

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### Course record information

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| Name and level of final award:                      | MSc International Development Management<br>The MSc International Development Management is an MSc degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible. |
| Name and level of intermediate awards:              | Postgraduate Diploma of HE in International Development Management<br>Postgraduate Certificate of HE in International Development Management                                 |
| Awarding body/institution:                          | University of Westminster  |
| Teaching Institution:                               | University of Westminster  |
| Status of awarding body/institution:                | Recognised Body  |
| Location of delivery:                               | Marylebone Campus  |
| Language of delivery and assessment:                | English  |
| Mode, length of study and normal starting month:    | Full time (one year): September start.   |
| <a href="#">QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</a> : | N/A  |
| Professional statutory or regulatory body:          | Not applicable   |
| Date of course validation/review:                   | February 2019  |
| Date of programme specification approval:           | April 2019   |
| Valid for cohorts                                   | September 2019   |
| Course Leader:                                      | Dr. Ola Sholarin   |
| Course URL:   | <a href="http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate">westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate</a>   |
| Westminster Course Code:                            | PMBSM09F   |
| HECoS code:   | 100452   |
| UKPASS code:  | P004405  |

## **Admissions Requirements:**

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all postgraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

[westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply)

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: [westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply)

## **Aims of the Course:**

The MSc International Development Management course aims to prepare graduates for a career in Development Management with an international organisation, a non-governmental body or a government development agency.

Specifically, the course aims to:

1. Develop students' in-depth knowledge of relevant development theory and practice, in an international context, and to facilitate an awareness of the context in which this body of knowledge has emerged,
2. Provide students with the opportunity to acquire the expertise necessary for the framing and diagnosis of complex development issues and problems and to employ appropriate management techniques to resolve these,
3. To enhance students' capacity to critically evaluate national and international economic, political and social factors affecting the development policy environment,
4. To develop students' management competences and the ability to apply a range of management techniques in a development context,
5. To provide the opportunity for students to develop a specialist expertise in a particular aspect of development management through in-depth theoretical or empirical research and analysis.

## **Employment and Further Study Opportunities:**

In today's competitive and dynamic global economy, organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace. The University of Westminster is committed to developing skillful and employable graduates by ensuring that:

1. Career development skills are embedded in all courses;
2. Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students;
3. Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision;
4. Staff members are provided with up-to-date data on labor market trends and employers' requirements which will inform the service delivered to students.

The MSc IDM is very much aimed at interface between development theory and practice, combining rigorous academic study with the policy insights offered by development practitioners. As a result, students who have successfully completed the MSc IDM course will be equipped to work in a variety of professional roles in a development context either within international, national or local government, or other public sector organisations, or non-government organisations

Recent experience shows that it is also becoming increasingly possible for graduates of the MSc IDM programme to be self-employed as Development Consultants, working for multinational organisations in a variety of capacities. Students would be able to draw on their development management skills and link this with sound project management expertise developed on the programme.

Following registration on the MSc IDM programme, students are encouraged to register as members of the Development Studies Association (DSA), and Devex (the world's largest community of International Development Experts and Professionals). Although these organisations do not provide professional accreditation as such, they offer platforms for networking and the sharing of research materials which are invaluable for success on the course and for future career development after graduation.

As such, graduates of the MSc IDM programme would be able to network freely with their professional counterparts across the globe, and remain at the forefront of their profession even after graduation.

In addition to these opportunities, eligible students could develop their skills and knowledge further by embarking on a field-based work placement programme with an NGO during their holiday period. The School will facilitate this by regularly placing details of placement vacancies and contact links of appropriate organisations on the Blackboard.

The successful completion of the MSc IDM will also enable graduates to pursue a research degree (e.g. M.Phil. or a PhD) in relevant area, if they so desire.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. For the MSc IDM programme, these threshold statements of achievement are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successful completion of the programme.

The special feature of the MSc IDM programme is the unique blend of theoretical and practical knowledge and the skills base that it develops. Students completing the course will have acquired knowledge of key development theories and issues, strongly underpinned by good theoretical and practical skills in the management area.

The course therefore facilitates and enables students to develop problem identification skills and the ability to apply critical analysis to international business and economic processes within a development context. It also equips them with the theoretical and practical skills to put forward solutions to a range of relevant problems. The course also develops students' analytical and methodological skills and enables them to apply these in different policy environments. In effect, the programme engenders critical thinking skills amongst the students, and challenges them to think laterally and creatively. These outcomes are classified into three categories namely: knowledge and understanding skills, specific skills, and key transferable skills.

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate a good understanding and critical knowledge of:

1. Global and regional development issues, including an appreciation of their scope and policy implications;
2. Project management techniques and procedures for conducting diagnostic appraisal of development interventions and the technical capability to proffer workable and sustainable solutions;
3. The role and influence of global development stakeholders in fostering sustainable development and demonstrate the ability to access and utilise their regional and global expertise.
4. A specialist area of development management, based on in-depth empirical or conceptual research,

### **Specific Skills**

On successful completion of the course, students would have acquired the skills to:

1. Critically review relevant development theory and practice, and conduct diagnostic and strategic analyses of development management issues in an international context.
2. Apply relevant management techniques in the diagnosis of development problems and in the identification of solutions to these problems.
3. Deploy a range of project management methods necessary to operate as a development specialist within national and international contexts.
4. Conduct a lucid and substantive piece of research within the area of international development management, through the application of appropriate

research methodologies and data analysis, be able to communicate findings in a manner that is coherent and consistent.

5. Appraise and apply various techniques of economic and financial analysis to validate initiation of a development intervention, as well as its sustainability.
6. Constructively engage with stakeholders at various stages and levels of a development intervention, and to help build outcomes that are inclusive and deliverable.
7. Critically evaluate developmental projects with a view to identifying causes of failure and recommending appropriate corrective measures.

### **Key Transferable Skills**

These include the ability to:

1. Solve complex problems in a systematic way, informed by a range of relevant knowledge, tools and techniques;
2. Act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks in a professional setting;
3. Reflect on personal performance and planning for personal development;
4. Apply interpersonal, group-working and leadership skills to enhance the performance of oneself and others.
5. Engage in a range of academic communication processes, both oral and written.

### **Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods**

#### **Learning**

The programme's learning strategy engenders a student-centered learning approach through active interaction amongst students, with tutors playing the role of facilitators. In line with this principle, students are encouraged to be self-motivated and independent learners, with the ability to reflect in an atmosphere in which intellectual freedom is engendered and nurtured.

The driving aim of the programme is to offer an appropriate blend of theory and practice. As such, students will be expected to focus on development of the knowledge, and analytical and appraisal skills necessary for an international development manager. The emphasis will therefore be on acquiring and developing a range of both theoretical and practical skills. As well as utilising in-house research and practical experience, the course will draw upon business, government and non-government experts, to provide specialist knowledge and insights where necessary. As such, problem-based learning approaches – using complex, 'real-life' development problems - feature prominently in several modules on the programme. For instance, in the core module Current Issues in International Development, in addition to guest lectures from international development practitioners, small teams of students will be required to investigate a contemporary development issue and to present their findings, using a range of media. In the Managing Development Interventions module, the emphasis is on the analysis of specific projects or development programs or initiatives, using policy documents from the IMF, World Bank and other international agencies and organisations.

In addition to expert-led learning and teaching, the students on the MSc IDM programme will be expected to undertake guided independent study to broaden their knowledge base, complete other formative learning activities and undertake independent research for their project. Students on the MSc IDM will be encouraged to read widely and keep abreast of

contemporary International Development issues.

The project module will enable the students to develop a specialist area within the International Development Management field, by requiring them to explore a practical development issue focused on a region (or regions) of their choice. Each of the students will be allocated a project supervisor who will facilitate the development of the student's specialist skills and guide them through the research and writing process.

## **Teaching**

The Course Team uses a variety of approaches to teaching, including technology-enhanced and blended learning methods, including the following:

- Lectures,
- Tutorials,
- Small group workshops,
- In-class discussions,
- Student-led presentations,
- Case studies

In each of the above approaches, specific steps are taken to stimulate collaborative learning and active participation by the students.

Specialist guest speakers, including field practitioners, are invited to lead workshops and in-class discussions. This further enhances the teaching activities on the programme and offers useful practical perspectives. Students on the programme will, in addition, have access to an on-line Blackboard VLE system. There they will be able to access the material posted on the various module sites which will include module handbooks, lecture slides, seminar activities and a wide range of supporting information. The course site will provide information on activities and events available to students. The Blackboard site therefore supplements classroom delivery and offers relevant and regular sources of information for the students.

## **Assessment**

The MSc IDM programme employs a wide variety of formative and summative assessment methods, including group presentations, in-class tests, essays, projects and final examinations, amongst others. In all cases, assessment methods are selected and combined to validate the achievement of the learning outcomes and the acquisition of knowledge and skills as specified within the individual modules and at course level.

Where a group of assessment method is considered appropriate, the programme offers a mechanism for assessing individual contributions from group members, in order to discourage 'free riding'. The Course Team works collaboratively to ensure the clarity of marking criteria, consistency of the marking process and timeliness of assessment feedback. The Team also monitors the detail and clarity of assessment feedback as well as the evenness of the assessment workload.

## Methods of assessment

| Module code  | Credits | Exam/ICT       | Essay                  | Report                                     | Presentation                               | Project/Proposal    |
|--|---------|----------------|------------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| Development Economics & Policy [7ECON002W]               | 20      | 30%            | 2x35%<br>2x1,500 words |  |  |                     |
| Current Issues in International Development [7DVST001W]  | 20      | 50%<br>3 hours |                        |  | 2x25%<br>2x Group Presentations            |                     |
| Managing Data [7ECON009W]                                | 20      |                |                        | 100%<br>2,500 words                        |  |                     |
| Research Methods [7ECON014W]                             | 20      |                |                        |  |  | 100%<br>3,500 words |
| International Development Finance [7DVST002W]            | 20      | 70%<br>3 hours | 30%<br>2500 words      |  |  |                     |
| Managing Development Interventions [7DVST004W]           | 20      |                | 50%<br>3000 words      |  | 50%<br>Group Presentation & Briefing Paper |                     |
| International Development Management Project [7DVST005W] | 20      |                |                        |  |  | 100%<br>12000 words |
| Sustainable Energy Policy [7ECON013W]                    | 20      |                |                        | 40% Market Briefing<br>60% Policy Briefing |  |                     |

## Course Structure

The programme of study is organised on a semester basis and the course consists of eight core modules and one option module taught over two semesters. Students also normally complete their project module after the second semester of study. Each taught module requires three hours of classroom per week. In addition to the formal programme of study, which may include up to two weeks of structured independent tasks for each module, students are also expected to allocate time for other private study and completion of assignments. The course structure is summarised below:

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

| <b>Credit Level 7 (Full-Time: September start)</b> |  |               |                  |             |
|--|--|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| <b>Module code</b>                                 | <b>Module title</b>  | <b>Status</b> | <b>UK credit</b> | <b>ECTS</b> |
| 7ECON009W  | Managing Data  | Core          | 20               | 10          |
| 7ECON002W  | Development Economics and Policy   | Core          | 20               | 10          |
| 7DVST001W  | Current Issues in International Development  | Core          | 20               | 10          |
| 7DVST004W  | Managing Development Interventions   | Core          | 20               | 10          |
| 7ECON014W  | Research Methods   | Core          | 20               | 10          |
| 7DVST002W  | International Development Finance  | Core          | 20               | 10          |
| 7ECON013W  | Sustainable Energy Policy  | Core          | 20               | 10          |
| 7DVST005W  | International Development Management Project   | Core          | 20               | 10          |
|  | One option module (a student may take any Level 7 module from across the university, subject to the approval of the course leader) | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| <b>Award of MSc available</b>                      |  |               |                  |             |

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

## **Academic Regulations**

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](http://westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations)

## **How will you be supported in your studies?**

### **Course Management**

- The Course is managed by Dr. Ola Sholarin, who is also a Module Leader on the course and has accumulated about twenty five years of experience as a senior academic. The course is delivered by a team of experienced module leaders, who constitute the Course Team and who work together to ensure that the course is delivered in a coherent and consistent manner. The Head of College holds overall responsibility for the course and for other courses run by Westminster Business School.
- The Associate Head of Westminster Business School (Education and Students) holds responsibility for the overall quality and delivery of the educational process.
- The Head of the School of Organisations, Economy and Society is responsible for monitoring academic quality and organising assessment procedures for those modules falling under the School's Subject Board and courses at Conferment Boards.
- The Course Leader has responsibility for the academic integrity of the programme. This includes the everyday management of the course, development of the curriculum, and ensuring the delivery in terms of quality control and equivalence of experience for course participants.

For purposes of monitoring academic quality and organising assessment under an appropriate Conferment Board, each postgraduate course is hosted by one of the School's four academic departments. This course is assigned to the School of Organisations, Economy and Society.



## Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/blackboard](http://westminster.ac.uk/blackboard).

## Learning Support

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development](http://westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development).

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students<sup>1</sup> can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

## Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/student-advice](http://westminster.ac.uk/student-advice). The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/students-union](http://westminster.ac.uk/students-union).

## How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course is also monitored each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including evidence of student achievement, reports from external examiners in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course.

A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with Revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

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<sup>1</sup> Students enrolled at Collaborative partners may have differing access due to licence agreements.

## How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.
- There are also School Staff Student Exchange meetings that enable wider discussions across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- The University also has an annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey or PTES which helps us compare how we are doing with other institutions, to make changes that will improve what we do in future and to keep doing the things that you value.

For more information about this course, please contact the Course Leader:

**Dr. Ola Sholarin**  
**Marylebone Campus, Room C421,**  
**Tel: 02079115000 ext. 66663**  
[sholaro@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:sholaro@westminster.ac.uk)

**Please note:** This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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