



Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and title:	MSc Development and International Business
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	12 months full time / 24 months part time
Queen Mary programme code(s):	L8N1/L8N2
QAA Benchmark Group:	Geography
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Geography

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

School of Business & Management

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

N/A

Programme outline

The MSc in Development and International Business offers a unique interdisciplinary perspective, integrating insights from business and development studies. This programme equips students with critical knowledge and skills to address complex global challenges in international business and development contexts. By examining the dynamic relationship between business practices and development processes, students gain an understanding of sustainable development, global supply chains, economic policy, and social impact. Through this programme, students develop the analytical skills, practical knowledge, and cross-cultural insights needed to navigate and influence diverse academic, policy and business environments.

Aims of the programme

This programme aims to:

Develop an understanding of the relationships between global development and international business, engaging students with a range of perspectives from neo-liberal and mainstream business theories to critical approaches that interrogate power

dynamics and resistance.

Provide a theoretical grounding in the historical, political, and economic dimensions of business and development within a global context, fostering critical engagement with contemporary debates in both fields.

Equip students with the skills needed for empirical research and analytical enquiry, with a focus on designing and executing research projects that contribute to academic and policy debates on the interface of business and development.

Equip students with knowledge and transferable skills that will support career pathways in academic research, policy, and leadership roles, connecting them with professional networks and research communities.

What will you be expected to achieve?

This programme is designed to equip students with the theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and critical perspectives necessary to navigate and engage with the fields of development and international business. Upon successful completion of the programme, students will have demonstrated the ability to critically engage with core concepts, conduct independent research, and apply their learning to real-world challenges. The following learning outcomes outline the key competencies and attributes that students will gain throughout their studies

Academic Content:

A 1	Demonstrate knowledge of theories at the intersection of international business and sustainable development, including postcolonial perspectives on globalisation, supply chains, and the internationalisation of business
A 2	Critically evaluate the histories and evolving relationships between business practices, (post)colonialism, and global development, with an emphasis on ethical and sustainable business models.
A 3	Develop skills in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, with the ability to assess and apply various approaches to data collection and analysis.
A 4	Conduct independent research through fieldwork or desk-based study as part of dissertation work, exploring issues that bridge business and development contexts.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Critically apply theories from development studies, economic geography, international business, and political economy to analyse complex relationships between business and development.
B 2	Design and execute an independent research project that contributes to academic and policy debates at the interface of business and development.
B 3	Use research methods effectively in coursework and independent research projects, demonstrating familiarity with a range of methodologies.
B 4	Communicate research findings clearly to an intellectual and policy audience, highlighting practical and theoretical implications for both business and development.

Attributes:

C 1	Communicate effectively across diverse formats and contexts, engaging with interdisciplinary material to address issues at the business-development interface.
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C 2	Initiate and lead group discussions.
C 3	Work collaboratively and inclusively with a diverse team, showing leadership where appropriate and supporting the contributions of others to achieve common objectives.
C 4	Demonstrate a critical and reflective approach to knowledge, applying intellectual initiative to problem-solving in complex, real-world scenarios.
C 5	Exercise initiative, self-management, and adaptability through the setting and achievement of personal and academic goals.
C 6	Critically evaluate and ethically use digital tools and resources for research, data analysis, and presentation in a range of formats.
C 7	Appreciate a global perspective in professional practice, demonstrating an understanding of sustainable and socially responsible business practices that contribute to positive change.

How will you learn?

As a student at Queen Mary, you will actively engage in building your skills and knowledge through a structured blend of teaching, independent study, and personalised support. The programme's learning approach includes the following:

Teaching is delivered through formal lectures and small-group seminars. Seminars are designed to foster informed discussion on set topics, incorporating student presentations, group exercises, role-play, and open dialogue.

A Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) providing learning outcomes, the structure and pathway of each module, and curated digital resources.

You will be assigned an Academic Adviser who will guide you on both academic and pastoral matters throughout your time at Queen Mary.

For each hour of formal class time, you are expected to spend additional hours on independent study. This includes preparing for or following up on formal sessions, reading, writing assignments, and completing projects.

Effective use of Audio-Visual teaching technologies.

The direction of your individual study will be shaped by the formal sessions, reading lists, and assignments provided. However, you are encouraged to take an active role in your learning by reading widely, which will expand your understanding and critical thinking.

Field trips will also play a role in your learning experience, taking place in local contexts to leverage London's position as a global city. These trips will allow you to explore real-world issues and case studies, enhancing your ability to connect theoretical knowledge with practical applications

Students receive tailored research supervision and training, supporting their individual research interests and preparing them for advanced study or professional roles.

Students have access to a wide range of learning resources within the College. These include: the College Library, the University of London Library at Senate House and the first rate resources of other libraries with London collections (e.g. the British Library, the Bishopsgate Institute); a range of IT resources including networked PCs (with full internet and email privileges), and electronic learning resources (e.g. electronic academic journals). In addition students have access to a dedicated masters student room in the School of Geography.

How will you be assessed?

Assignments across the programme are designed to assess whether you have demonstrated a grasp of the learning objectives and outcomes at both the module and programme level. A focus on authentic assessments ensures that students engage in meaningful tasks that reflect real-world research and professional practices. Each module will have specific assessment criteria, which will be provided at the beginning of the module. Assessment methods may include:

Coursework: Designed to assess your understanding of key concepts and analytical skills through written assignments. Tasks may also assess your problem-solving abilities and capacity to apply knowledge to real-world situations within development and business contexts.

Exams: Test your knowledge and ability to apply key theories and concepts in a timed setting.

Presentations: Provide opportunities to develop and demonstrate your communication skills by presenting complex ideas to an audience.

Dissertation: Involves conducting independent research under supervision, culminating in an output that contributes to academic and/or policy debates in the fields of international business and development.

All compulsory modules will be assessed via coursework. Some of the optional SBM modules will be partly assessed via examination.

All modes of assessment that contribute 40% or more to the final grade will be second marked by a colleague from the School where the module is administered. External examiners will also receive a representative sample of the range of work across degree classifications.

Feedback will be provided on assessments to help you reflect on your progress and identify areas for development

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

180 credits of this programme will be provided by modules delivered through the Schools of Geography and SBM.

Core:

GEG7139 Dissertation (12 000 words) (60 credits)

Compulsory:

GEG7137: Retheorising Global Development (30 credits)

BUSM090: World Economy and Development (15 credits)

GEG7135: Research Design and Methods (15 credits)

Optional:

GEG7131 Global Working Lives (semester 1)

BUSM117 Risk and Crisis (semester 1)

BUSM086 Strategic Management (semester 2)

BUSM089 International Business Strategy (semester 2)

BUSM217 Sustainable Finance (semester 2)

BUSM091 Global Supply Chain Management (semester 2)

BUSM073 Economics of Development (semester 2)

GEG7129 Migration and Mobilities (semester 2)

BUSM251 The Business of Climate Risk (semester 2)

GEG7156 Regional Economics (new module, semester 1)

In Semester 1, students will take a 30 credit compulsory course in Geography (GEG7137) and a 15 credit compulsory course in SBM (BUSM090). For the remaining credits in Semester 1, students can take an elective in SBM (BUSM117) or in Geography (GEG7131).

In Semester 2, students will take a 15 credit compulsory course in Geography (GEG7135, Research Design and Methods) and a choice of three out of seven 15-credit modules (see Semester 2 listed under "Optional" above).

Part time students will take the programme over two years. They start their first year in Semester 1 with the compulsory Geography module (GEG7137), move to the choice of two SBM modules in Semester 2. In the second year they switch to the SBM diet in Semester 1 (i.e. BUSM090 as required module and a choice of elective) and back to Geography in Semester 2 (i.e. GEG7135 Research Design and Methods and two optional modules). This ensures alternation between schools and maximises scope for inter-disciplinary exposure. They will start their dissertation in the second year.

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Part time students may take upto 90 credits in year 1 and year 2 of the programme, however this may vary subject to approval from programme convenor.

Students are permitted to select upto 30 credits from outside the School, subject to approval from the programme convenor.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Dissertation 12,000	GEG7138	60	7	Core	1	Semesters 1-3
Re-theorising Global Development	GEG7137	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
World Economy and Development	BUSM090	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Research Design and Methods	GEG7135	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Strategic Management	BUSM086	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Global Working Lives	GEG7131	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Business Strategy	BUSM089	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Sustainable Finance	BUSM217	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Global Supply Chain Management	BUSM091	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Economics of Development	BUSM073	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Migration and Mobilities	GEG7129	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Regional Economics	GEG7146	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
The Business of Climate Risk	BUSM251	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Risk and Crisis	BUSM117	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Re-theorising Global Development	GEG7137	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
International Business Strategy	BUSM089	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Sustainable Finance	BUSM217	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Global Supply Chain Management	BUSM091	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Economics of Development	BUSM073	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
The Business of Climate Risk	BUSM251	15	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Strategic Management	BUSM086	15	7	Elective	2	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
World Economy and Development	BUSM090	15	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
Risk and Crisis	BUSM117	15	7	Elective	2	Semester 1
Global Working Lives	GEG7131	15	7	Elective	2	Semester 1
Research Design and Methods	GEG7135	15	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 2
Dissertation 12,000	GEG7139	60	7	Core	2	Semesters 1-3
Migration and Mobilities	GEG7129	15	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Regional Economics	GEG7156	15	7	Elective	2	Semester 2

What are the entry requirements?

Graduates from across the Social Sciences and Humanities will be eligible to apply. The entrance requirements are as per QMUL specifications which are a UK 2.1 Bachelors degree or higher or equivalent international degree attainment, and IELTS 7.0 or above. This programme will be offered full time (12 months) and part-time (24 months).

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The Student Voice Committee serves as a formal means of communication and discussion between academic units and their students. The committee comprises student representatives from each year within the School, along with relevant staff representation. It is designed to address students' needs and act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. The Student Voice Committee meets regularly throughout the year.

The School of Geography also operates an Education Committee, which advises Directors of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at the School level. This includes monitoring the application of relevant QMUL policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approvals or amendments before submission to the Taught Programmes Board. Student perspectives and feedback are incorporated into the committee's work through various channels, such as student membership and consideration of student surveys.

The School conducts an Annual Programme Review (APR) of taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning managed by those responsible for programme delivery. The main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP), which summarizes the School's efforts throughout the year to uphold academic standards and enhance the student experience. Student feedback is integrated into this process through the analysis of the National Student Survey (NSS), Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and module evaluations.

What academic support is available?

Students receive academic support through regular meetings with their advisor, as well as access to the programme director and module lecturers. Additional academic enrichment is available through attendance at research events hosted by the School of Geography. The Library Services also offer a range of resources, including access to research databases, academic skills workshops, and one-on-one consultations to further support students in their studies.

Programme-specific rules and facts

N/A

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

QMUL provides a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support to all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties, mental health issues, and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The DDS is available to all QMUL students—full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK, and international—across all campuses and sites.

Students can access advice, guidance, and support in the following areas:

Identifying specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia
Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
Arranging DSA assessments of need
Making special arrangements for examinations
Accessing loaned equipment (e.g., digital voice recorders)
Receiving specialist one-to-one study skills tuition
Ensuring course materials are available in alternative formats (e.g., Braille)
Providing educational support workers (e.g., note-takers, readers, library assistants)
Accessing specialist mentoring support for students with mental health issues
Accessing specialist mentoring support for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

At QMUL, we are dedicated to helping students develop the skills, experiences, and connections essential for thriving in today's competitive job market. Graduates of this programme will develop a versatile set of transferable skills highly valued in professional and academic contexts. They will communicate effectively across diverse formats and interdisciplinary material, adapting their approach to address complex issues at the intersection of business and development. Through collaborative and inclusive teamwork, students will demonstrate leadership, support peers, and achieve shared goals. They will cultivate critical and reflective thinking, applying intellectual initiative to solve real-world problems. Furthermore, students will hone their self-management, adaptability, and ethical use of digital tools for research and analysis, preparing them to work in diverse global contexts and to contribute to sustainable and socially responsible practices.

In addition, through both the programme's curriculum and the support of the Careers and Enterprise team, students are provided with a wide range of opportunities to gain practical employability skills, industry insights, and connections with potential employers.

In particular, students benefit from EAST, Queen Mary's student career journey, designed to support preparation for life after graduation—whether in work, further study, or entrepreneurial ventures. EAST consists of four key stages:

Explore career options
Acquire experience
Showcase your skills and experience
Transition towards your next steps

The Careers and Enterprise team help students to realise opportunities through the EAST approach by providing:

Career Guidance and Workshops: Students receive expert advice on career planning, CV writing, interview skills, and networking strategies through one-on-one career guidance and workshops.

Internships and Placements: Resources for securing internships and placements allow students to apply academic knowledge in real-world contexts, build professional networks, and gain hands-on industry experience.

Employer Events and Networking: The Careers and Enterprise team hosts employer panels, networking events, and career fairs, providing valuable opportunities for students to explore career paths, meet industry professionals, and learn about potential employers.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Prof James Esson

Programme Title: MSc Development and International Business

Person responsible for management of programme:

Dr Niranjana Ramesh

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by
School / Institute Education Committee:**

29 Nov 2024

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught
Programmes Board:**