

## PhD in development studies at the IOB: criteria

By establishing criteria for a “PhD in development studies at the IOB”, we seek to develop a PhD policy that is in line with and supportive of the [overall IOB strategy and vision](#).

In addition, explicating the criteria helps aligning expectations across the student, his/her supervisors, and committee/jury members, which can be especially useful given the proliferation of double PhDs.

CRITERIA									
1	Of sufficient originality, coherence and contributing to the field of development studies								
2	Thematically integrated in (at least) one of the three research lines : Environment and Sustainable Development; Global Governance and Inclusive Development; State Formation and Resilient Societies								
3	Presented as a monograph, or as a series of chapters with a general introduction and conclusion in which the PhD candidate engages with the common theme of the chapters								
4	Fulfill all requirements of the <a href="#">IOB doctoral program</a>								
5	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #d9e1f2; text-align: center;"><u>Required</u></th> <th style="background-color: #fff2cc; text-align: center;"><u>Recommended</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Policy-relevant</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Providing concrete policy recommendations</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">In line with IOB’s vision of a just and sustainable world</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Applied to the poorest and most fragile countries/regions in the world</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Demonstrate awareness of the particular disciplinary and methodological model used<sup>1</sup></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Engaging with more than one disciplinary and methodological model</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Recommended</u>	Policy-relevant	Providing concrete policy recommendations	In line with IOB’s vision of a just and sustainable world	Applied to the poorest and most fragile countries/regions in the world	Demonstrate awareness of the particular disciplinary and methodological model used <sup>1</sup>	Engaging with more than one disciplinary and methodological model
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**APPLICATION :** The criteria are applied to PhD students who want to pursue a PhD in Development studies at the IOB, starting from 01/01/2020 onwards; also in the case the PhD in Development studies is part of a double/joint PhD trajectory (incoming or outgoing).

**MONITORING & EVALUATING :** The IOB-DC, when advising on whether to accept the PhD student(‘s proposal); the board when deciding on the PhD application; the OZC when commenting on the presentation of the student’s research proposal (applies only in case of AAP); the supervisor and IDC when guiding the student throughout his/her PhD trajectory; the doctoral jury when assessing the doctoral thesis.

<sup>1</sup> This implies that it is possible to do a PhD in Development Studies with a main focus on one specific disciplinary and methodological model, provided that the research demonstrates awareness of the particular approach used, i.e. explicitly positions the approach chosen (its ontology, epistemology, ‘mental model’ of the research framing, theoretical-conceptual choice, etc.) within the ‘Mixed Methods’ approach of DS in IOB (in line with Green, et al. as described in Research Strategy 2017-2022). This positioning includes showing an effort to review other disciplinary/conceptual approaches to the research topic and relating those to the approach used. At IOB it is recommended to actually use and integrate different approaches in the research, but the minimum is to do the effort to review and relate to other approaches about the research topic that are not actually used.