

# GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

## Departmental Notes

*Subject Code for Global Development Studies: DEVS*

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## Overview

The Department of Global Development Studies (DEVS) offers a suite of interdisciplinary programs that empower students to engage and influence the driving forces of global change. From questions of poverty and inequality, through to economic integration, environmental sustainability and cultural revitalization, our students address key global challenges and develop the practical skill sets required to make the world a better place. Our unique blending of big-picture analysis with practical problem-solving approaches opens a wide range of career choices and options for further study with graduates pursuing diverse fields from government and policymaking through to law, journalism, social enterprise and beyond.

The Department offers Specialization (<https://queensu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/global-development-studies/global-development-studies-specialization/>), Major (<https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/global-development-studies/global-development-studies-major-arts-ba-honours/>), Minor (<https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/global-development-studies/global-development-studies-minor-arts/>), and General (<https://queensu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/global-development-studies/global-development-studies-general-arts-ba/>) plans of study.

Students enter the plan in second year and will follow a 200-level curriculum focused on foundational courses that establish the key building blocks for development studies as a field. Topic courses at the 300-level facilitate a broadening of perspectives and a deepening of knowledge. Topic courses at the 400-level for Specialization (<https://queensu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/global-development-studies/global-development-studies-specialization/>) and Major (<https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/global-development-studies/global-development-studies-major-arts-ba-honours/>) students offer the opportunity for students to specialize in a topic that is led by a leading expert in the field within a seminar setting.

## Special Study Opportunities

### Summer Semester at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

DEVS has partnered with the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa to offer a six-week summer semester abroad taking place from July to August. This unique study-abroad opportunity at a world-class university gives students the chance to choose two seminar-level courses on topics covering diverse aspects of contemporary African society and development. In addition, there is also a guided series of weekly cultural activities in-and-around the city of Johannesburg with Queen's and South African instructors. Lastly, there is a weekly reading course with the other students on South African literature.

Students earn a total of 6.00 DEVS undergraduate credits for successfully completing the summer semester program at WITS. Enrolment in the summer semester requires students to have completed DEVS 363/3.0 or permission of the department. Ancillary fee is estimated to be \$1,500 for the program fee and accommodation. Accommodation is provided in a secure, self-catering centre on campus. Food, flight, and transportation costs are not included, and students are required to make sure they have appropriate health insurance. Applications are open to third year and above students in good standing and are due in early January. The relevant forms will be made available through the Global Development Studies Department website in December (<http://www.queensu.ca/devs> (<http://www.queensu.ca/devs/>)).

### Semester in Shanghai

Courses taken in the **Queen's Semester in Shanghai program** (<http://www.queensu.ca/ipo/outgoing-students/semester-shanghai/>) offered through the



International Programs Office are pre-approved as option courses in DEVS Plans.

## **Global Action and Engagement Certificate (GAEN)**

Are you planning to work or volunteer internationally and require a strong grounding in the tools of ethical, responsible and sustainable engagement? This fully online Queen's certificate could be perfect for you! Based on the principles of reflexive cross-cultural communication and sustainable partnership building, the GAEN Certificate provides action-orientated approaches that help to ensure productive global engagements. This makes GAEN an ideal choice for students working in the fields of health, engineering, social enterprise, and international development work.

The certificate will comprise of 18.00 units of undergraduate courses, including 15.00 units of core courses and 3.00 units selected from several option courses. Global Engagement (DEVS 280/3.0) is the culminating course centered on active, collaborative, and self-reflexive modes of learning. It will lead students to reflect upon and unpack previous experiential learning activities that have taken place in the context of global development, while preparing them for future global engagement. Note only 9.00 units from the GAEN certificate can be counted towards your degree program.

## **Independent Work Study Abroad Program: DEVS 410/6.0 and DEVS 411/3.0**

One of the most attractive features of the Global Development Studies program at Queen's is the opportunity it affords students to complete a placement in a development context and get hands-on field experience for credit. Many of our students maintain that their placement is the highlight of their academic career. The experience-based learning within a DEVS 410/6.0 internship courses refines practical skills for the workplace and enhances cross-cultural understanding and communication skills while helping students understand the role of history and power in shaping the global world. Students have travelled to places such as Bangladesh, Bolivia, China, Costa Rica, Laos, Ghana; have worked with organizations such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Oxfam, Shastri, Polaris Institute, World Bank, Canada World Youth, SOS Children's Village, Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity; and have been engaged with projects as diverse as AIDS education, land erosion prevention, human rights, and new immigrants to Canada.

The placement itself (6.00 units) usually takes place over the summer months following completion of the third year of study but requires pre-departure training in the Winter Term. DEVS 410/6.0 is not considered complete until the

co-requisite Post-Placement Seminar (3.00 units) course is completed in the following Fall Term.

Enrolment in the DEVS 410/6.0 and DEVS 411/3.0 program is through an application process. Application forms are available through contacting the Global Development Studies Placement Coordinator at [devs.ugchair@queensu.ca](mailto:devs.ugchair@queensu.ca) or on the Department website [www.queensu.ca/devs/](http://www.queensu.ca/devs/) (<http://www.queensu.ca/devs/>). Very limited funds are available through an application process to support internships, but in general, students are responsible for all costs.