



LUND  
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# MSc in Development Studies

LUND UNIVERSITY | SWEDEN

- Master of Science in Development Studies
- 2 years, full-time, 120 ECTS credits
- Graduate School, Faculty of Social Sciences
- Lund Campus
- Application deadline: January 2025
- Programme start: August 2025

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Master of Science in Development Studies is an interdisciplinary social science Master's programme focusing on problems of poverty and development.

The objective of the programme is to provide you with background knowledge and practical skills to understand, assess and work in development-related fields, whether in direct poverty reduction or in other aspects of social, economic and institutional development. You will acquire a critical social science approach and will conduct your own research within the context of the Master's thesis. You will be trained in various social science methods, both qualitative and quantitative. You will also gain general skills like problem-solving, working in teams, cultural understanding, writing independent reports as well as conceptual, analytical and evaluative skills.

The programme offers you a wide range of alternatives. There is a wide variety of social science courses within the Faculty to provide you with deeper knowledge within your disciplinary background or in other fields beneficial to your research interests. You will be given the chance to take an active part in shaping your education by tailoring your studies to your interests and career goals, especially in the second half of the programme.

There are good opportunities to go abroad and take courses at one of the many universities with which we have exchange agreements. If you wish to work in development-related fields, you can also choose to do an internship. Previous students have worked, for example, at embassies spread over the world, in governmental and non-governmental development agencies within the UN and the EU and in various NGOs, and in the private sector.

## PROGRAMME MODULES/COURSES

**COURSES AND NUMBER OF CREDITS:** **Semester 1:** Theories and Issues in Development (15 credits), Theory of Science/ Research Methods courses (15 credits). **Semester 2:** Historical Aspects of Development (15 credits), Research Methods (15 credits). **Semester 3:** Elective courses, Internship, Fieldwork, and/or Studies Abroad (totalling 30 credits) **Semester 4:** Master's degree thesis (30 credits).

## CAREER PROSPECTS

The programme provides you with both the background knowledge and the practical skills needed to work in development-related fields. You will gain a critical understanding of trends and debates within development work. You will be prepared to make contributions to sustainable development in a role such as policymaker or practitioner in government agencies, private firms, and NGOs. Alternatively, you can pursue doctoral studies and a continued academic career.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND HOW TO APPLY

### Entry requirements

A Bachelor's degree with a major in one of the following social sciences disciplines: development studies, gender studies, human geography, political science, social work, social anthropology, sociology, or sociology of law, or equivalent. A major is equivalent to a minimum of 90 ECTS credits solely within one social science discipline. English Level 6.

### How to apply

**1. Apply online:** Go to [www.lunduniversity.lu.se/development-studies](http://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/development-studies). Click on "Apply" and follow the instructions for the online application at [www.universityadmissions.se](http://www.universityadmissions.se), the Swedish national application website. Rank the chosen programmes in order of preference.

**2. Submit your supporting documents:**

- **General supporting documents:** Check what documents you need to submit (i.e. official transcripts, degree diploma/ proof of expected graduation, translations, proof of Eng-



“Lecturers at the Graduate School give very good and frank comments. It builds you up for the work ahead and this aspect also really helped with my writing skills. By the end of the programme, you have in-depth knowledge of methods and theory. I think I've gained a lot of experiences and, if I'm put on the field, I know I'll perform.”

Patience Owusuwaah from Ghana





lish, passport) and how you need to submit them at [www.universityadmissions.se](http://www.universityadmissions.se).

- **Programme-specific supporting documents:** When applying for the MSc in Development Studies, you must also submit a statement of purpose with your application. The programme-specific questions you must answer in your statement of purpose are available on the programme webpage.
- **3. Pay the application fee (when applicable).**

#### Selection criteria/additional info

The applicant's estimated capacity to complete the programme is the primary criterion for selection. Students are selected on the basis of their previous study results (grades on courses and thesis in the Bachelor's degree), proficiency in English and a statement of purpose.

Since this a multidisciplinary programme it is essential to attain an even distribution among different majors within the group. The number of admitted applicants from one major shall not exceed 30 % of all students admitted to the programme. Hence the applicant's major will be used as a selection criterion in case of many applicants from one major. The following main fields of study are eligible as majors: Gender Studies, Development Studies, Human Geography, Political Science, Social Work, Social Anthropology, Sociology and Sociology of Law.

#### Tuition fees

Tuition fee SEK 125 000 per year for non-EU/EEA citizens. No fee for EU/EEA citizens. See [www.lunduniversity.lu.se](http://www.lunduniversity.lu.se) for details on tuition fees.

#### ABOUT GRADUATE SCHOOL

Graduate School at the Faculty of Social Sciences is home to five international and interdisciplinary master's programs, including the Master of Science in Development Studies. As a unit for interdisciplinary studies, our students come from a range of academic backgrounds and are taught by academic staff from various disciplines across the faculty. All of our programs and elective courses are taught in English and promote both internationalisation and research methodology training within the social sciences. During their third term, students have the opportunity to pursue an internship, elective courses, or study abroad, gaining skills and experience that will enhance their academic and professional profiles after graduating. Alumni of our master's programs are well-equipped for studies on the doctoral level, governmental or NGO work, or careers in the public or private sectors worldwide.

#### CONTACT

Programme webpage:  
[www.lunduniversity.lu.se/development-studies](http://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/development-studies)

Study Advisor  
[master@sam.lu.se](mailto:master@sam.lu.se)

Lund University was founded in 1666 and is repeatedly ranked among the world's top universities. The University has around 47 000 students and 8 800 staff based in Lund, Helsingborg and Malmö. We are united in our efforts to understand, explain and improve our world and the human condition.

Learn more at [www.lunduniversity.lu.se](http://www.lunduniversity.lu.se)



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