent for evaluation to one external examiner. The external examiner, along with the dissertation supervisor will grade the dissertation out of 100 marks. Marks given by both: the MA Dissertation Supervisor and the external examiner will constitute the final marks and grade of the student. The dissertation will be evaluated by June 15.

No post-submission defense is required.

Summer Internship

The Masters in Development Studies at the Department of Liberal Arts offer students an opportunity to intern and amass experience in the sector and organisation of their choice anywhere within the country.

Internships will be of a duration of two months during the summer after the second semester (May-July). Students are required to identify and submit their area of interest and organisation of their choice to the Faculty Advisor and Internship Coordinator by the end of the first semester. This will give enough time to the Faculty Advisor and Internship Coordinator to initiate correspondence with the concerned organisations and make necessary arrangements. It would expedite the process if the student can identify a contact person within the organisation. In case a student is unable to identify an organisation that fits her/his area of interest, the Department of Liberal Arts will then assist the student to find one.

Internships carry a worth of 6 credits. The concerned person within the organisation, under whose supervision the student has interned, will grade the student, and communicate the same directly to the Faculty Advisor and Internship Coordinator.

Please check Annexure 2 for names of organisations where students have interned.

Seminar Series

One important component of the MA DS programme is the Seminar Series. The Department conducts fortnightly seminars on a wide variety of topics. Students are expected to participate in these seminars. The weightage assigned to the Seminar Series is one credit. The minimum attendance requirement is 75 per cent.

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Important Contacts

Head, Department of Liberal Arts

Academic Block C, Room 520

head@la.iith.ac.in

Dean, Academic Programmes

Dean.acad@iith.ac.in

Academic Section

acad.pg@iith.ac.in, 040-2301-6067

MA DS Faculty Advisor and Internship Coordinator

Aardra Surendran

aardra@la.iith.ac.in

DPGC Members (Faculty only)

Shubha Ranganathan, Head of the Department	head@la.iith.ac.in
Convener & PhD Coordinator	awaited
Mahati Chittem, PhD Faculty Advisor	mahati@la.iith.ac.in
Gaurav Dhamija, MA DS Coordinator	gauravdhamija@la.iith.ac.in
Aardra Surendran, MA DS Faculty Advisor	aardra@la.iith.ac.in

Liberal Arts Department Office

(Academic Block A, Room No - 701)	040 - 23016500
Abani Kumar Das, Executive Assistant	abani.das@admin.iith.ac.in
Anjaneyulu Botta, Junior Technician	anjaneyulu.b@la.iith.ac.in
Anjali Chinta, Multi Skill Assistant	anjali.c@admin.iith.ac.in

24-HOUR SECURITY HELPLINES

Security Office	040-23016812
Security Control Room	040-23016813
Academic Block A Main Entrance	040-23016817
Academic Block B Main Entrance	040-23016818
Academic Block C Main Entrance	040-23016819
Hostel Blocks (Boys)	040-23016820
Hostel Blocks (Girls)	040-23016821
Hostel (PSH - Girls)	040-23016822
Chief Security Officer	040-23016083
Security Officer	040-23016084

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Institute Main Gate (IN)	040-23016815
Institute Main Gate (OUT)	040-23016816

HOSTELS

Hostel office	040 - 23016833
HCU Chair	040 - 23016027

MEDICAL HELP

Ambulance (24x7)	8331036100/ 040-23016827
Medical Dispensary (24x7)	040-23016826/ 8331036101
Apollo Pharmacy (24x7)	7995067409/ 040-23016830
Dr. Anil Kumar (on-campus medical advisor)	(040) 2301 6076/ 8331036077
Dr T. Raja Adharnath (on-campus medical advisor)	(040) 2301 6077/ 8331036076
Dr. Baishakhi (on campus lady medical officer)	(040) 2301 6078/ 8331036078

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLORS

Maria Morris
Mobile: +919491040826/ 040-23016081
Email: maria@iith.ac.in

Phani Bhushan D.
Mobile: +918331036082/040-23016082
Email: phani.bhushan@iith.ac.in

Yukti Rastogi
Mobile: +918331036080/ 040-23016080
Email: yukti.rastogi@admin.iith.ac.in

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Annexure I – LIST OF COURSES FOR MASTER'S IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES PROGRAMME 2022-24 *(alphabetical)*

Chronic Disease Management
Students will be introduced to chronic diseases with special emphasis on the main non-communicable diseases (i.e., cancer, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes) followed by a description of the psychosocial impact of these illnesses. Chronic diseases are usually preventable and/or their onset can be delayed if certain lifestyle changes can be made by the individual. This will be discussed within the umbrella of topics such as health promotion, health education, physical activity and diet, early detection, coping techniques with psychological distress and so on. However, once patients are diagnosed with a chronic illness

their life undergoes a major change, often putting a strain on patients' emotional and psychological well-being. While discussing this, the course will present topics ranging from coping strategies, medical decision-making, types of supportive care within hospitals, cultural contexts of care, physician perspectives and how to incorporate evidence-based management techniques into patient care. This is followed by students spending time in hospitals observing and interacting with patients, caregivers and healthcare staff. Course evaluation is continuous and is a combination of report writing, presentations and classroom discussions.

Contemporary India

This course will introduce students to the ongoing politics and intellectual debates that are currently affecting and are being affected by institutions and practices in contemporary India. Using an anthropological approach and critique, this course will be taught using detailed ethnographies and case studies to look at processes of social stratification, political negotiation, and identity formation that are inscribed through everyday practices of education, work, and governance.

Cultural Perspectives on Development: Examining Race, Class, Gender

This elective course takes a socio-culturally informed view of the idea of development. It challenges the mainstream economic and political narratives and discusses the need to include the 'other' within the discourse of national/global development. With this aim in mind, the readings draw on discussions staple to gender/sexuality, postcolonial, and Marxist theory and connect these writings to paradigms of activism that measure a community's 'development' by its intention and capacity to include the marginalized. Besides diving into these critical edifices, the course also encourages the student to engage with contemporary popular culture and to revisit the fundamental question at the heart of the course—'What *is* development and *whose* development are we really talking about?'

Development Theory and Practice

This course will introduce students to ideas and concepts in development drawing from the disciplines of economics, sociology and politics. It will emphasise on diverse theoretical approaches to development that emerged after World War II, and the historical and ideological contexts within which these theories evolved. Thereafter, the course would focus on the 'practice' of development using empirical studies from the North and South. At the end of the course, students will be familiar with seminal literature in development theory, and be able to critically appraise specific development policies and practices.

Development Economics

Primary objective of this course is to build an understanding of the economic issues in the developing world using theoretical foundations and empirical evidence based on the economic theory. This course will focus on both 'macro' as well as 'micro' perspectives of economic problems in developing countries. This course starts with an overview of comparative development across the various countries in the world. It then introduces the

models of growth which helps in exploring the determinants of economic development. It further introduces the concepts of inequality, poverty, and the structural characteristics of development. It then moves on to discuss the demographic evolution during the process of development. In the end, it will focus on the structure of markets and the associated problems of these markets in the developing countries.

Disability, Mental Health, and Development

This course foregrounds the need to incorporate the question of social justice, in research on mental health and disability. Drawing on recent work in the critical and discursive traditions in psychology and allied disciplines such as anthropology and disability studies, this course will train students to examine and analyze contemporary theory and research in disability and mental health from critical perspectives. In the course, students will read qualitative and ethnographic studies on people experiencing shared suffering in different domains including but not limited to disability, disasters, mental health, social suffering, political violence, trauma, etc. Questions of value and justice will form the bedrock of the course. Readings will illustrate the importance of taking into consideration local contexts and engaging with marginalized voices in order to address development issues in the Global South.

Environment and Society

Ecological crises have been a central aspect of social life for the past several decades. In the early 1990s, sociologist Ulrich Beck, in his "Risk Society" thesis, famously argued that risks are better understood as the primary product of industrial civilization rather than its unfortunate side-effects. Sociologist Charles Perrow has similarly argued that in tightly coupled complex industrial systems, accidents should be understood as "normal" rather than exceptional. Since then, both, the acuteness and visibility of environmental crises have become ever-more urgent: witnessed, for example, in growing levels of air, water, and plastic pollution and associated health and ecological effects as well as the increasing frequency of extreme weather events globally. Indeed, many have argued that the current geological era should be rightly understood as the Anthropocene, in recognition of the unprecedented impact of anthropogenic (i.e. human) activity on the earth's environment. How can we understand the dynamics of the anthropocene? How are the risks and rewards of environmental harm distributed across and within various societies? How do we address the seeming tension between economic development and environmental sustainability that seem to be at the very heart of contemporary socio-political dynamics? What kinds of techno-social infrastructures can help address some of the challenges that the Anthropocene brings forth? This course surveys these and other questions, using Beck's "risk society" thesis as a point of departure.

Health and Society

This course aims to study the ways in which medicine, its practice, institutions and its principles are enmeshed in social relationships and structures. Drawing from an existing and emerging engagement in the field of science, technology and society studies, medical anthropology and psychology this course introduces students to the ways in which medicine and its practice comes to be marked by social negotiations. The course brings together

disciplinary conversations in Psychology and Anthropology to reflect upon clinical practices surrounding health and other aspects of the body.

Health Economics and Policy

This course startswith a discussion of the supply and demand for health and health caredelivery.It then introduces the role of asymmetric information in the market for health insurance leading to adverse selection and moral hazard. Itfurther introduces the concepts used to assess healthtechnology.It then discusses the range of policies,such as nationalized health care and social health insurance,available to different countries to solve the problems that arise in both the healthcare and health insurance markets.

Impact Evaluation

The objective of this course is to introduce the applied econometric methods and research designs commonly used in empirical microeconomic research. This course starts with the assumptions of the classical linear regression model. It then discusses the basic properties of ordinary least squares estimator. It further discusses the implications of the relaxation of the various assumptions of the classical linear regression model. It moves on to the discussion of selection bias that typically arises in impact evaluation studies. It then discusses the role of Randomized Control Trials (RCTs) to address the issue of selection bias. In the end, it introduces the tools such as Instrumental Variable (IV) estimation, Differences-In-Difference (DID) and Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD).

Labour and Development

This course seeks to introduce the study of industrial labour and its intrinsic role in development to students. The emergence of an industrial workforce needs to be understood through the specific trajectory of the consolidation of both capitalism and state power in India. The interplay of local systems of hierarchy with these forces has resulted in specific patterns, sections and contradictions characterising the Indian labour force. The everyday of the average Indian worker is thus enmeshed in peculiarities that can be most fruitfully understood at disciplinary intersections, which the course attempts to do by drawing from social anthropology, labour history and political sociology. The course introduces central themes in this discussion through five modules, namely (1) Capital, State and Labour (2) Inequality and the Working Class (3) Shopfloor Relations and Labour Control (4) Mobility, Migration and Working lives (5) Welfare, Regulation and Organisation. The pedagogy revolves around intensive reading and lecture-based discussion.

Migration, Mobility and Development

This course engages with contemporary scholarship in migration studies. It critically studies key concepts and theories of migration, and interrogates the relationship between migration and development. Drawing on multidisciplinary theoretical and empirical literatures, the course focuses on social, economic and cultural drivers of migration, as well as its consequences for individuals, families, and societies in host and destination regions. In the context of globalization, the course re-examines the divide between internal and

international migration. Lastly, the course considers the scope and limitations of migration policies in an increasingly mobile and connected world.

Media and Development

Various forms of media have now become an integral part of our lives. In understanding the world of 'development', understanding media therefore becomes crucial for professionals working on development issues. This course will look at how media and communications intersect with the development discourse. Through ethnographic examples from different social sciences, this course will take students through the 'media industry' and the way 'development' is portrayed and becomes an object for media analysis.

Population and Development

To examine the relationships between population variables and sustainable human development. It will expose students to the components of population growth and their influence on development.

Social Exclusion, Social Justice and Development

The course will familiarise students to questions of social inequality and justice in the specific context of development initiatives and policies in India. Divided into four modules, the course introduces students to historical and contemporary conceptualisations of both inequality and our efforts to address it. This will be achieved through an evaluation of social structure, state interventions and popular action in the case of scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and religious minority communities in India using a variety of academic and popular sources. Gender is woven in as an overarching dimension of inequality across all modules. Pedagogy is lecture and discussion based with well-defined readings and material for each class.

Statistics

This course aim to introduce the basic concepts in statistical testing, and data visualization. Topics will include: Probability, Descriptive and Inferential Statistics, Parametric and Non-parametric tests. Course will provide detailed theory, assumptions and method related to various hypothesis testing tools for example: Measures of central tendency, Correlation, Regression, ANOVA, and Linear Models.

Qualitative Research Methods

Introduction; Theoretical and philosophical premises of qualitative methodologies; Difference between quantitative and qualitative methodologies; New paradigms in the social sciences \\ Qualitative methods of data collection: Ethnography; Participant and non-participant observation; Interviews (semi-structured and unstructured) and focus group discussions; Participatory research methods and action research \\ Qualitative methods of data analysis: Thematic analysis; Narrative analysis; Grounded theory technique; Discourse analysis; Quantifying qualitative data.

Quantitative Research Methods for Behavioural Sciences

One of the primary objectives of Behavioural Sciences is to understand behaviour in controlled situations. Behavioural sciences rely heavily on quantitative research methods.

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Quantitative research methods are extensively used in studies in behavioural sciences. This course will help research scholars get an in-depth understanding of different quantitative research methods and the basic assumptions behind those methods. Topics covered: Introduction to Quantitative research methods, Different types of data, Ethical issues in behavioural research, The research process, Defining the research problem, Research and theory building, Experimental method, Survey method and questionnaire design, Research Designs, Determining the sample size, Sampling techniques, Measurement and scaling, Descriptive and univariate statistics, Multivariate analysis.

Annexure 2: LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WHERE STUDENTS HAVE INTERNED (2019-22)

- Hyderabad Urban Lab
- National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), Hyderabad
- Sama Resource Group for Women and Health, Delhi
- National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru
- Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM), Mysore
- KRG Consultants, Mumbai
- The Bartan Company, Hyderabad
- Greenworms, Kerala
- Sekisho Corporation, Japan
- Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad
- IIT Hyderabad
- IIT Kharagpur
- Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru
- Indian Council of Medical Research, Regional Research Centre, Bhubaneshwar
- Anveshi, Hyderabad
- Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad