Get to know GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Global Development Studies (DEVS) is an exciting field that examines political, economic and cultural changes from the grassroots to the global. What distinguishes DEVS at Queen’s is how it overlaps with so many other disciplines such as Geography, Economics, Environmental Studies, History, Political Studies, Sociology and Gender Studies as well as the Queen’s Aboriginal Council to understand the nature of interactions between and within the countries of the North and the South. We examine issues such as poverty, cultural imperialism, human rights, social policy, technology, gender, labour, and trade relations.

Courses on Aboriginal communities in Canada further help students appreciate ‘development’ as a relationship rather than as a characteristic of particular places and people. DEVS also offers unique study abroad opportunities such as a 4-week course taught at the University of Havana (Cuba) that is a field study course on re-indigenization and individual work placements in development-oriented organizations in Canada and around the world.

With an internationally recognized faculty from a variety of academic and experiential backgrounds, DEVS emphasizes the need to think about development in a holistic and relational manner. Our world is a complicated place, with complex inter-cultural issues. Students in DEVS become informed global citizens ready to lead positive social change in Canada and abroad.

“The intersection of many subjects - all with the purpose to craft positive social change both in Canada and abroad.”

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor in Global Development Studies
Bachelor of Arts (General)
Internship option available

Queen’s ADMISSION

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). Secondary School prerequisites include six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENG4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

Some of the popular courses in DEVS include those about Canada, such as Canada and the “Third World” and an Introduction to Aboriginal Studies. Global-oriented courses that are student favourites are AIDS, Power, and Poverty; Labour and Global Development; Business and Development; Global Environmental Transformations; and, Technology and Development. A very popular senior level course is the Work Placement in Development Studies which provides a first-hand experience working with an agency involved in international development, either in Canada or abroad, over a 10-20 week period.
1ST YEAR
In first year take DEVS 100. Consider taking an introductory language course
Each Plan will have at least one required first-year course, including minors. It is important to take a variety of first-year courses to keep as many pathways open as possible for you going into second year. For details see the Arts and Science Academic Calendar.
Want to enhance your degree? Consider a certificate in International Studies or explore other certificates available.

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
Join teams or clubs on campus such as Queen's Project on International Development, Queen's Amnesty International, Queen's Health Outreach, or Queen's Backing Action on Climate Change.
See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for more ideas.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations, such as Queen's Half The Sky, OPIRG Kingston, Loving Spoonful, PeaceQuest Kingston and Camp Outlook.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
The Queen’s University International Centre is your first step to learn how to internationalize your degree or to leverage your existing cross-cultural experience.
Attend weekly seminar series such as Studies in National and International Development (SMID), that highlight scholarship, political activism, and creative work from the Global South.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Grasping with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.
Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services library, such as Choosing a Career in International Development. For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn. Find information about non-profits by checking out Who’s Who in International Development.

2ND YEAR
In second year take DEVS 230 and 240. Shop around our related departments for over a hundred courses that count towards the DEVS plan. Get started on completing your 6.0 units of the DEVS language requirement. If interested in the environment take DEVS 250, or in the Indigenous Studies minor, take DEVS 220 and DEVS 221.
Please see the Academic Calendar to ensure you are taking the correct courses.

3RD YEAR
Try to complete all core courses (DEVS 300 and 340) and the 6.0 unit language requirement. Apply for our summer offerings in Cuba (DEVS 351) or work-study courses abroad (DEVS 410/411 and DEVS 420). Talk to a prof about doing an independent honours thesis or reading course on a specialized topic or apply for DEVS 481 Re-Indigenizing People and Environments.
Need help mapping all of your core, option, supporting and elective courses (including those not listed above) to make sure you will have what you need to complete your degree? Use the Course Mapping Tool on the Arts and Science website.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR
Register in your 4th year seminar courses (two 3.0 unit required). Work on a thesis or reading course to prepare for future graduate studies.
By fourth year you should be working on your remaining option and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and/or certificate(s) as well.
Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

Where could I go after graduation?
Agriculture
Business development
Community development
Corporate training
Disaster relief
Ecological restoration
Education
Ethics
Fair trade
Food security
Foreign affairs
Funding
Health administration
Human rights
Immigration
International development
Law
Radio and TV Journalism
Editor
Policy analysis and development
Public Health
Public service, policy and administration
Refugee settlement
Research
Social Work
Tourism and trade
Translation
Urban and regional planning

Some careers may require additional training.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!
Global Development Studies

MAJOR MAP

What can I learn studying GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES?
- Awareness of the key issues in global development, including Indigenous Peoples' struggles
- Perspective on Canada’s historical roles in an unequal global system
- Research skills to conduct research using databases, academic sources and international media
- Analytical skills to analyze the origins and persistence of global inequalities and critically assess proposed solutions
- Oral and written communication to write essays and produce work for public dissemination
- Ability to examine contemporary development institutions and evaluate the ethical dilemmas they face
- Introduction to a new language
- Resource and time management

What employers want

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:
1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

A balanced approach leads to long-term success. While you will learn a lot from your studies, taking time to get relevant experience outside of the classroom, build your network, and gain international experience, will position you to be more competitive in your job search or grad school applications.

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen's, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally, and Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.