

Master of Arts in Development Studies



Programme Level	Post Graduate
Year of Commencement	2018
Duration	2 Years (4 Semesters)
Senate Meeting Reference	16.6/18.5/24.3

Motivation

Ensuring sustainable development requires not only an in-depth knowledge of how the society functions but also the understanding of past and current development processes and practices. With several possible developmental pathways, one has to ensure that the choices made are informed, given the fact that resources are scarce. The MA Programme in Development Studies at IIT Mandi aims to create a pool of development practitioners and/or academics, who will be well equipped to participate in the process of such informed decision making. The location of the Institute also provides the programme with a unique opportunity to deal with development challenges in the Indian Himalayan Region, which has local, regional and global relevance. While the programme is offered by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, participation of faculty from Engineering and Basic Sciences through teaching and guiding projects make the programme truly interdisciplinary. It also helps students to learn basic scientific and technological underpinning of some of the developmental challenges and their existing remedies. The graduates of this programme will be equipped to pursue further academic research and will have high job prospects in national and international development agencies.

Description

MA in Development Studies was launched in IIT Mandi in the year 2018 and the first batch will be graduating in 2020. It's a 2-year long full-time Masters programme, distributed in 4 semesters. The credit requirement is 80-82. So far, the programme has received students from diverse backgrounds including several disciplines in humanities, social sciences, agricultural science, engineering, basic sciences, etc. The structure of the programme has three pillars:

Discipline Cores (21 credits):

Discipline Cores are designed to give the students an exposure to different thoughts and theories of 'development' evolved over time and an understanding of development 'challenges' and 'praxis' prevailing at a global, national and sub-national scale. It also provides students a unique opportunity to understand the fundamental of some scientific and engineering concepts related to natural resource that they have to deal with as a development practitioner, irrespective of their discipline. One course on research methodology is also included as discipline core.

Electives (18+6 credits):

A pool of Discipline (18 credits) Electives helps the students to go deeper into selected development challenges. While Discipline Cores are more theme oriented and interdisciplinary in nature, Discipline Electives have greater disciplinary grounding. The pool of Discipline Electives is dynamic in nature and more courses may be added in the future depending upon suitability. Students also have to take 6 credits offered in the institute from outside the pool of Discipline Electives for the Development Studies Programme.

Practicum, field exposure, projects/internships (8+4+23):

In two practicum courses, groups of 3-4 students work one/two faculty members from different Schools and with diverse research interests to address an existing development challenge from a multidisciplinary perspective.

Field Study is one of the USPs of the programme. The first task of a development practitioner is to ‘diagnose’ the problem on the ground, to understand the ‘socio-economic nuances’ of the problem and to have a thorough understanding of the ‘agencies’ who are already working on the ground. For the 4-credit course “Field Study”, students go and stay in a rural/urban community for the duration of 4-6 weeks during the Summer Term between their Semester 2 and 3. This course is expected to help students to learn how to diagnose the development challenges and get the praxis right. Dissertation/Guided Internship:

During Semester 4, a choice will be given to the students to choose between working on a research project at IIT Mandi and doing a guided internship with an appropriate agency. While a research project will be more appropriate for a student aiming to pursue an academic career, guided internship will be a more useful research component for students aiming to join intergovernmental/non-governmental organizations right after the M.A. programme and pursue their career as development practitioners.

Curriculum

The distribution of credits across types of courses will be as follows:

Sr. No.	Description	Credits
1	Discipline Core	7x3 = 21
2	Discipline Electives	6x3 = 18
3	Outside Discipline Electives	2x3 = 6
4	Field Study	1x4 = 4
5	Development Studies Practicum (DS Practicum)	2x4 = 8
6	Post Graduate Project/Guided Internship	23

Semester wise distribution of all courses

1st Semester

Code	Course Title	Credit (L-T-P-C)	Remarks
HS 525	History of Development Thought	3-0-0-3	Discipline Core
HS 526	Human Geography: A Western Himalayan Perspective	3-0-0-3	Discipline Core
HS 527	Indian Social Structure and Development	3-0-0-3	Discipline Core
HS 528	Information Technology and Development	3-0-0-3	Discipline Core
HS 522	Research Methodology for Humanities and Social Sciences	3-0-0-3	Discipline Core
HS 529	Natural Resource and Development	3-0-0-3	Discipline Core
Total credits		18	

2nd Semester

Code	Course Title	Credit (L-T-P-C)	Remarks
HS 530	Planning, Welfare and Development	3-0-0-3	Discipline Core
	Discipline Elective 1	3 credits	Discipline Elective
	Discipline Elective 2	3 credits	Discipline Elective
	Discipline Elective 3	3 credits	Discipline Elective
	Outside Discipline Elective 1	3 credits	Outside Discipline Elective
HS 551P	Development Studies Practicum 1	0-0-8-4	Discipline Core
Total credits		19	

Summer Term

Code	Course Title	Credit (L-T-P-C)	Remarks
HS 553P	Field Study (Between Semester 2 and 3 for 4 weeks)	0-0-8-4	
Total credits		4	

3rd Semester

Code	Course Title	Credit (L-T-P-C)	Remarks
	Discipline Elective 4	3 credits	Discipline Elective
	Discipline Elective 5	3 credits	Discipline Elective
	Discipline Elective 6	3 credits	Discipline Elective
	Outside Discipline Elective 2	3 credits	Outside Discipline Elective
HS 552P	Development Studies Practicum 2	0-0-8-4	
Total credits		16	

4th Semester

Code	Course Title	Credit (L-T-P-C)	Remarks
HS 554P	Post Graduate Project	0-0-35-23	
Total credits		23	