

# ADVANCED MASTER PROGRAMMES IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

University of Antwerp, Belgium

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**IOB**

Institute of Development Policy  
University of Antwerp



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## STUDYING AT IOB



**I**OB (Institute of Development Policy) is a **multidisciplinary academic institute**. We are part of the University of Antwerp and located in the city center. We have decades of experience in organising high quality educational programmes in development studies.

IOB offers **three Advanced Masters** programmes, each with a high degree of specialisation and a distinct focus:

1. **MSc in Governance and Development**
2. **MSc in Globalisation and Development**
3. **MSc in Development Evaluation and Management.**

*Our vision is one of a just and sustainable world. As an institute of development studies, we strive to help build such a world through multidisciplinary academic research, education, partnerships and political engagement.*

Each of the three programmes takes **12 months** to complete, starting and ending mid-September. Successful completion of the programme leads to the awarding of a Master of Science degree.

Our Master programmes are organised in English, but special facilities are offered to students from other linguistic backgrounds.

IOB is **international and multicultural**. Each year we welcome about 70 Master students of as many as 30 different nationalities and with diverse academic and professional backgrounds. Most of our students come from the Global South, have professional experience in development and are seeking exposure to new ideas and methodologies in development policy. Students from the Global North interested in development and/or aspiring a career in international development organisations are equally welcome. Such a mixed group creates a unique learning environment.

IOB is **development policy-oriented**. Our research and education combines the latest social scientific insights with relevance to the development challenge. Our staff members also frequently engage in policy advisory work with development actors such as the Belgian Development Cooperation, Enabel, the European

Commission, the World Bank, the United Nations, as well as with countless non-government organisations. The insights provided by policy-oriented research are an important source of inspiration for the teaching programmes.

*IOB heralds the principles of equality, transparency, open communication, pluralism, tolerance and mutual respect also in the organisation of its teaching activities.*

IOB is **student-oriented**. The institute focuses on student-centred learning, and its approach involves a broad variety of teaching methods. Students are expected to learn from each other's experiences, as well as from their exposure to living and studying in the North. We also offer the possibility to some students to do a research internship with our partner universities (Nicaragua, Tanzania, Philippines) and conduct field work in the South.

IOB is a **development actor** in its own right. IOB participates in various inter-university partnerships with institutes in the South, including the Universidad Centroamericana (Managua, Nicaragua), the University of Cuenca (Ecuador), the University of Bukavu (DR Congo), the University of Western Cape (South Africa), the Mbarara University of Science and Technology - MUST (Uganda), the Ugandan Cristian University (UCU), the Université du Burundi and the Mzumbe University (Tanzania).

## Why study in Antwerp?

Antwerp is located at the heart of Europe, near Brussels where the European institutions reside and major development actors have representations. Being a world harbour, Antwerp is also Belgium's historical connection to other continents. It is a pleasant city, full of old charm and modern convenience. The city boasts many excellent museums and historical monuments, as well as a fast-paced nightlife, great shopping districts, and a booming commercial centre. Getting around in public transport is easy and affordable. The University's City Campus offers a broad range of facilities, including a student restaurant, a sports centre and computer rooms with internet access. The IOB collection on development studies is housed in the university library of humanities and social sciences on the City Campus. The library holds about 1.3 million volumes and provides access to numerous databases and electronic resources. It is the ideal starting point for any research project.



# ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS



## Admission requirements

You are eligible to apply if you:

- hold a **Master degree or five years bachelor degree** in development studies or a related discipline\* and obtained good study results. Applicants with a 4-year Bachelor are not automatically excluded but need to demonstrate equivalence to a Master degree on the basis of the Bachelor's curriculum that includes several research-oriented courses (e.g. dissertation) and assignments; successful attendance of relevant academic courses/trainings and/or highly relevant professional experience. Holders of a University degree under the European Bologna system must hold a Master degree;
- have a good command of English, certified by an official language test;
- show a proven interest in development issues (e.g. relevant professional experience, internship, field research, volunteering experience);
- submit a complete and timely application: see application procedure on the website.
- VLIR-UOS scholarship applicants need to meet additional requirements: see VLIR-UOS scholarship on our website.

## Our approach to social science methods

At IOB we want to cultivate mixed-methods approaches to research. Incoming students are expected to have active knowledge of (the basics of) quantitative and qualitative research methods or are willing to refresh this knowledge before starting the Master program.

\* For more detailed information: [www.uantwerpen.be/development-studies](http://www.uantwerpen.be/development-studies)

## Language requirements

Applicants need to be proficient in English, the language of instruction for all our programmes

- If English is not your language of instruction at university level; a language test certificate is required.
- If English is your language of instruction at university level, a language proficiency certificate is not required, except when you obtained your university degree in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, the French-speaking part of Cameroon or in an Asian country (except India and the Philippines). In those cases, a language proficiency certificate is required. If, for reasons beyond your control, you were not able to take the language proficiency test, you may nevertheless be admitted to the Master programme provided you attend the intensive English language course (see below).
- Official language test: TOEFL (minimum score of 79 for the internet-based test) or IELTS (minimum overall score of 6.5 and a minimum score of 6.0 on each component). Certain applicants are exempted from submitting an official language test – see language requirements. Applicants from other language backgrounds who do not meet the English language admission criteria for direct admission, i.e. students with internet-based TOEFL scores between 61 and 79 or IELTS scores between 5.5 and 6.0, can be admitted provided they attend the intensive English language course prior to the start of the programme (see below);

## Intensive language course

An intensive two-week English language course is organised prior to the start of the Master programme. In addition to bringing the student's English competency up to the required level, this course also offers an introduction to international development literature and practice.

This language course is accessible for students from other language backgrounds who do not meet the English language admission criteria for direct admission, i.e. students with paper-based TOEFL scores between 500 and 550 (or internet-based TOEFL scores between 61 and 79) or IELTS scores between 5.5 and 6.0. The course can be attended on a voluntarily basis if permission is granted by the IOB.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

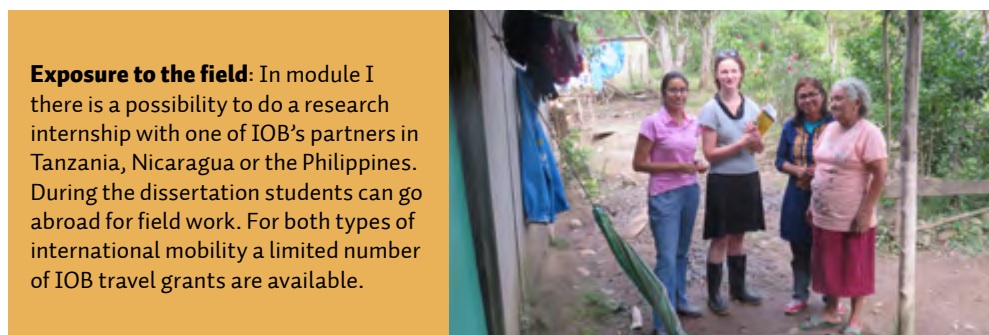


### Programme structure

Each of the three Master programmes has a similar structure, consisting of **four modules**.

The first Module provides an overview of **theories of development** and gives students up-to-date knowledge of **research methods** and techniques, both general and programme-specific.

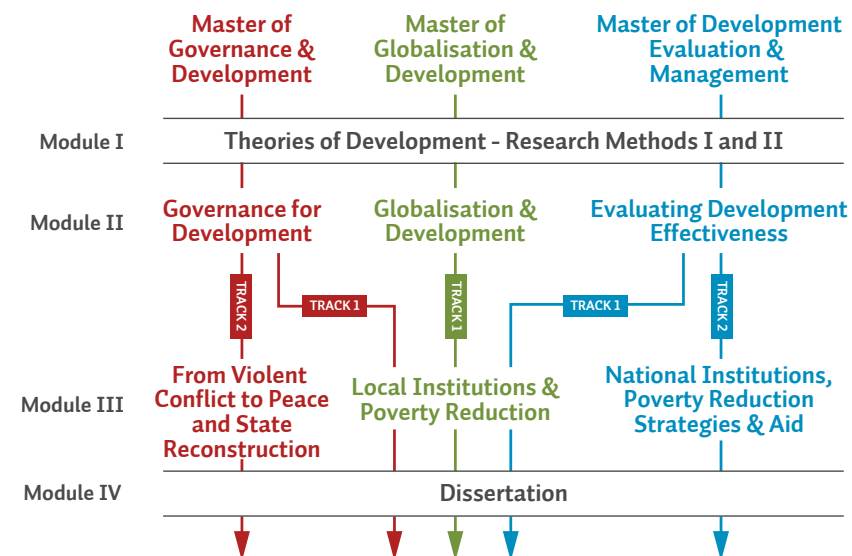
In Modules II and III, **research-driven** interactive education is offered. In Module IV, each student conducts an **individual development research project** under the guidance of a supervisor. The topics covered relate to the thematic focuses of Modules II and III. A limited number of students receive **IOB travel grants** to conduct fieldwork for their research projects. The dissertation is the subject of a public presentation and defence.



**Exposure to the field:** In module I there is a possibility to do a research internship with one of IOB's partners in Tanzania, Nicaragua or the Philippines. During the dissertation students can go abroad for field work. For both types of international mobility a limited number of IOB travel grants are available.

### Focus of our master programmes

GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT	GLOBALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT	DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT
Interest in governance	Interest in economic and financial globalisation	Interest in the role of external actors in development
Political economy of governance	Mobility and migration	Analysing the institutional context in which development interventions take place
State formation, law and public policies	Value chains	Monitoring and Evaluation
Conflict, peace and state building or local governance challenges	Climate change & environmental crises	Design, implementation and evaluation of local/(inter)national development interventions





## MSc in GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT



### Programme content

The future of sustainable development is critically related to the promotion of better governance at the local, national, regional and international levels. Both a cause and a consequence of governance failures, violent conflict is incompatible with sustainable development. Processes of state formation, state failure and state reconstruction play a central role in this nexus between development, governance and conflict.

The programme analyses governance problems and possible responses, with due consideration of the specific historical pathways of individual countries, as well as the interaction between dynamics at the national/state level and the local/society level. It also addresses the impact of global developments.

Most of our students are engaged (or aspire to become engaged) in development, whether professionally or as researchers. The objective of the Master programme is to provide these students with multidisciplinary theoretical

and practical insights that will improve their capacity to analyse governance challenges at different levels, in addition to improving the way in which they relate to processes of violent conflict and development.

Graduates will understand and be able to analyse the governance problems confronting developing countries today, from the local to the global level. Theoretical insights, policy strategies, best practices and failures are explored in order to allow graduates to apply this knowledge in their future professional environments.

The Master programme in Governance and Development offers two tracks, each with specific objectives, courses and target audiences. The first track explores issues of governance and development against the background of violent conflict and the challenge of post-conflict state reconstruction. The second track addresses governance and development challenges from the perspective of local institutions and poverty reduction.

### TRACK 1: LOCAL INSTITUTIONS AND POVERTY REDUCTION

The track 'Local institutions and poverty reduction' focuses on the interaction between transnational, national and local actors in governance processes.

The partial autonomy of local decision-making levels is an integral part of countries that are characterised by weak or fragile national-level state structures. It therefore requires careful scrutiny in the conceptualisation and assessment of development initiatives.

Decentralisation has also become an important part of the agenda for governance reform and democratisation in many countries. For this reason, it is hardly possible to discuss issues of public-service provision and property rights without due consideration for local-level institutions and political dynamics. Special attention is also paid to the local political economy of poverty and development.

The track is intended for participants who are professionally active or interested in research on the interface between the transnational, national and local level and/or between state and non-state development actors.

Students should have work experience, academic interest and/or aspire to a career in the public action domain, whether within government institutions (including public research institutions), donor agencies (including international NGOs, bilateral and multilateral donors) or civil society (including research institutes, universities).

### TRACK 2: FROM VIOLENT CONFLICT TO PEACE AND STATE RECONSTRUCTION

The track 'From violent conflict to peace and state reconstruction' focuses on the actors and factors involved in the governance dimensions of development within the contexts of conflict-prone environments and states that are facing a multitude of reconstruction challenges following violent conflict.

The track offers theoretical and contextualised insight into the political economy of governance and development, focusing on the state as a central actor in the development process of a nation.

The track also explores critical dimensions, drivers and dynamics of violent conflict, processes of peace and conflict resolution and post-conflict state reconstruction. It adopts a thematic perspective, supplemented by in-depth case studies drawn mainly from Sub-Saharan Africa.

Students receive analytical and policy-oriented tools for carrying out knowledge-based interventions, particularly in environments affected by conflict.

This track is intended for participants with a variety of disciplinary backgrounds who are professionally active or aspire to careers in conflict-prone environments or post-conflict situations or who are interested in policy-oriented research on these topics.

Participants should have work experience or academic interest in the public action domain, whether within government institutions (including public research institutions), donor agencies (including international non-governmental organisations, bilateral and multilateral donors) or civil society (including advocacy groups, research institutes and universities).

## MSc in GLOBALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT



### Programme content

The Master in Globalisation and Development approaches development as the outcome of intensifying global-to-local-to-global interactions. It introduces a multi-disciplinary perspective to analyse opportunities and threats to poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability associated with these interactions in low and middle-income countries at both the national and local levels.

Most of our students are engaged (or aspire to become engaged) in interventions, (social) businesses, policy or advocacy which promote inclusive and sustainable development, whether as professionals or as researchers.

Applicants to this Master must show a keen interest in challenges for poverty reduction and sustainability related to economic and financial globalisation, mobility and migration, value chains and/or climate change and environmental crises.

The objective of the Master programme is to provide these students with a solid understanding of the current global development context in all of its dimensions (worldwide markets for goods and services, capital and labour/migration, the planetary challenge of sustainable development in this era of environmental crisis/climate change). It offers insight and tools with which to analyse and improve the impact of the global context on local development and poverty alleviation in the Global South and vice versa. As such due consideration is given to the complexity of local–global interactions in the multifaceted arenas of globalisation.

Successful students will be able to identify the opportunities of the evolving global context, in addition to assessing and remedying the risks and threats associated with the globalisation of the sustainable development challenge. They will also be able to identify and assess policy and programme interventions for more effective and adequate local, national and global development.

Additional skills include the identification and evaluation of development interventions aimed at remedying the adverse effects of global tendencies on sustainable development in general and on the

poorer and weaker groups in society in particular, thereby aiming to strengthen the agency of the latter.

### LOCAL INSTITUTIONS AND POVERTY REDUCTION

The Master focuses on the analysis of the interaction between external and domestic actors at the interface of global, national and local arenas and development processes, in order to identify the changing opportunities for and constraints to beneficial institutional change for inclusive, sustainable development and poverty reduction.

In this context, special attention is paid to the way in which these interactions can produce inequality and poverty, as well as how they can promote wellbeing. Each student can focus on one or two policy challenges at the local–global interface and follow a tailor-made study trajectory. (e.g. inclusive value chains and/or microfinance; the global financial architecture; international migration; impact of trade policies; access to land; governance of natural resources; the climate change challenge; promotion of gender justice; ...)

The programme is intended for participants who have work experience or an interest in pursuing careers in local, regional and/or national government institutions; at research institutes or universities; in (social or green) businesses, local NGOs, advocacy or entrepreneurial associations; or in international organisations (e.g. with international NGOs, bilateral and multilateral institutions) or multinational corporations.

Candidates are actively involved in development or poverty-reduction initiatives, in micro-level or meso-level projects and programmes and/or in macro-level policy makers. Professionally, the candidates hold middle or upper management or policy (or policy research) positions; ideally, these also entail at least some experience at the interface between different policy levels (e.g. international to local, national to international) or between different arenas (e.g. civil society – government, government – international forums and institutions, INGO – national NGO).



# MSc in DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT



## Programme content

The Master in Development Evaluation and Management focuses on the efforts made, particularly by external (public and private) actors, to promote development. It provides a solid understanding of the past and present aid policies of multilateral and bilateral donors, also addressing the major aid modalities and instruments deployed. The institutional characteristics of the actors involved – be they governments, community-based organisations, international NGOs, bilateral or multilateral donors – are analysed in order to attain a better understanding of development processes and outcomes. The main theoretical perspective is that development is best understood as a set of interlocking collective action problems. The Master programme offers methodological and practical insights into development evaluation, its relevance and challenges.

Applicants to this Master should show a keen interest in studying and analyzing the institutional context in which development interventions take place, in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and the design, implementation and evaluation

of local and (inter)national development interventions as well as the role of external actors in development.

Most of our students are engaged (or aspire to become engaged) in development (cooperation), as professionals and/or researchers. The Master programme will improve the capacity of these students to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the prevailing development paradigms and the envisaged role of aid and external actors in promoting change. Students learn to appreciate the importance of different institutional arenas, as well as how they work and interact. They will become familiar with multidisciplinary analytical tools that will improve their capacity to analyse interactions and enhance the conceptualisation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies and programmes.

The Master programme offers two tracks, each with specific objectives and course packages that are intended for a specific audience. The first track is focused primarily on the macro (international and national) level, while the second focuses mainly on the micro (local) level.

## TRACK 1: LOCAL INSTITUTIONS AND POVERTY REDUCTION

The track in ‘Local institutions and poverty reduction’ conceptualises socio-political and economic development as the outcome of interactions between a conditioning institutional environment and the agency of local, national and international actors, including multilateral and bilateral, governmental and non-governmental aid actors.

Special attention is paid to the importance of micro-level institutions and processes, as well as to how they condition the effectiveness of development efforts in improving livelihoods and neutralising processes of social exclusion. The detailed exploration of how local contexts transform processes involving the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development interventions is of crucial importance to recognising opportunities for resolving the poverty conundrum.

This track is intended for participants who have work experience or who aspire to a career in civil society in the South (e.g. at research institutes or universities, or with local NGOs or entrepreneurial associations), donor agencies (including international NGOs, bilateral and multilateral donors) and government institutions.

Candidates should be involved in development interventions or poverty reduction initiatives in micro-level or meso-level projects and programmes. Professionally, candidates are middle-managers with policy and/or managerial responsibilities at the interface between different policy levels (e.g. local to national, national to international) or between different arenas (e.g. civil society- government, government-donors, INGO-national NGO).

## TRACK 2: NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES AND AID

The track in ‘National institutions, poverty reduction strategies and aid’ focuses on the analysis of the interaction between national institutions, local politics and external actors. The basic question addressed concerns why development interventions are sometimes successful but more often fail. This leads to more operational questions such as: which lessons have been learned from the study of past failures and successes, and how convincing are current prescriptions and paradigms for development policy?

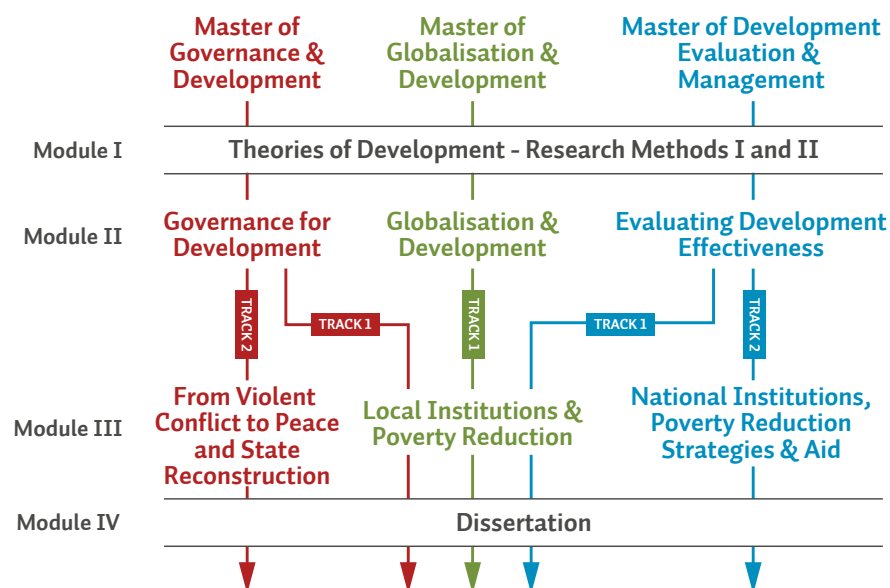
The programme teaches students to use appropriate analytical frameworks and to apply relevant scientific methods in evaluating results and drawing policy conclusions. It introduces students to various kinds of evaluation, based on quantitative as well as qualitative techniques.

This track is intended for participants who have work experience or who aspire to a career in government institutions (including public research institutions), donor agencies (including international NGOs, bilateral and multilateral donors), civil society (including research institutes, universities).

Candidates work in the field of development intervention or poverty reduction initiatives, and they are oriented towards macro-level policy. Professionally, they are middle managers with policy responsibilities and/or responsibility for managing the interface between different policy levels (e.g. national to international, national to local) or between different arenas (e.g. government-donors, INGO-national NGO).



## COURSE STRUCTURE



## Module I

(for all three Master programmes)

Course	ECTS	Period
<b>Theories of development</b>	<b>8</b>	Sep – Jan
• Unit 1: Economic and institutional development	2	
• Unit 2: Culture, agency and development	2	
• Unit 3: Politics of development	2	
• Unit 4: Poverty and inequality	2	
<b>Research methods I</b>	<b>4</b>	Sep – Jan
• Unit 1: Research in a development context	2	
• Unit 2: Design and methodology in development research	2	
<b>Research methods II</b> (choose up to 3 units)	<b>6</b>	Sep – Jan
Quantitative Units		
• Unit 1: Working with data	1.5	
• Unit 2: Regression analysis and inference	1.5	
Qualitative Units		
• Unit 3: People as informants: collecting qualitative data	1.5	
• Unit 4: Participatory research and development methods	1.5	
• Unit 5: Multi-actor processes in development: negotiation, collaboration and mediation	1.5	
• Unit 6: Analysing text and discourse in development	1.5	
• Unit 7: Qualitative data analysis	3	
• Unit 8: Mobility window (research stay) at UCA (Nicaragua), Mzumbe University (Tanzania) or De La Salle University (the Philippines)	6	

## Module II

### MSc IN GLOBALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Globalisation and development	ECTS	Period
	<b>12</b>	
Unit 1: Globalisation: the basic issues	0.5	Jan – Mar
Unit 2: Sub-units on various topics: (choose 3 out of 4 subunits)		
• Trade policy: poverty impact and policy implications	2.5	
• Financial globalisation and the poor	2.5	
• Global organization of production: value chains and labour	2.5	
• Global environment-development nexus	2.5	
Unit 3: End-of-module paper	4	

## Module II

### MSc IN GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Governance for development	ECTS 12	Period
Unit 1: The political economy of governance and development	3.5	Jan – Mar
Unit 2: The state, governmentality and development	3.25	
Unit 3: Law and development	1.25	
Unit 4: End-of-module paper	4	

### MSc IN DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT

Evaluating development effectiveness	ECTS 12	Period
Unit 1: Development effectiveness: unpacking the concept	1	Jan – Mar
Unit 2: Development monitoring and evaluation: introducing the landscape and approaches	2	
Unit 3: Selected approaches to development evaluation (choose 2 out of 3 subunits):		
• Qualitative development monitoring and evaluation	1.75	
• Quantitative development evaluation	1.75	
• Political (economy) analysis	1.75	
Unit 4: Action Lab on Selected Approach to Development Evaluation (choose 1 out of the 2 subunits selected in unit 3)		
• Qualitative Development Monitoring and Evaluation – Action Lab	1.5	
• Quantitative Development Evaluation – Action Lab	1.5	
• Political (economy) Analysis – Action Lab	1.5	
Unit 5: End-of-module paper	4	

## Module III

Choose one out of two tracks. *The MSc in Globalisation and Development only offers track 1*

### Track 1 (same for all three Master programmes)

Local institutions and poverty reduction	ECTS 12	Period
Unit 1: Theory and concepts	2	Mar - May
Unit 2: Introduction to specific topics (choose 2 sub-units):	6	
• Access to public services		
• Access to natural resources		
• Access to (labour and product) markets		
• Access to financial services		

• Gender and development: a local institutional perspective		
• Local governance		
• Access to land and security of tenure		
• Community based monitoring		
• International migration and development		
Unit 3: End-of-module paper	4	

### Track 2 MSc IN GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

From violent conflict to peace and state reconstruction	ECTS 12	Period
Unit 1: Analysis of violent conflict		Mar - May
Unit 2: Peace and post-conflict reconstruction: state-level and international dimensions		
Unit 3: Peace and post-conflict reconstruction: micro-dynamics and local dimensions		
Unit 4: End-of-module paper		

### Track 2 MSc IN DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT

National institutions, poverty reduction strategies and aid	ECTS 12	Period
Unit 1: Aid and (global) public goods: a political economy perspective	4	Mar - May
Unit 2: Monitoring and evaluation	2	
Unit 3: Selected topics (choose 1 out of 3)		
• Governing for development	2	
• Sustainable development, climate finance and the greening of aid	2	
• Engendering development	2	
Unit 4: End-of-module paper	4	

## Module IV

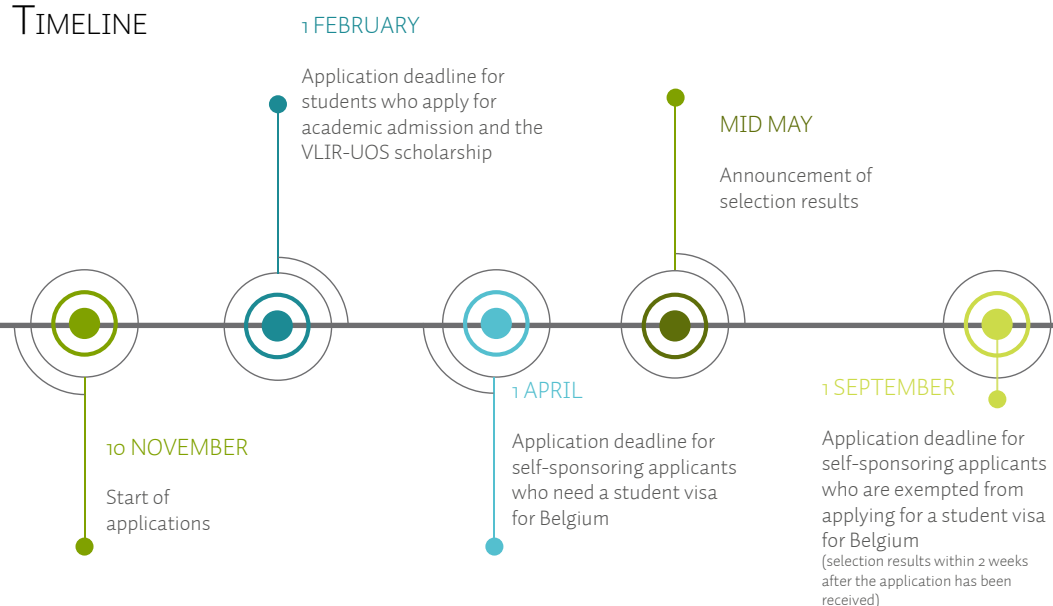
Course	ECTS	Period
Dissertation	18	May - Sep

A list of teaching staff can be found on our webpage  
[www.uantwerpen.be/development-studies](http://www.uantwerpen.be/development-studies)

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION



### TIMELINE



Detailed information about application, procedure and scholarships can be found on  
[www.uantwerpen.be/development-studies](http://www.uantwerpen.be/development-studies)

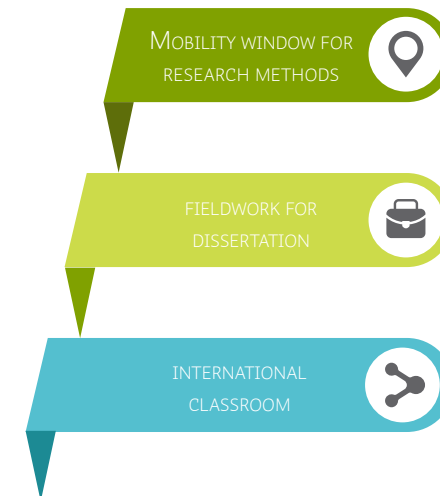
### FEES

Fee	*
Reduced fee	OECD DAC students *
Scholarships	VLIR-UOS, ...
Duration	12 months

\*Please check the website for updated information  
[www.uantwerpen.be/development-studies](http://www.uantwerpen.be/development-studies)



### INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE





## LIFE AFTER IOB



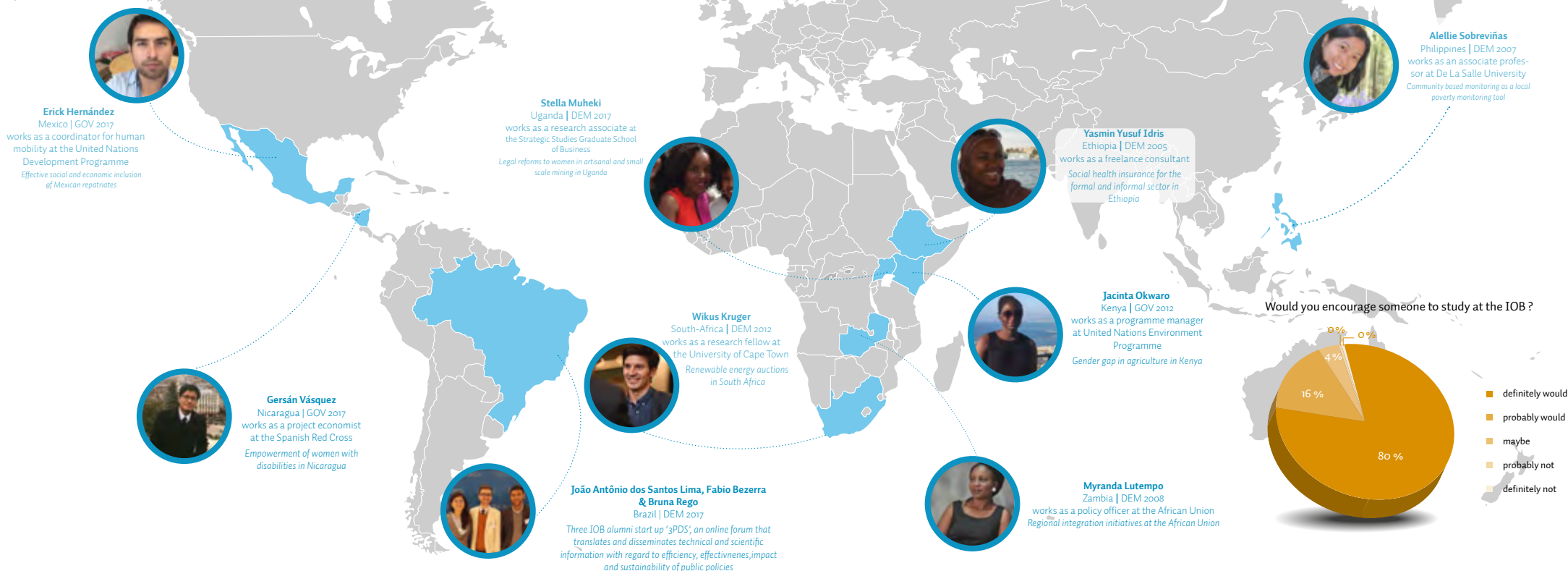
Throughout the course of the curriculum, students are offered (optional) information sessions and workshops to prepare themselves for the opportunities after their graduation and to facilitate sharing what they have learned at IOB with colleagues and peers.

An overwhelming majority of our alumni (92%) are satisfied with the education they received at IOB. Four out of five alumni would definitely encourage others to study here.

Of all IOB alumni, 95% feel that their studies at IOB prepared them adequately for their subsequent careers. Most (96%) had (partially) improved themselves jobwise as a result of studying at IOB.

Most IOB graduates work (or continue to work) in the governmental sector (24 %), international organisations (19%), NGOs (13%) and higher education/research institutes (13%).

Some of the most common employers among IOB graduates are within the governmental sector (e.g. Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning), parliaments, international/ supranational organisations (e.g. United Nations, African Union, European Commission, Asian/Africa/Inter-American Development Bank), national NGOs, INGO (e.g. Transparency International, Oxfam, World Vision, Action Aid), higher education/research (universities, consultancies, think tanks) and bilateral or multilateral donor agencies (e.g. World Bank, USAID, GTZ).



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