

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	MSc Development Economics
Award	MSc
School	School of Arts and Social Sciences
Department or equivalent	Department of Economics
Programme code	DEVECO
Type of study	Full Time Part Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

This programme will develop your critical and analytical abilities in the discipline of economics, with particular reference to economic development.

Aims

On completion of the programme, you should be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate that modern economic theory is relevant to development economics.
- 2) Critically interpret current research in development economics and evaluate its relevance to development practice and policy analysis.
- 3) Understand the long run determinants of poverty.
- 4) Analyse the issues of fertility, education, health, work, migration and microfinance and their contribution to economic development.
- 5) Develop microeconomic models to explain how people make such decisions and how policy is likely to affect their choices.
- 5) Assess policies designed towards helping the poor by taking into account how people react to policy interventions.
- 6) Statistically assess the success of such policies
- 7) Undertake empirical investigations in the field of development economics, employing appropriate quantitative methods.

Postgraduate Certificate

The student obtaining a Postgraduate Certificate will have a basic knowledge of the main subjects in the area of development economics having successfully passed at least 60 credits of the program. The student should be able to have an understanding of the main challenges in this field.

Postgraduate Diploma

The student obtaining a Postgraduate Diploma will have understood the core subjects in the area of development economics having successfully passed at least 120 credits of the program. The student will have a basic knowledge of the quantitative and modeling skills required to work as a development economist.

MSc

Following a successful completion of the MSc in Development Economics, the student will have, on top of the above, expanded her/his expertise by adding an extra module and demonstrated her/his ability to identify a knowledge gap in the area of development economics, critically summarize the related literature, and contribute to the extant literature by doing some empirical work requiring the application of the analytical and quantitative tools learned through the course.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Understand the long run determinants of poverty and the need for public policies and interventions.
- Analyse and assess policies designed towards helping the poor.
- Apply economic and quantitative analysis to solve problems of a type that face policy-making and decision-making in public bodies and development-related organisations.
- Apply microeconomic models to explain how people make decisions about fertility, education, health, work, migration, consumption and investments and how these affect human development.

Skills:

- Communicate and interact with other members of a team.
- Operate econometric software to empirically test economic models.
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical and empirical models in the field of development economics.
- Identify the links between economics and human development and apply economic analysis in logical and deductive fashion to issues related to human development.
- Manage information of both a qualitative and quantitative sort.
- Take responsibility for the design of a research project or a literature survey and study and conduct it independently.

Values and attitudes:

- Show critical awareness and understanding of ethical issues in development economics.
- Correctly reference the work of other people to avoid plagiarism.
- Show consideration for the rules and regulations of City.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will be taught on a flexible combination of lectures, class and computer lab sessions. Lectures will be used to introduce key theories, concepts and economic models. In classes you will have the opportunity to solve problems, to run empirical studies, to analyse results of existing studies, to make presentations of research published in academic journals. The computer labs will provide you with the practical experience of using computer software to run regressions to analyse models and policies and perform statistical tests. In addition, econometric methods will be taught in lab sessions, thus you will have the opportunity to apply econometric software to empirical research in development economics. When appropriate "practitioner slots" will be incorporated into module delivery, such as research seminars conducted by external experts in development policies and presentation by invited academics, etc.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

You will be assessed by different methods to ensure that you have met the learning outcomes.

- (a) In each module an unseen written exam will be used to assess your knowledge of key concept and theories.
- (b) The coursework will take on different forms, as appropriate:
 - i) Essays: you will prepare an individual written report based on research and reading about an

assigned development economics topic.

ii) Presentations: in some modules you will make formal presentations to the class, either individually or in groups. The presentation will be assessed by the module lecturer and formal feedback will be given to the student.

iii) Computer-based exercise: for some modules you will need to use software packages to perform econometric estimations.

iv) Class room test: some modules will require you to take an in-class test which could be instead of or in addition to other forms of coursework.

(c) You will be required to undertake a dissertation or literature survey.

In this dissertation you will demonstrate your knowledge of quantitative techniques for conducting and interpreting empirical tests and your ability to interpret research results and to communicate them to policy

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:

https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

The Pass mark for each module is 50%.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

1. Compensation: where you fail up to a total of 15 credits at first or resit attempt, you may be allowed compensation if:
 - Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the module specification), and
 - It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Programme, and
 - A minimum overall mark of no more than 10 percentage points below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
 - An aggregate mark of 50% has been achieved overall.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks shall be retained in the record of marks and the greater of the original module mark and the minimum pass mark for the module shall be used for the purpose of calculation

towards the Award.

2. Resit: you will normally be offered one resit attempt. However, if you did not participate in the first assessment and have no extenuating circumstances, you may not be offered a resit.

If you are successful in the resit, you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The mark used for the purpose of calculation towards your Award shall be calculated from the original marks for the component(s) that you passed at first attempt and the minimum pass mark for the component(s) for which you took a resit.

If you do not satisfy your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, but satisfy the requirements for a lower-level Award, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table below. If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme and are not eligible for the award of a lower level qualification, the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master's Degree:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Dissertation path : Dissertation	7	60	33,3%	With Distinction	70
Taught modules	7	120	66,7%	With Merit	60
Literature Survey path Literature Survey	7	30	16,5%		
Taught modules	7	150	83,5%	With Pass	50

Postgraduate Diploma:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	120	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				With Pass	50

Postgraduate Certificate:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	60	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				With Pass	50

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Taught component

You are required to take 120 credits taught modules and have to accrue 60 extra credits through one of the following routes:

- a. Take two extra elective taught modules of 15 credits each and a Literature Survey worth 30 credits if you choose the Literature Survey Path
- b. Take a 60 credit Economics Research Project if you choose the Dissertation Path.

If you are doing the Dissertation path, the 120 credits taught modules come from:

- two core 15-credit modules (ECM157 Development Economics and ECM153 The Economics of Micro-Finance)
- two core 30-credit modules (ECM308 Econometrics and ECM302 Microeconomic Theory)
- two electives from the list below (with at most one IPM module, subject to availability).

If you are doing the Literature Survey path, the 150 credits taught modules come from:

- two core 15-credit modules (ECM157 Development Economics and ECM153 The Economics of Micro-Finance)
- two core 30-credit modules (ECM303 Quantitative Methods and ECM301 Microeconomic Analysis)
- four electives from the list below (with at most two IPM modules, subject to availability).

*Students from the Department of International Politics will have priority if the number of students choosing these modules turns out to be greater than 30.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compen- sated?	Level
Development Economics	ECM157	15	C	N	7
The Economics of Micro-Finance	ECM153	15	C	N	7
International Macroeconomics	ECM158	15	E	Y	7
Economics of Regulation and Competition	ECM159	15	E	Y	7
Health Economics	ECM165	15	E	Y	7
Corporate Finance	ECM152	15	E	Y	7
Experimental Economics and Game Theory	PEM105	15	E	Y	7
History of Economic Thought	ECM156	15	E	Y	7
Development and World Politics	IPM104	15	E	Y	7
Political Economy of Global Finance	IPM106	15	E	Y	7
The Politics of Forced Migration	IPM107	15	E	Y	7
Dissertation route					
Microeconomic Theory	ECM302	30	C	N	7
Econometrics	ECM308	30	C	N	7
Asset Pricing	ECM171	15	E	Y	7
Macroeconomics	ECM170	15	E	Y	7
Literature Survey route					

Microeconomic Analysis	ECM301	30	C	N	7
Quantitative Methods	ECM303	30	C	N	7
Welfare Economics	ECM213	15	E	Y	7

Literature Survey/Dissertation component

In order to achieve a distinction overall for the MSc, a minimum mark of 70% overall has to be achieved.

To progress to dissertation you are normally required to have passed all modules.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Literature survey route					
Economics Literature Survey	ECM307	30	C	N	7
Dissertation route					
Economics Research Project	ECM306	60	C	N	7

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

Upon completion of their Master in Development Economics, students will have the skills to work in consulting firms specialized in Development, governmental bodies such as the Department for International Development (DFID), in major international financial and development institutions such as World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, or the United Nations organization or in the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), which is regularly recruiting to appoint MSc students for overseas postings. Some MSc students may also be offered the possibility to pursue their academic career by starting a PhD programme in Economics at City or in other Universities.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

ENTRY REQUIRMENTS

Dissertation Route:

You should have a:

*2:1 (or 2.2 with evidence of compensating strengths) from a UK university or its foreign equivalent in Economics or related subjects with intermediate level exposure to economic theory, econometrics, and mathematical methods;

OR a 2.1 (or foreign equivalent) undergraduate degree in a quantitative discipline (such as mathematics, engineering, computer science or a natural science) with exposure to probability theory, optimisation and advanced calculus. If you have a good 2.2 in one of the above disciplines, you might be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Literature Survey Route:

You should have a:

*a 2:2 (or foreign equivalent) in Economics, Finance or a quantitative discipline (such as mathematics, engineering, computer science or a natural science).

OR a 2.1 or high 2.2 (or foreign equivalent) in Business Studies, Accounting, Management without exposure to core economic theory or econometrics but with at least introductory economics and statistics and mathematical methods;

OR a very good 2.1 degree in arts, social science, or humanities related subjects, such as Law, History, Psychology, Sociology, Political Science or Journalism with clear motivation to study for the degree to which application is made.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

IELTS: an overall score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 for each subtest or Pearson Test of Academic English.

OVERSEAS QUALIFICATIONS

Equivalent qualifications from an overseas university will be considered.

IT SKILLS

All students are expected to be computer literate.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Programme is committed to equal opportunities. The admissions decision will rest on the qualifications, needs and aspirations of the applicant.

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