Student Testimonials

“The Masters in Development Practice enabled me to change careers, to gain new skills in such an extensive range and to even build on my existing skills from the private sector. Through the exposure to a great variety of modules, lecturers and two different universities, it gave me the opportunity to get a comprehensive overall picture of the challenges of sustainable development and to understand what topics and areas I am really passionate about. I loved the combination of theoretical approaches and the different field placements. This is what makes this program so worthwhile and unique.”

Kerstin Rieger (MDP Graduate 2015)

“While working in a developing country, I realized all the gaps I had in my knowledge base and the skills that I felt I needed to be a more effective development practitioner. The MDP appealed to me because it felt it taught in the most effective way, through doing, through practical experience. I have not been disappointed. The skills acquired in research and analysis will be directly marketable as I transition into my career in development practice. The wide range of topics covered academically, some of which I was more familiar with, others about which I had no prior knowledge, provide a substantial base from which to work.”

Rachel Vannice (MDP Graduate 2014)

Career Opportunities

A wide variety of careers will be open to graduates from this programme in overseas development assistance for public, private and non-governmental organisations. It also attracts active professionals already working in these fields who wish to strengthen their qualifications.

Application Details

Applications for the Master in Development Practice (Joint M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip) must be submitted online at: http://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/az/course.php?id=DPTNS-DPRA-1F09

Further Information

Further information on The Masters in Development Practice can be found on the course website http://naturalscience.tcd.ie/postgraduate/dev-pract/. Or by contacting the course administrative office at Tel: +353 1 896 2414 / Email: mdpdub@tcd.ie

The College reserves the right to update or change syllabi, fees, timetables or other aspects of the course at any time. CC00576 09/13
Course Description

The Master in Development Practice (Joint M.Sc./P.Grad. Dip.) (MDP) is a two-year fulltime programme that offers professional training and education in development practice at graduate level. The MDP is an interdisciplinary graduate degree programme that addresses the challenges of sustainable development. The MDP is part of a global network of Master's in Development Practice, headquartered at Columbia University, New York. The MDP is delivered jointly by Trinity College Dublin (TCD) School of Natural Sciences and University College Dublin (UCD) School of Politics and International Relations in collaboration with a wide number of national and international organisation with specialist skills in development practice and policy.

Students will spend a portion of time completing cross-disciplinary fieldwork in a developing country location as well as undertaking internships in leading international organisations.

Teaching Programme

This innovative course, utilising a modular structure to develop the analytical and practical skills of the students, is designed to provide a comprehensive theoretical grounding and applied skills in international development practice. It combines a range of teaching and learning approaches and mechanisms both in the seminar room and in the field, and brings to bear expertise from both academics and practitioners. This approach develops capabilities in students so that they can understand the theories, practices and languages of different specialties.

Academic Pillars

The four main pillars of the programme are health, natural, social and management sciences.

Topics include:
- Climate Change and Justice
- Gender
- Health
- Political Economy
- Politics & Governance
- Impact Evaluation
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Smart Cities & Urbanisation
- Globalisation
- Economics and Statistics

Particular emphasis is laid upon the interconnectedness between politics, governance, civil society, health, environmental conflict and climate change, amongst others. This enables students to visualise, design and implement collaborative sustainable development solutions and work flexibly as development practitioners across a variety of contexts. A range of trans-disciplinary modules are also offered. Once training is complete students are able to adopt a holistic, systems oriented approach to policy analysis, formulation and implementation.

Professional work-based placements

Students undertake three professional work-based placements over the two years. These include:
- Conducting research in collaboration with local non-governmental development organisations, and business partners engaged in sustainable development practice;
- Spending up to three months on fieldwork in a developing country location;
- Undertaking placements in major international development and development-related organisations. Host organisations include OECD DAC, Paris; World Bank; UN Office on Drugs & Crime, Vienna; UN OCHA, Geneva;

The Association of Global Masters in Development Practice includes:
- 35 Masters in Development Practice programmes offered at Universities globally
- 6 continents
- More than 50 collaborating international organisations;
- Global classroom.