



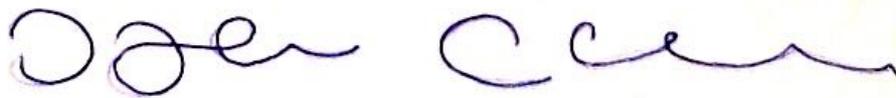
MSC IN AFRICA AND
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME HANDBOOK
2017-2018
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

WELCOME TO THE CENTRE OF AFRICAN STUDIES

The Centre of African Studies is an internationally recognized hub for Africanist research and teaching, within the prestigious School of Social and Political Science.

We are the oldest and largest African Studies Centre in Europe, undertaking a broad range of cutting-edge and interdisciplinary research.

You are an integral part of our centre and the work that we do. We look forward to welcoming you into our diverse, vibrant, and inclusive community.



SJ Cooper-Knock
Programme Director



@africanstudies



/groups/CASMs2017/

INTRODUCTION

This handbook is a guide for students on the MSc/Diploma in Africa and International Development. In it, we give you links to information that explains what is required from you on the course, and maps out the support and guidance available.

Everyday communication between students and staff occur over email. Please ensure that you check your university account regularly.

NB: The handbook does not supersede University Regulations nor does it form a part of any contract between the University and a student.

PROGRAMME AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

International Development is concerned with the idea of good change, but who decides what constitutes 'good change'? How should such change happen? What unintended consequences might the pursuit of change create? The MSc in Africa and International Development encourages you to critically explore these questions, in the context of Africa.

Our course offers you a unique opportunity to acquire a combination of interdisciplinary regional expertise with a critical knowledge of international development theory and practice. With this grounding, many of our students have gone on to work in development for charities, government agencies, international organisations, think tanks or advocacy groups. Our degree can also serve as a stepping-stone for a career in research or academia.

PROGRAMME TIMETABLE

11th September: Welcome Week
18th September: Semester One begins
21st December: Semester One ends
15th January: Semester Two begins
March: Dissertation Supervisors allocated
6th April: Semester Two teaching ends
9th August: Dissertation deadline
November: Graduation

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS

The **Diploma in Africa and International Development (AID)** consists of 120 credits. Over the course of the year, you will need to pass six modules worth 120 credits (we encourage you to take 60 credits each term). Those seeking an **MSc in AID** will need to also complete a dissertation of up to 15,000 words worth 60 credits. The academic standards required to progress through the degree can be found in [Taught Students handbook](#):

http://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/gradschool/current_students/taught_msc_students

Full-time students will complete this course in one academic year, ending with the submission of their dissertation on 9th August 2018. **Part-time students** will complete the course in two academic years, ending with the submission of their dissertation in August 2018.

Modules normally involve two hours of contact times per week, and are assessed through a mixture of written assignments and tutorial participation. In this context, contact time should represent a maximum of 20% of your study time – students are expected to read extensively in preparation for all seminars and lectures, and participate fully in class discussions and presentations. NB: course contact hours may vary. For more details, download course handouts from the [Graduate School website](#):

http://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/gradschool/current_students/taught_msc_students/course_handbooks

Attendance and participation is mandatory on these courses. If you have to miss a teaching session, please inform your course convener in advance.

Upon your graduation, you can either be awarded a pass, merit, or a distinction. You can find the criteria for these grades on the [Graduate School website](#).

[Hhttp://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/gradschool](http://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/gradschool)

MODULE SELECTION

You will have made an initial module selection but you can also modify these choices in the first week of every term. Descriptions of the modules below can be [on PATH](#).

1. TWO CORE MODULES

Our core courses provide you with the building blocks that you need to get the most out of this course and understand international development in theory and practice:

- Politics and theories of international development (20 credits: Semester One)
- Governance, Development and Poverty in Africa (20 credits: Semester Two)

2. FOUR SPECIALIST MODULES OF YOUR CHOICE

As a graduate student we encourage you to use your choices to pursue your interests, and facilitate your future plans. You can find a list of courses on offer on the course [Degree Programme Table](#):

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/17-18/dpt/ptmscafrid1f.htm>

For more details on course selection, changes, and withdrawals, see the GTSM Handbook.

We strongly recommend that at least two of these option modules are Africa-focused courses.

Dissertations are an exciting opportunity to conduct independent research on a topic of your choice. We provide two routes for students to complete this dissertation.

1. THROUGH LIBRARY-BASED RESEARCH OR FIELDWORK

Students are free to explore an academic topic of their choice. The Research Design and Practice course that, throughout the year, will help students put together your thesis proposal, including a viable, cutting-edge academic question and suitable research methods.

2. THROUGH A WORK BASED PLACEMENT

Work-Based Placements operate in the UK and abroad, giving students the opportunity to spend eight weeks conducting research on location with an organization involved in development practice. This research forms the basis of the student's dissertation and the student will usually provide an executive summary of this research, alongside the full dissertation, to the organization.

WBPs are organized through the University's Practice Programme Office (ssps.practice@ed.ac.uk), who will be running several induction events to explain how WBPs are organized, allocated, and funded. For more information, visit the [Student Development website](#).

http://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/gradschool/student_development/placement-based_dissertations/information_for_students_considering_a_placement

Please note: WBPs are a privilege rather than an entitlement. The internal selection procedure – which will be laid out by the Practice Programme Office – ensures that students are well matched to their placement and have excelled academically.

Should students want to set up a WBP themselves, potential organisations can be signed off by your Programme Director. A Placement Co-ordinator will then guide you on how to approach potential hosts, and assist you in formalizing a placement through a Memorandum of Understanding. As this process can be quite lengthy, students are encouraged to start early.

SUPERVISOR

All students completing a dissertation will be allocated a Dissertation Supervisor. Where possible, supervisors and students are paired on the basis of their regional/topic interests and expertise, although this is not always possible and is not necessary for successful supervisory relationship. All of our staff are experienced researchers who can provide invaluable support to you as you undertake your dissertation.

Dissertations are marked by two internal examiners and reviewed by an external examiner. Dissertations may not be resubmitted if they fail but those who have passed their modules are still potentially eligible for a Diploma in Africa and International Development.

EXTENSIONS .

Should you require an extension of any assessment, you should contact the Graduate School Office (see contacts section). Requests must be made in advance of the deadline and will need to be accompanied by supporting evidence. Extensions are usually only granted for exceptional and unforeseeable circumstances that are beyond your control. For more details on extensions, penalties, and Special Circumstances applications, see the [SSPS website](#).

STUDENT RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

INSTITUTE OF ACADEMIC STUDY

If you visit [the IAS website](#), you will find a wealth of information on study skills, including time management, effective studying, research, writing, managing stress, and so on. IAS staff also provide consultations and workshops specifically targeted at Taught Masters students on study strategies and writing skills.

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICE

The SDS provides support for students who work with a variety of disabilities from dyslexia to a bicycle accident. This might include extra time of exams/ assignments; a scribe to take notes; a loaned computer with special software; a digital recorder to record lectures; penalty waivers for poor spelling or grammar, etc. From [their website](#), you can download factsheets on a variety of issues, including additional funding for disabled students, the technology available, rights and responsibilities, additional study support available.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE

The ELTR offers free academic English tuition, self-study materials or advice for international students both online and face-to-face. You may require a referral from your Programme Director in order to register for these courses.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

If you are struggling with your mental health, there are a range of services you can approach [your GP or the University Health Service](#); [The Disability Office](#); [The Student Counseling Service](#); [The University Chaplaincy](#); [The Crisis Centre](#); and the Royal Edinburgh Hospital Psychiatric Emergency Team (0131) 5376000. Do remember that your personal tutor is also there to support you with any difficulties you are experiencing that impact upon your studies.

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY ADVICE PLACE

The Advice Place is run by the Edinburgh University Student Association and details of any consultation will not be passed on to academic staff. On [their website](#) you can find the services offered on language (e.g. peer proof reading services, especially for non-native speakers); accommodation (tenancy rights; subletting; ending leases); money and funding (emergency, interest-free loans; employment; council tax benefits, etc.); health and wellbeing (sexual health, free contraceptives; addiction issues; mental health issues, etc.), and more.

GRADUATE SCHOOL :

The Graduate School Office is your first point of call for most enquiries about the course, providing an accessible point of personal contact for new and existing students.

Location: CMB 1.20
Open Hours: Monday to Friday 09:30 – 12:30, 13:30 – 16:00
Email: Gradschool.sps@ed.ac.uk

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR : [Dr Sarah-Jane Cooper-Knock](#)

Your Programme Director is responsible for the smooth running of the MSc in Africa and International Development, including responsibility for admission, co-ordination of teaching input, assessment, feedback, programme evaluations and curriculum development. They oversee your entry into the course, and your progression throughout, allocating you a dissertation supervisor in your final stages. You can sign up for office hours on her [profile page](#).

PERSONAL TUTOR

Your personal tutor is available for general academic advice and pastoral support. We recommend that you make your personal tutor aware of any issues that might adversely affect your studies. The University requires that you meet with your tutor **once per term**. As and when necessary, you can request further meetings during your tutor's office hours.

DISSERTATION SUPERVISOR

At the end of the second term, when you transition to the dissertation stage of your degree, you will be assigned a supervisor for your research topic.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Representatives will be elected within the first week of term to attend Staff-Student Liaison Committee and Graduate School Meetings. Student feedback and evaluation is highly valued by CAS.

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

An External Examiner audits graduate courses. The External Examiner for the MSc in Africa and International Development is Dr Tom Goodfellow from the University of Sheffield.

You can find more details of our [Centre of African Studies staff](#) on [our website](#).