

M.A. (Development Studies) Student Handbook  
2022-2024  
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, and buffer days after segments 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 respectively. Kindly consult IIT academic calendar for enquiries about mid-term break week and buffer days.

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 2022)<br>Requirement: 5 core courses                   | 1. Development Theory and Practice                  | Core          | 3       |
|   | 2. Development Economics                            | Core          | 3       |
|   | 3. Quantitative Research Methods                    | Core          | 3       |
|   | 4. Health and Society                               | Core          | 3       |
|   | 5. Contemporary India                               | Core          | 3       |
| 2 (Jan – April, 2023)<br>Requirement: 3 core, 2 elective courses            | 1. Environment and Society                          | Core          | 3       |
|   | 2. Social Exclusion, Social Justice and Development | Core          | 3       |
|   | 3. Qualitative Research Methods                     | Core          | 3       |
|   | 4. Disability, Mental Health and Development        | Elective      | 3       |
|   | 5. Population and Development                       | Elective      | 3       |
|   | 6. Impact Evaluation                                | Elective      | 3       |
|   | 7. Free Elective                                    | Elective      | 3       |
| May – July 2023   | Summer internship                                   |               | 6       |
| 3 (August – November 2023)  | 1. Labour and Development                           | Core          | 3       |
| [1 core + 2 elective + phase 1 of dissertation (2 credits) + seminar series | 2. Health Economics and Policy                      | Elective      | 3       |
|   | 3. Media and Development                            | Elective      | 3       |
|   | 4. Cultural Perspectives on Development             | Elective      | 3       |

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|                          |  |          |    |
|--------------------------|--|----------|----|
| (1 credit) = 12 credits] | 5. Chronic Disease Management          | Elective | 3  |
|                          | 6. Migration, Mobility and Development | Elective | 3  |
|                          | 7. Free Elective                       | Elective | 3  |
|                          | 8. Dissertation Proposal Seminar       |          | 2  |
|                          | 9. Seminar Series                      |          | 1  |
| 4 (Jan – April 2024)     | Dissertation                           |          | 12 |

*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 2020

|     | 9:00<br>10:25 | 10:30<br>11:55 | 12:00<br>13:25          | 12:55<br>14:30 | 14:30<br>15:55     | 16:00<br>17:25 | 17:30<br>19:00 | 19:00<br>20:30 |
|-----|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| MON |               |                |                         | <b>LUNCH</b>   | LA 6140            | LA5120         |                |                |
| TUE | LA5190        |                | LA6090<br>(12:00-12:55) |                | LA6510             |                |                |                |
| WED |               |                | LA6090<br>(12:00-12:55) |                | Department Seminar |                |                |                |
| THU | LA5190        |                |                         |                | LA5120             | LA 6140        |                |                |
| FRI |               |                | LA6090<br>(12:00-12:55) |                |                    | LA6510         |                |                |

|            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>SAT</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| Course No. | Course Title                    | Instructor         |
|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| LA 6140    | Quantitative Research Methods   | Neeraj Kumar       |
| LA 6090    | Contemporary India              | Chandan Bose       |
| LA 6510    | Development Theory and Practice | Amrita Datta       |
| LA 5120    | Health and Society              | Shubha Ranganathan |
| LA 5190    | 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 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Master's 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.

### Important Contacts

#### ***Head, Department of Liberal Arts***

Shubha Ranganathan  
Academic Block C, Room 520  
head@la.iith.ac.in

#### ***Dean, Academic Programmes***

Prof. Saptarshi Majumdar  
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         |
| Shuhita Bhattacharjee, Convener & PhD Coordinator | shuhita@la.iith.ac.in      |
| Aalok Khandekar, PhD Faculty Advisor              | aalok@la.iith.ac.in        |
| Amrita Datta, MA DS Coordinator                   | amritadatta@la.iith.ac.in  |
| Aardra Surendran, MA DS Faculty Advisor           | aardra@la.iith.ac.in       |
| Chandan Bose, MA HGS Coordinator                  | chandan@la.iith.ac.in      |
| Neeraj Kumar, MA HGS Faculty Advisor              | neeraj.kumar@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 |

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|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Hostel Blocks (Girls)     | 040-23016821 |
| Hostel (PSH - Girls)      | 040-23016822 |
| Chief Security Officer    | 040-23016083 |
| Security Officer          | 040-23016084 |
| 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

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Email: [maria@iith.ac.in](mailto:maria@iith.ac.in)

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*All information in this document was last updated on 28 July 2022*

**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



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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

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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 starts with a discussion of the supply and demand for health and health care delivery. It then introduces the role of asymmetric information in the market for health insurance leading to adverse selection and moral hazard. It further introduces the concepts used to assess health technology. 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.

### ***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.

### ***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***

One of the primary objectives of Behavioural Sciences is to understand behaviour in controlled situations. Behavioural sciences rely heavily on quantitative research methods. 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, Bhubaneswar
- Anveshi, Hyderabad
- Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad