

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

### KEY FACTS

Programme name	MSc Development Economics
Award	MSc
School	School of Policy & Global Affairs
Department or equivalent	Department of Economics
Programme code	PSDECO
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 in a variety of ways to ensure that they have met the formal learning objectives:

(1) Individual coursework - in most modules, you will be required to undertake an individual written piece of coursework in the form of an essay, report, set exercises or a piece of analysis based upon a case study.

(2) Group coursework - in some modules, the coursework will require you to work in teams of between 3 to 5 persons.

(3) 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.

(4) Computer-based exercises: for some modules, you will need to use software packages to solve problems or perform econometric estimations.

(5) Tests and examinations: some modules will require you to take a test or an examination which could be instead of or in addition to other forms of coursework.

(6) Dissertation or literature survey: You will be required to undertake a dissertation or a literature survey.

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/0009/452565/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy...pdf](https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/452565/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 20 credits at first or resit attempt (15 for a Postgraduate Certificate), you may be allowed compensation if:
  - Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the What will I Study section of the programme 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% below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
  - An aggregate mark of 50% has been achieved overall.

Where you are eligible for compensation at the first attempt, this will be applied in the first instance rather than offering a resit opportunity.

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

2. Resit: where you are not eligible for compensation at the first attempt, you will be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass the requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

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

## WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

### Master's Degree:

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>		<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Dissertation OR Literature Survey and two additional elective modules	7	60	33%		With Distinction With Merit Without classification	70 60 50
Taught modules	7	120	67%			

### Postgraduate Diploma:

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>		<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Taught modules	7	120	100		With Distinction	70
					With Merit	60
					Without classification	50

### Postgraduate Certificate:

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>		<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Taught modules	7	60	100		With Distinction	70
					With Merit	60
					Without classification	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 (EITHER ECM303 Quantitative Methods OR ECM308 Econometrics and EITHER ECM311 Business Economics OR ECM302 Microeconomic Theory)
- 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	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Development Economics	ECM157	15	C	N	7
The Economics of Micro-Finance	ECM153	15	C	N	7
Welfare Economics	ECM155	15	E	Y	7
Macroeconomics	ECM170	15	E	Y	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
Financial Markets	ECM313	15	E	Y	7
Corporate Finance	ECM152	15	E	Y	7
Applied Econometrics	ECM309	15	E	Y	7
Experimental Behavioural Science and Game Theory	PEM105	15	E	Y	7
Cognitive and Economic Science of Rational Choice	PEM102	15	E	Y	7
Political Economy of Global Finance	IPM106	15	E	Y	7
Global Governance	IPM108	15	E	Y	7
<b>Dissertation route</b>					
Microeconomic Theory	ECM302	30	C	N	7
Econometrics	ECM308	30	C	N	7
<b>Literature Survey route</b>					
EITHER Business Economics OR Microeconomic Theory	ECM311/ECM302	30	C	N	7

EITHER Quantitative Methods OR Econometrics	ECM303/ECM308	30	C	N	7
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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	Compensation Yes/No	Level
<b>Literature survey route</b>					
Economics Literature Survey	ECM307	30	C	N	7
<b>Dissertation route</b>					
Economics Research Project	ECM306	60	C	N	7

*\*Please note that this is an indicative list. These modules are subject to change depending on staff availability, student demand and some are offered on a biennial basis. There is no guarantee that every elective module listed above will run.*

**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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