**OVERVIEW**

Steps from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the Elliott School engages the Washington and global policy communities in meaningful discussions of development policy. The Elliott School M.A. program in International Development Studies (IDS) prepares students for careers in international development through interdisciplinary coursework that includes economics, research methods, policy analysis, and management. This program trains the next generation of development practitioners, exposing them to the latest research, best practices from the field, and experiential learning opportunities.

**IS THIS PROGRAM FOR YOU?**

The IDS program fosters its students to be engaged, morally intelligent, and committed to improving the human condition. IDS students are taught to think critically but creatively about development and are intensely engaged with today’s cutting-edge developmental issues. Most IDS students have some development experience, or at least experience in the developing world, and are seeking career advancement. The program also attracts some exceptional students who are new to development studies.

The interdisciplinary curriculum combines foundation and elective courses selected to the student’s individual professional goals and intellectual interests. The program is structured as a cohort, where students take special courses exclusively offered to IDS students. Most classes meet in the evening to accommodate the busy schedules of working professionals, or to encourage students to pursue daytime internships and employment in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area.

**CURRICULUM**

The multidisciplinary 40-credit-hour M.A. program can be completed in two years of full-time study or over a longer period of part-time study and requires:

- A core field sequence of four courses that integrates theory and policy issues and culminates in a two-semester group capstone project in which students seek out development organizations as clients, negotiate terms of reference with them, and complete work necessary to their clients’ projects
- Analytical courses to strengthen concrete skills and practical knowledge of essential development processes, including economics, policy analysis, research methods, and management
- A series of courses in a “field of specialization,” designed in consultation with the IDS program director, to focus on a specific area of development studies
- Professional skills workshops to acquire marketable skills for the workplace
- A demonstration of proficiency in a modern foreign language, by exam or approved previous or current coursework or study
FACULTY

The IDS program is a multi-disciplinary program in which students take courses from throughout the university. Core courses, however, have been designed specifically for IDS students and are taught by the program’s core faculty:

Sean R. Roberts, Director of the IDS Program, is a cultural anthropologist specializing in Central Asia and the former Soviet Union who has particular expertise in democracy and governance development as well as in minority and indigenous peoples’ rights. Professor Roberts teaches the IDS Cornerstone and Capstone classes as well as seminars on “Indigenous Peoples and Development” and “Central Asia: Transition and Development.”

Christina Fink is an anthropologist specializing in Burma/Myanmar who has particular expertise in work with refugee populations and in gender and development. Professor Fink teaches the IDS Cornerstone and Capstone classes as well as seminars on “Gender and Development” and “Development in Southeast Asia.”

Robert Maguire is a geographer and the Director of the Latin American and Hemispheric Studies program who has particular expertise in grassroots poverty alleviation and U.S. foreign-aid policy, especially in Haiti. Professor Maguire teaches “Development Policy and Practice” and the IDS Capstone as well as seminars on “Poverty Alleviation and Bottom-up Development” and “Post-Disaster Development: Haiti in Comparative Perspective.”

Additionally, the IDS program schedules numerous courses each semester which are taught by a variety of adjunct professors who work full-time at USAID, the World Bank, NGOs, and development consulting firms.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

IDS students explore education beyond the Elliott School through short-term study abroad programs ideal for the cohort, overseas internships, language study, or other projects designed in collaboration with the program director. In addition, many of the IDS capstone projects include an overseas fieldwork component. In the past, IDS students have participated in short-term programs such as “Urban Sustainability and Development,” a field course in Panama, and “Sustainability in the Amazon Region,” in Brazil.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The Elliott School offers a variety of career development programs for IDS students from the first semester on campus through graduation and beyond. The Graduate Student Career Development center offers career coaching, workshops, information sessions, and site visits to federal and international agencies, think tanks, non-profits, and other potential employers in the development field. Since classes are in the evening, the majority of IDS students either work or intern part-time at development organizations while at the Elliott School. The program’s opportunities for employment and the internships undertaken by IDS students provide them with hands-on skills, practical experience, valuable contacts, and a competitive edge in the job market. Over the last three years, for example, 93% of IDS alumni reported within six months of graduation that they had found employment linked to their career goals (66% in the non-profit sector, 13% in the private sector, and 14% in government).