

## Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme 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 significant complementarity of academic research, expertise and teaching in both the School of Business and Management (SBM) and the School of Geography is by far the most compelling rationale for this new programme. Overlap in our current courses and the similarity in themes and approaches should be combined in order to deliver a high quality and distinctive MSc that will attract good students, experienced practitioners and potential researchers. In recent years students' interest in the relationship between international business and (especially international) development has increased at all levels of study. We believe that a new programme setting out to explore concepts, approaches and methods from a truly inter-disciplinary perspective will have significant appeal and offer a rich and stimulating basis for postgraduate study.

### Aims of the programme

This programme aims to

- develop advanced and critical understandings of the relationships between international business and development from various intellectual perspectives, from neo-liberal and mainstream business studies approaches, through to more critical approaches which engage with questions of power and resistance.

- provide an advanced theoretical grounding in the core aspects, and history and politics of, business and development in the context of the growing internationalisation of business.
- equip students with the skills to conduct empirical analysis and enquiry.
- equip students with substantive knowledge, transferable research skills and professional connections needed to pursue a career in academic research or policy leadership.

**What will you be expected to achieve?**

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<b>Academic Content:</b>	
A 1	Knowledge and understanding of the relationship between international business and development
A 2	Knowledge and understanding of the histories of the relationship between the (post)colonialism, business, supply chains and the growing internationalisation of the latter two
A 3	Knowledge and experience of range of qualitative and quantitative methods, and the ability to evaluate different approaches to data collection and analysis
A 4	Opportunity to conduct research through independent fieldwork or desk research as part of dissertation research

<b>Disciplinary Skills - able to:</b>	
B 1	Ability to critically apply a range of theories that explain the relationship and histories of business and development, including development studies, economic geography, international business, political economy, and labour studies
B 2	Design and develop a research project with original/innovative research questions that contribute to the extant research literature
B 3	Deploy an appropriate set of methods in the execution of a research project
B 4	Communicate research findings effectively to the wider academic and policy community

<b>Attributes:</b>	
C 1	Undertake critical reading, oral and written communication
C 2	Initiate and lead group discussions.
C 3	Undertake effective synthesis of a wide range of materials to generate original interpretations of the socio-economic world

C 4	Develop communication skills to engage with a range of audiences (academic, policy, popular)
C 5	Develop project management skills and leadership

### How will you learn?

As a student at Queen Mary, you will play an active part in your acquisition of skills and knowledge. Teaching is by a mixture of formal lectures and small group seminars. The seminars are designed to generate informed discussion around set topics, and may involve student presentations, group exercises and role-plays as well as open discussion. The School of Geography takes pride in the close and friendly working relationship we have with our students. You are assigned an Academic Adviser who will guide you in both academic and pastoral matters throughout your time at Queen Mary.

For every hour spent in formal classes you will be expected to complete further hours of independent study. Your individual study time could be spent preparing for, or following up on formal study sessions; reading; producing written work and completing projects.

The direction of your individual study will be guided by the formal study sessions you attend, along with your reading lists and assignments. However, we expect you to demonstrate an active role in your own learning by reading widely and expanding your own knowledge, understanding and critical ability.

Independent study will foster in you the ability to identify your own learning requirements and determine which areas you need to focus on to become proficient in your subject area. This is an important transferable skill and will help to prepare you for the transition to working life.

Students receive tailored research supervision and training suitable to their individual research interests.

### How will you be assessed?

Varied forms of assessment will be used and are dependent upon the module. These include:

- 12000 word dissertation
- Dissertation proposal to be presented during a student conference day
- Coursework essays (varying in length between 1500-3500 words).
- Presentations
- End of year exams (ONLY for SBM modules).

Formative feedback will be provided in certain modules on drafts of assessed work. 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.

### 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: Rethorising Global Development (30 credits)

BUSM090: World Economy and Development (15 credits)

GEG7135: Research Design and Methods (15 credits)

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**Optional:**

BUSM069 Organisational Behaviour  
 BUSM086 Strategic Management  
 BUSM028 Multinationals and Global Business  
 BUSM073 Economics of Development  
 BUSM084 New Product Development and Business Ecosystems  
 BUSM141 Project Management  
 BUSM089 International Business Strategy  
 GEG7131 Global Working Lives  
 GEG7129 Migration and Mobilities  
 SOLM281 Researching Powerful Organisations

In Semester A, students will take a 30 credit compulsory course in Geography and a 15 credit compulsory course in SBM (BUSM090). The remaining 15 credits in SBM will be a choice between two modules, BUS069 or BUSM086. They can also take an optional Geography module, GEG7131.

In Semester B, students will take a 15 credit compulsory course in Geography (GEG7135, Research Design and Methods) and a choice of three out 15-credit modules (GEG7129, BUSM028, BUSM073, BUSM084, BUSM141, BUSM 089, SOLM281).

Part time students will take the programme over two years. They start their first year in Semester A with the compulsory Geography module (GEG7137), move to the choice of two SBM modules in Semester B. In the second year they switch to the SBM diet in Semester A (i.e. BUSM090 and a choice of two modules) and back to Geography in semester B (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.

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	GEG7139	60	7	Core	1	Semesters 1-3
World Economy and Development	BUSM090	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Research Design and Methods	GEG7135	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Re-theorising Global Development	GEG7137	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Organisational Behaviour	BUSM069	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Strategic Management	BUSM086	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Migration and Mobilities	GEG7129	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Global Working Lives	GEG7131	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Multinationals and Global Business	BUSM028	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Economics of Development	BUSM073	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
New Product Development & Business Ecosystems	BUSM084	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Business Strategy	BUSM089	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Project Management	BUSM141	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Researching Powerful Organisations	SOLM281	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

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
World Economy and Development	BUSM090	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Multinationals and Global Business	BUSM028	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Economics of Development	BUSM073	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
New Product Development & Business Ecosystems	BUSM084	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Project Management	BUSM141	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 2

Programme Title: MSc Development and International Business

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Dissertation 12,000	GEG7139	60	7	Core	2	Semesters 1-3
Research Design and Methods	GEG7135	15	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 2
Organisational Behaviour	BUSM069	15	7	Elective	2	Semester 1
Strategic Management	BUSM086	15	7	Elective	2	Semester 1
Migration and Mobilities	GEG7129	15	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Global Working Lives	GEG7131	15	7	Elective	2	Semester 1
International Business Strategy	BUSM089	15	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Researching Powerful Organisations	SOLM281	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 Staff-Student Liaison Committee provide a formal means of communication and discussion between academic units and their students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the School together with appropriate representation from staff. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussion programme and module developments. The Staff-Student Liaison Committee meets regularly throughout the year.

The School of Geography also operates a Teaching and Learning Committee, which advises Directors of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at School level including monitoring the application of relevant QMUL policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to the Taught Programmes Board. Student views and feedback are incorporated into the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership or consideration of student surveys.

The School operates an Annual Programme Review (APR) of taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the School's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS, PTES and module evaluations.

### What academic support is available?

Students receive academic support via regular meetings with their advisor and via the programme director, module lecturers and attendance at research-related events at the School of Geography.

### Programme-specific rules and facts

N/A

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

QMUL has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all QMUL students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

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

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital voice recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one study skills tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Access to specialist mentoring support for students with mental health issues and Autistic Spectrum Disorders

### Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

The SBM is currently piloting a model under their MSC International Business and Politics programme of matchmaking with external organisations who provide a list of topics they want further research on. Students are then invited to work on one of these topics for their dissertation. At present, the external organisation will not be involved in formally supervising them, but there will be a skype or in-person meeting(s) to discuss scope and issues. The idea is to expose students to strategic/ policy-driven research and have something else on their CV (e.g. the work could be cited as an internal briefing paper or if very good perhaps an external facing one). SBM have already received commitment to pilot this from the following not-for-profit organisations: Actionaid, Commonwealth Secretariat, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, International Transport Workers' Federation, and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency. If this pilot is successful then the same model will be followed for this programme in future years.

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## Programme Specification Approval

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Person completing Programme Specification:

Sydney Calkin

Programme Title: MSc Development and International Business

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Sydney Calkin

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:**

13 Dec 2021

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