

Roskilde University

Cand.soc./MSc in  
**Global and  
Development  
Studies**

Master's Programme



# Global and Development Studies

**Are you passionate about understanding global development trends? Are you enthusiastic about analysing global social, political, and economic actors, relations, and institutions, including their histories and contemporary manifestations? And do you want to learn how to address these issues? Then Global and Development Studies is an MA programme for you.**

Global and Development Studies offers cutting-edge academic training in analysing, assessing, and addressing current global changes and how they affect people's lives around the world. Questions of justice, inequality, conflict, and sustainability as well as their effects on states, markets, and civil society will be central to your studies.

You will acquire knowledge about global and development processes across local, national, regional, and international levels and learn how these processes are manifested differently in specific sites around the world. You will also acquire practical skills that enable you to analyse and critically reflect on issues and problems, such as climate change, conflict and peace-making, development aid, disaster management, economic transformation, human rights, inequality, mobility, social movements, and sustainability.

The Master's programme is interdisciplinary, combining the fields of global and development studies. It also draws on international relations, political economy, political science, sociology, and anthropology. You will meet the interdisciplinary approach in your taught classes and apply it actively in your project work.

# Global and Development Studies

Mandatory study activities provide an academic common ground while elective courses allow you to pursue your specific empirical, theoretical, and methodological interests. The development of your own academic profile is particularly ensured through the project work where you and your project team of fellow students investigate a problem of your own choosing. While guided by a supervisor, you will design, prepare, and execute your project.

The project work trains your use of theory, social science methods, and analytical approaches and equips you with collaborative and leadership competences. It also assures that you are well versed in the art of communicating your results in writing and defending them during an oral exam.

# Content

Year 1		Year 2	
1 <sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER	2 <sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER	3 <sup>RD</sup> SEMESTER	4 <sup>TH</sup> SEMESTER
<b>Foundation Course in Global and Development Studies</b> [Course] 10 ECTS	<b>Current Global and Development Challenges and Solutions</b> [Course] 10 ECTS	<b>Choose A, B or C</b> <b>A:</b> <b>Current Global and Development Challenges and Solutions</b> 10 ECTS <b>Policy Analysis</b> 5 ECTS <b>Advanced Methods Course</b> 5 ECTS <b>Current Global and Development Challenges Project</b> 10 ECTS or <b>B:</b> <b>Current Global and Development Challenges and Solutions</b> 10 ECTS <b>Policy Analysis or Advanced Methods Course</b> 5 ECTS <b>Project-oriented Internship</b> 15 ECTS or <b>C:</b> <b>Projectoriented Internship</b> 30 ECTS	<b>Master thesis</b> 30 ECTS
<b>Project Management and Evaluation</b> [Course] 5 ECTS	<b>Power, Conflict and Justice</b> [Course] 5 ECTS		<b>Master thesis</b> 30 ECTS
<b>Sustainability, Development and Inequality</b> [Course] 5 ECTS	<b>Advanced Methods Course</b> [Course] 5 ECTS		<b>Master thesis</b> 30 ECTS
<b>Project linked to Sustainability, Development and Inequality</b> [Project] 10 ECTS	<b>Project in Economic and Social Contestation</b> 10 ECTS		<b>Master thesis</b> 30 ECTS



Note, that this is an example of a recommended course of study. Individual students' courses, projects, internships and accredited studies abroad may vary in relation to the above. Students starting in February follow the activities in a slightly different order. You can see the range of courses currently offered by Roskilde University at [study.ruc.dk](http://study.ruc.dk).

## 1<sup>st</sup> SEMESTER

Your 1<sup>st</sup> semester consists of three mandatory courses and a project. The foundation course sets the scene, while the other mandatory study activities delve into specific topics. The course on 'Sustainability, Development, and Inequality' is linked to project work that allows you to start specializing and building your own academic profile theoretically, analytically, and methodologically.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> SEMESTER

The 2<sup>nd</sup> semester allows for further specialization as you choose both an elective specialization course and a methods course. You will also take a mandatory course on Project Management and Evaluation. The semester project is thematically focused on Economic and Social Contestation. The project work entails teamwork, supervision, and seminar sessions that develop your ability to give and receive structured and constructive peer-feedback.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> SEMESTER

In your 3<sup>rd</sup> semester you have the option of three study tracks (A, B or C).

**A:** You take an elective 10 ECTS specialization course, an elective 5 ECTS methods course, the 5 ECTS "Policy Analysis" course and a 10 ECTS project.

**B:** You take an elective 10 ECTS specialization course, the 5 ECTS "Policy Analysis" course and do a 15 ECTS internship (incl. a report).

**C:** You do a full-time 30 ECTS internship. Note that you are responsible for organizing and planning the internship ahead of time.

## 4<sup>th</sup> SEMESTER

You spend the 4<sup>th</sup> semester researching and writing your master's thesis, either alone or in a team. You may collaborate with an external partner that allows you to specialize on a specific topic, while also provide the partner with analysis of a pertinent problem. Thesis work is supported by workshops and seminars and supervised by lecturers.

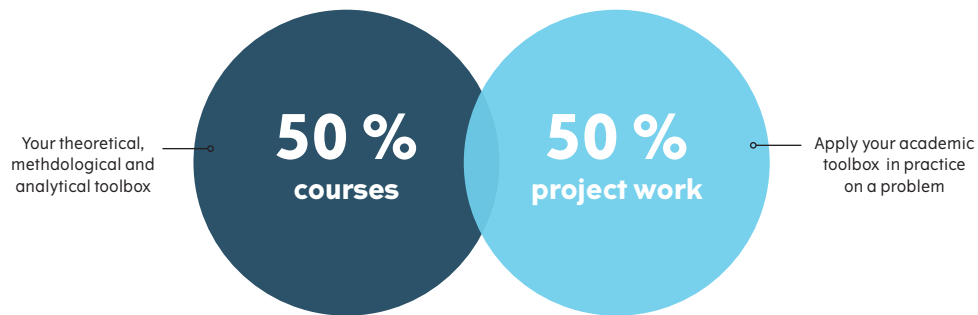
# Form of Study

Through your education, you get the opportunity to create your own individual education profile and your own independent specialization in accordance with the problem-oriented, interdisciplinary and project-oriented teaching method at Roskilde University.

## THE STUDY FORM COMBINES ENGAGEMENT, THEORY AND PRACTICE

Your study activities are rooted in

- Problem-oriented project group work
- Courses organized as classroom-teaching, where the focus is on theories, methods, and analytical approaches that help you grasp concepts and empirical topics and issues. Interactions between teachers and students typically take the form of presentations, in-class discussions and debates.



The project work and supervision are prioritized at Roskilde University. We also prioritize that you gain experience with the collection and assessment of empirical data as well as the practical application of theories, methods and analytical approaches.

All master's programmes offer project-oriented internships and students are allowed to take courses at other universities, at home and abroad and receive credit transfer.

# Project Examples

The problem-oriented project work (including the final thesis) gives you the unique opportunity to shape your academic profile and investigate problems and issues related to your specific interests. Through project work you learn to apply theories and develop an understanding of their explanatory power. You will also hone your methodological and analytical skills and become versed in communicating your results. Here are examples of problems you could study in your project work:

- Women, peace and security: Does women's inclusion in peacekeeping processes lead to more sustainable outcomes?
- Arctic just transition: Companies, the EU, and indigenous people – mining prospects vs climate changes
- Private sector participation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: Can the market do what governments cannot?
- Playing a modern game of slavery? A case study of the use of forced labour in Qatar
- Can disaster lead to development? A comparative study of post-disaster development in two lower middle-income countries hit by hurricanes
- Transit-migration in Central America: The political economy of migration in pandemic times
- Decolonizing development aid: Analysing North-South donor-recipient partnerships and power imbalances
- Stalemate in global governance: Is the world order eroding or becoming more pluralist?

What project would you write if you studied Global and Development Studies?

# Competencies

Upon completing the Global and Development Studies programme you will be able to appropriately select theories, methods, and analytical strategies allowing you to assess social, political, and economic processes that characterize global and development challenges.

More concretely you will have acquired competencies to:

- Plan and manage projects
- Conduct evaluations
- Gather, prepare, and present data to shed light on an issue
- Write up policy briefs
- Give policy advice
- Handle complex and unpredictable tasks
- Initiate and execute interdisciplinary and professional cooperation

## Policy analyst

Private company

## Official (EU/international team)

Ministry

## Public affairs consultant

Private company

## Policy advisor on peace and security

UN

## Foreign service officer

Embassy

## International project manager

NGO

## Data analyst

Private company

## Researcher

Think tank or university

# Career examples

# Further information



You can find admission requirements, application deadlines and other information about Global and Development Studies at Roskilde University here:

[ruc.dk/en/master/global-and-development-studies](https://ruc.dk/en/master/global-and-development-studies)

Contact us if you have questions about Global and Development Studies:

Roskilde University  
Study & Career Guidance  
E-mail: [vejledning@ruc.dk](mailto:vejledning@ruc.dk)  
Telephone hours:  
Monday - Friday 10.00 - 11.30  
Telephone number: (+45) 4674 2424

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