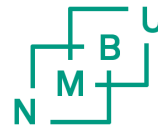


Faculty of Social Sciences

*Department of International Environment
and Development Studies*



Norwegian University
of Life Sciences

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM
IN
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
2014 - 2016

Options and requirements



July, 2014

Program Content

The Master's Program in International Development Studies (IDS) critically studies the conditions for and debates surrounding human development at the local and global levels. Key to the IDS program at Noragric is the significance of the interplay that exists between the fields of development and environment.

After graduation, the student will be able to:

- Understand, analyze and critically discuss policy issues related to poverty, human development, wealth creation, social justice, equality and environmental protection
- Formulate and assess development policies and project interventions
- Carry out research linking development theories to the implementation of practical development initiatives.

Program Diversity

The IDS program is *international* in two ways:

- The curriculum covers topics that are relevant globally
- We attract students and staff from all over the world

The program is also *interdisciplinary* in two ways:

- It consists of courses focusing on both natural and social aspects of the development challenges of our time, and we admit students with both natural and social science background to the program.
- We emphasize training founded on theoretical and methodological approaches from across the natural and social sciences.

Course Program Requirements

The IDS 2014 requires 120 credits altogether: 50 credits of compulsory courses, 40 credits of elective courses, and a 30-credit master's thesis. Courses can be taken at NMBU or at other universities. Students may elect any course given at Noragric. Courses taken at other NMBU departments or other universities will require prior approval by the program coordinator. The combination of compulsory and elective courses provides the degree with a coherent focus while also allowing flexibility in meeting students' interests. A completed IDS program must contain at least 30 credits of courses at the 300 level. A maximum of 10 credits can be taken at the 100 level. In exceptional circumstances, a student may be allowed to complete a 60-credit thesis, and will thus have to complete only 60 credits of course work.

Designing a Study Plan

The student should design a two-year study plan as early as possible. Designing a plan and registering for courses and exams are done on the online NMBU Student Web at:

<https://www.studweb.no/as/WebObjects/studentweb2?inst=NMBU>

Note that the compulsory courses have already been entered. Elective courses must be added.

Students can take more than the minimum limit of 120 credits. However, the student must specify which courses shall be included in the master program. Additional courses will appear on a separate grade transcript.

Compulsory Courses

Five courses plus a master thesis are compulsory for the IDS program i.e.:

	Credits
EDS201 Introduction to Development Studies	5
EDS290 Development Classics	10
EDS305 Development Theory and Policy	10
ECN352 Poverty	10
EDS312 Research Methods	15
M30-NOR Master Thesis	30

The compulsory courses have three aims:

- Provide a clear foundation in development studies (EDS201, EDS305, EDS290, and ECN352).
- Provide students with a broad knowledge in research methods (EDS312). Students should be familiar with research methods beyond their own thesis research, including both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Although listed as compulsory, the courses can be replaced if similar competence can be documented. The field courses can also be replaced for documented economic or family reasons. Students who are economically dependent on part-time jobs or have small children may design alternative study plans in collaboration with the department.

Students need approval from the department to be exempted from compulsory courses. To do so, the student should complete the study plan for the master program, state the reasons for replacing compulsory courses and submit the plan and explanation to the study coordinator.

Elective Courses

Students are free to choose elective courses from Noragric's portfolio of courses. We also encourage students to take courses at other NMBU departments, or other universities. Courses taken outside Noragric need, however, to be approved by the department. To obtain approval, submit a complete proposal to the department study coordinator.

Transfer of Credits

Course credits can be transferred from other universities into the IDS program. To apply, fill in the form below and submit the application to the study coordinator:

http://www.nmbu.no/statisk/sit_english/applications/applic_acceptance_external_studypts.pdf

Sample Plan

One sample plan is provided below. Please ask the study administrator for the IDS should you wish to discuss other possibilities. The courses included in the plan are *timetable secured*, i.e., the students will not risk overlapping lectures or seminars. Combining other courses may lead to timetable conflicts.

International Development Studies				
Year	Semester	Code	Course Title	Credits
2014/ 2015	August block	EDS201	Introduction to Development Studies	5
	Autumn parallel	EDS312	Research Methods	5
		EDS305	Development Theory and Policy	10
		EDS290	Development Classics	10
			Sum autumn semester	30
	January block	EDS370	Gender and Development	5
	Spring parallel	EDS312	Research Methods	10
		ECN352	Poverty	10
		EDS360	Conflict and Development	10
			Sum spring semester	35
	June block			
2015/ 2016	August block	EDS384 or EDS387	Development and Environment in Practice, <i>Tanzania</i> or State and Civil Society in Development and Environmental Governance of India (both continues through September)	15
		M30-NO	Thesis (fieldwork; October to December)	15
			Sum autumn semester	30
	January block			
	Spring parallel	M30-NO	Thesis (writing)	15
		EDS245	Human rights and development	10
		LNG240	Academic writing	10
			Sum spring semester	35
				130

Font codes for courses:

Bold: Compulsory courses

Regular: Elective courses specific to the sample plan

MASTER THESIS

Students must develop and select a research topic for their master's thesis according to their interests and the availability of supervisors for their preferred topic. We encourage students to start work on their master's thesis proposals as soon as possible and to link their research to ongoing collaboration between Noragric and partner institutions. Each student is entitled to 30 hours of supervision (60 hours for a 60-credit thesis). The main supervisor should be a Noragric staff member, but co-supervisors from other departments or a different university are permitted. If a student transfers his or her thesis work to another department at NMBU, then Noragric assumes no further responsibility for their thesis work.

Students with prior research experience, and/or students who develop a proposal over a topic that poses particular challenges with respect to field work and analysis, may wish to write a 60-credit thesis. This decision must be taken in consultation with the main supervisor, and will normally only be relevant for students who perform particularly well in their course work.

Students and supervisors must sign a contract for the master thesis work. The contract form can be found at:

http://www.nmbu.no/statisk/sit/skjemaer/engelske/contract_degree_thesis.pdf

REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF THESIS

Students must register for M30-NORAGRIC (30-credit thesis) in the spring semester 2015. Deadline for handing in the thesis will be May 15, 2016. Students who cannot meet the May 15 deadline for any other reason, should withdraw their registration for the spring semester (deadline for withdrawal is April 15) and register again for the autumn semester 2015 instead. The new deadline will then be December 15. The student may, however, hand in the thesis earlier than December.

THESIS DEFENSE

The student and supervisor decide a date for thesis defense. During the defense, the student will give a 20-minutes presentation of the thesis research and answer questions from the external examiner and the supervisor. If the student has done a Special Curriculum, he/she will also be examined in the subject after the thesis defense.

FIELD COURSES

EDS384	Development and Environment in Practice, (<i>SUA: Tanzania</i>)	15
EDS387	State and Civil Society in Development and Environmental Governance of India (<i>IDS: Jaipur, India</i>)	15

The field courses are designed to provide an understanding of opportunities and challenges for practical field projects and applied research methods. The field course EDS384 can be taken at SUA Tanzania (<http://www.suanet.ac.tz/>) and the field course EDS387 can be taken at the Institute for Development Studies, Jaipur, India (<http://www.idsj.org>). A minimum of 10 students must attend for the course to be arranged at each location. Teaching starts in the first week of August and ends in the last week of September.

Students attend lectures by a wide range of experienced staff from universities, government agencies and nongovernmental development organizations and gain experience in the use of

research methods. Several field trips will give students the opportunity to interview urban and rural people, government staff and NGO employees.

EXAMS AND GRADES

Courses can have quite different rules for exams and grading. Some courses have only a final written or oral exam, while others may base grades on the basis of one or more term papers or assignments submitted during the semester. Some courses may also have *compulsory activities*, for instance seminar attendance or class presentations. Students are responsible for reading the online course descriptions carefully to make sure they fulfill all requirements for each course:

Courses at Noragric:

http://www.nmbu.no/courses?text_3=10&text_4=All&text_5=All&text=&emnekode=&=S%C3%B8k

Note that the online version of the course catalog provides the current course descriptions. Courses may have been modified after the printed catalog was issued.

If a student finds a grade unexpected or unreasonable, he/she may ask the course teacher for an explanation within one week of receiving the grade (or immediately after an oral exam). The teacher may respond either orally or in writing, normally within two weeks of the request. If the student still finds the grade unreasonable, he/she may send a written request (within three weeks from the explanation) for a re-assessment of the exam papers to the Study Office in the main administration, using the following form:

http://www.nmbu.no/statisk/sit/skjemaer/engelske/forms_assessment_complaint.pdf

A new internal and external examiner will then be appointed. The new grade may be better or worse than the original grade, and will be final.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Student Information Centre (Studentenes Informasjonstorg, SIT; sit@nmbu.no) answers general questions regarding studies at NMBU.
- Noragric's study coordinator for the IDS program is Ingunn Bohmann (ingunn.bohmann@nmbu.no; Noragric building room 102) or Elisabeth Sørbo Haug (Elisabeth.sorbo.haug@nmbu.no)
- Studies at NMBU are governed by a set of rules and regulations that can be found at NMBU's web pages at:

<http://www.nmbu.no/en/students/sit/rules-and-regulations>

- NMBU's academic calendar for autumn 2014 and spring 2015 can be found at http://www.nmbu.no/en/students/academic_calendar
- Forms and templates needed by students can be found on the web page <http://www.nmbu.no/en/students/sit/forms>

- Students are responsible for their own registration for courses and exams. Students who do not register for exams within the specified deadlines will not be allowed to take the exams. Students, who decide not to participate in an exam, must withdraw their registration before the deadline (see the Academic Calendar).