

## Programme Specification

**BSc International Development (full-time)**

**For students entering Part 1 in September 2025**

**UCAS Code: L900**

**UFINTDEV**

**UFINTDES**

**UFINTDEWY**

**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BSc International Development with Study Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only) BSc International Development with Placement Year - 4 years (UCAS Code: L901)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Geography, Politics and IR, Anthropology, Economics, Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food and Consumer Sciences

### **Programme information and content**

The programme aims to provide you with a degree-level understanding of the complex global dynamics affecting the planet's resources, climate, food systems, and the politics of development. Through the course of the degree, students are exposed to critical thinking in international development, capturing key ideas in international development policy and practice, illustrated with rich use of case studies from around the world. The cross-university programme incorporates a wealth of multi-disciplinary expertise, including from geography, economics, international relations and, agriculture.

Part 1:	Introduces you to a broad range of themes within international development across global and local levels; you will learn about contrasting visions and histories of development, key issues in development, economics and sustainability. It also provides a basic grounding on studying for a university degree, facilitates the professional development of students through individual and team based learning, and builds communication skills for a range of audiences.
Part 2:	Provides you with the opportunity to apply and expand on knowledge gained in Part 1 through consolidating understanding of core development theories, introducing research methods for international development that can later be applied to a research project, and permitting students to further specialise in subject areas dependent on their interests and career aspirations.

Placement/Study abroad year:	Students can work for a year away from Reading between Part 2 and Part 3 as part of the 4-year programme.
Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to undertake an individual research project on a chosen topic, whilst developing deeper knowledge in a range of areas related to global development. You will explore the role of power in development. You can also learn about communication in development and socio-economic, environmental and political change around the world.

### **Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc International Development (full-time)**

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	<b>Learning outcomes</b>
1	Describe and evaluate historical and contemporary processes of development over space and time.
2	Describe and evaluate a range of established development theories and key concepts.
3	Demonstrate an awareness of the inter-related character of social, economic, environmental and political processes in shaping international development.
4	Demonstrate knowledge of key actors in development across local, national, international and multilateral levels of analysis and show knowledge of the causes and impacts of poverty at these levels of analysis. Demonstrate an awareness that development poses questions in both 'developed' and 'developing' nations.
5	Describe and evaluate process and practice in international development, including participatory approaches to development. Demonstrate knowledge of methods, approaches and tools used by development organisations.
6	Understand the specific characteristics of development research, with a particular emphasis on ethical research and equitable partnerships.
7	Demonstrate an ability to utilise both qualitative and quantitative approaches to data collection, and the ability to analyse both qualitative and quantitative data.
8	Conduct independent research. Synthesise and evaluate published material from a range of sources and produce a logically-argued and well-written capstone project.
9	Demonstrate a broad awareness of career possibilities within development, and plan appropriate steps towards career goals.
10	Demonstrate sound communication skills through a variety methods, formats and types, showing an appreciation of the needs of different audiences.
11	Conduct themselves in a professional manner, manage their own time and work as a team.
12	Use a range of appropriate IT software with confidence.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

<b>Additional Learning outcomes</b>
<p><b>Study Abroad</b></p> <p>By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution.</p>
<p><b>Placement</b></p> <p>By the end of the Placement Year programme, students will have contextualised their academic learning in a placement role relevant to their programme of studies and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.</p>

### **Module information**

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

#### **Part 1 Modules:**

<b>Module</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Level</b>
AD1AVP	Alternative Voices: Changing Perspectives of International Development	20	4
AD1EEN	The Economic Environment	20	4
AD1GLI	International Development: Global and Local Issues	20	4
AD1GLS	Global Sustainability: Challenges and Prospects	20	4

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and from an approved list, subject to timetabling constraints. The optional modules provide a choice of subjects or a guided selection of topics such that the student can tailor the programme to match their interests and career aspirations. Students also have the option to select a language module.

#### **Part 2 Modules:**

<b>Module</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Level</b>
AD2AID	Approaches to International Development	20	5

AD2PID	Professional Practice Placement for International Development	20	5
AD2RES	Research Methods for BSc International Development	20	5

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and from an approved list, subject to timetabling constraints. The optional modules provide a choice of subjects or a guided selection of topics such that the student can tailor the programme to match their interests and career aspirations. Students also have the option to select a language module.

**Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):**

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AD2PPY	Professional Placement Year	120	5

As part of the Placement Year, students have the option to take a full year (minimum of 40 weeks) in full time employment.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

**Part 3 Modules:**

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AD3DIS	Dissertation (BSc International Development, and BSc Joint Hons with International Development)	40	6
AD3PDV	Power and Development	20	6

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and from an approved list, subject to timetabling constraints. The optional modules provide a choice of subjects or a guided selection of topics such that the student can tailor the programme to match their interests and career aspirations. Students also have the option to select a language module.

**Placement opportunities**

You have the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

**Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional

modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

### **Teaching and learning delivery:**

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, tutorials and seminars, depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work and/or supervised project work.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

### **Accreditation details**

N/A

### **Assessment**

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including class tests) and oral examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

### **Progression**

#### *Part 1*

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

## Transferring from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme

Students are able to transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to fulfilling the Part 1 University Threshold Standard, achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules in the subject to which they wish to transfer, and fulfilling any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

Students who transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

### *Part 2*

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

### *Professional/placement year*

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

## **Classification**

### Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

#### Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

*Three year programmes:*

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

*Four year programmes, including study abroad*

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

The classification method is given in detail in: Section 17: Awards: Bachelor's (including Annex 1: Programmes for which exceptional arrangements have been approved by Senate)

<https://www.reading.ac.uk/cqsd/-/media/project/functions/cqsd/documents/qap/17-awards-bachelors-degrees-withannex.pdf?la=en&hash=74C8E08A244D0F279DBF58EFE0CBBBEE>

For 2022/23 (and onwards) entrants only -Section 17: Awards: Bachelor's (including Annex 1: Programme for which exceptional arrangement have been approved by Senate).

<https://www.reading.ac.uk/cqsd/-/media/project/functions/cqsd/documents/qap/17-awards-bachelors-degrees-withannex-22-23-entrants-onwards.pdf?la=en&hash=2F9B8E53B57FF100297F9DD810C64BFE>

### **Additional costs of the programme**

If you undertake a Placement Year, associated costs will vary according to the nature and location of the placement and/or the study abroad host institution, and individual travel and subsistence arrangements.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2024.

**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

BSc International Development (full-time) for students entering Part 1 in session 2025/26  
22 May 2024

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