

Post Graduate Diploma in Development Studies (2026-2027) (1 Year Programme)



**Course
Prospectus
2026-2027**





Lectures, panel discussions, workshops at IDSK

Institute of Development Studies Kolkata (IDSK)
Post Graduate Diploma in Development Studies (2026-2027)
(1 Year Programme)

About IDSK

IDSK is an autonomous centre of excellence in social sciences, fully funded by the Government of West Bengal. It was established in 2002 as a registered society with a governing body comprising eminent scholars and government representatives. The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) recognised IDSK under the ‘New Category of ICSSR recognised Institutes’. IDSK is devoted to advanced academic research and informed policy advice in the areas of education, health, gender, employment, technology, communication, natural resource governance, population displacement, human sciences and economic development. The Institute is committed to dissemination of its research findings through scientific publications, public reports, workshops, seminars, publications in the media, and other public counselling and education programmes. IDSK conducted MPhil in Development Studies since 2006 and has been conducting PhD in Development Studies since 2016, under the auspices of the University of Calcutta.

During the twenty-two years of its existence, IDSK has made its mark in the world of research in social sciences. It has actively collaborated with the departments of history, economics, political science, philosophy, and business management, Ballygunge Science College, Centre for Urban Economic Studies, Women's Studies Research Centre and Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities of the University of Calcutta. IDSK has also actively collaborated with such other institutions as Monash University, University of Melbourne, University of Geneva, University of Rome “La Sapienza”, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, and others. The Institute regularly organises research training programmes for young scholars, often in collaboration with other academic institutions. The University Grants Commission sponsored the setting up of the Rabindranath Tagore Centre for Human Development Studies (RTCHDS) under the auspices of the IDSK through the University of Calcutta. The academic programmes of the Centre included organizing seminars, supporting doctoral research, hosting post-doctoral fellows and visiting academics at various levels.

Development Studies as a Professional Field

Development Studies takes an analytical view of development as it focuses on the social, economic, political and ecological processes leading to conditions in which every citizen of the present and future generation can live with an acceptable standard of living, dignity, peace, happiness, equity and justice in a sustainable environment. A development professional needs to possess the professional skill and ability to engage with many important stakeholders, ranging from national and sub-national governments, local bodies, community-based organisations, community leaders, political organisations, corporates, general public and academics. This requires excellent analytical and communication skills for making clear and engaging arguments without diluting the substantive content of the issue at hand.

Post Graduate Diploma in Development Studies (PGDDS)

The one-year Post-Graduate Programme is a diploma course in Development Studies which aims to combine rigorous academic study with practical skills. It is multi-disciplinary in nature, and designed to provide an understanding of various perspectives on development issues, through rigorous coursework and guided research. The perspectives are drawn from different disciplines, with a strong emphasis on the classics in social sciences and humanities. The strength of the course particularly lies in the balance it maintains between theory and hands-on training on tools of analysis, both quantitative and qualitative. The course will be taught by academicians as well as practitioners. It is designed to train fresh graduates as well as in-service professionals to acquire adequate analytical skills to pursue research-oriented and service-based career in development studies in academia, administration, media, non-government and corporate organisations. The training includes writing assignment, oral presentations, report writing, software learning, community work and dissertations. It intends to enhance a student's capacity to understand, analyse and reflect on developmental issues and exposes him/her to the ground realities in multiple settings through classroom lectures, workshops, projects, field work and outreach programmes. The course will be conducted by IDSK and diploma will be given by IDSK.

Career Opportunities and Further Higher Education

After completion of the course the participants are expected to find work in development agencies, research institutes, government, academia, civil/administrative services, NGOs, think tanks etc. Some of the areas where they can fit in are: (1) Development Planning, Consulting, Project Management or Programme Office; (2) Socio-economic and marketing research; (3) Impact Analysis; (4) Monitoring and Evaluation; (5) CSR Management in Corporate Organisations. In addition, leveraging IDSK's extensive alumni network and institutional linkages with research organizations, NGOs, government agencies, CSR initiatives, and development institutions, students gain exposure to a wide range of career opportunities and professional networks in the development sector.

The programme also serves as a valuable foundation for higher studies in development and social science disciplines. Several alumni of previous batches have secured admission to reputed institutions such as IIT Bombay, IIT Guwahati, Jawaharlal Nehru University, TERI School of Advanced Studies, and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, for several degree programmes. The interdisciplinary training provided by the course also equips participants with the conceptual and methodological foundations required for pursuing Ph.D. in development studies, and related fields.

Course Structure

The duration of the diploma course is one year consisted of two semesters and equally divided between coursework and guided research for writing report/dissertation. The first semester will be devoted to course work in which a range of core courses will be taught. The courses will maintain a balance between theoretical/analytical approaches and tools/techniques for writing research-oriented report. Hands-on training on collecting primary data from the field and analysing them will also be an important part of the course work. A few optional courses will also be offered depending on mutual interests of the faculty and students. The core papers are common and compulsory for all students. In the second semester, each student will identify a research area and apply the research methods to write a report on an important development issue.

The course is designed in a way to foster mutual learning and critical thinking and inspire innovative approaches to complex developmental issues. Different papers offered in this course will combine lectures, seminars, study circle, group projects and supervised research. Our course instructors are all active researchers with good experience of teaching and research and are highly capable of enhancing the learning experience by bringing in their applied knowledge and experiences of working on development issues. Students will be able to attend a wide range of formal and informal talks and can develop their professional skills through workshops on critical reading and writing, multi-cultural team work, participatory methods, research communication and policy engagement, research techniques and presentation skills.

Course Modules

The course comprises core modules and optional modules. Whereas core modules will be compulsory for every student, they are expected to choose one optional module based on their interest.

	Core Modules	Module ID	Title
First semester	A. Development: A Conceptual Introduction	A1	Perspectives on Development
		A2	Distributive and Relational Justice
		A3	Civil Society and Collective Action
		A4	Environment, Development and Climate Change
	B. Development as Practice: The Indian Context	B1	Social Development, Inequality, and Rights in India
		B2	Environmental Governance and Climate Action in India
	C. Research Methodology in Development Studies: Approaches, Tools, and Applications	C1	Application of Quantitative Methods in Development Studies
		C2	Application of Qualitative Methods in Development Studies
		C3	Data Analysis Using Software
Second semester	Field survey	D	Survey based research designs and field survey
	Optional Modules	E1	Rural/Urban Development
		E2	Environment, Migration, Development and Displacement
		E3	Labour – Formal and Informal, Social Security
		E4	Politics of Identity

Course Details

Core Module A: Development: A Conceptual Introduction

Module A1: Perspectives on Development

Since this is the first encounter of the students with development studies as a field of study, the foundational ideas such as the meaning and measurement of development and the basics of economic development and political economy are introduced. Long term progress of the economy

depends on the resource base on the one hand and the institutions, on the other. The debate on geography versus institutions is introduced. The module provides a balanced view on the modernist perspective on development and its critiques.

Module A2: Distributive and Relational justice

This module introduces the concepts of justice – distributive and relational. While sociologists focus on relational inequality and the structures that perpetuate such inequality, economists usually focus on the intricacies of measurement on the one hand and the interconnections between economic inequality and various other aspects of the economy, on the other. Concepts of inequality, poverty and social exclusion from a multi-disciplinary perspective are introduced. The processes of social exclusion encompass a wide range of issues which calls for an interdisciplinary approach to understand them. The module will highlight the social structures that contribute towards social exclusion of certain groups of people from the processes of development.

Module A3: Civil Society and Collective Action

This module explores the role of civil society in terms of collective action and social movements. The module begins with a conceptual framing of civil society and the different forms of collective action that civil society has been known to take up at different points of time. Then the module also links collective action and civil society conceptually to social movements, and specifically to new social movements, offering a wider lens to interrogate collective action by civil society actors.

Module A4: Environment, Development and Climate Change

This course examines the evolving debates on the relationship between environment and development, with a focus on sustainability in the face of ecological scarcity. It addresses climate change challenges, mitigation strategies, and the role of institutional mechanisms in shaping environmental and forest governance.

Core Module B: Development as Practise: The Indian Context

Module B1: Development, Inequality, and Rights in India

This module offers a critical examination of India's development trajectories, focusing on institutional and regional dynamics. It explores various dimensions of measuring development, including income, wealth distribution, and human development indicators. The module assesses social and economic inequalities in areas such as poverty, nutrition, health, and education. It also delves into social exclusion through field-based studies, and analyzes rights-based development approaches. The module also links collective action and civil society conceptually to social movements which have been very strong in the Indian sub-continent. It provides specific instances through which collective action has been stimulated in India. The social movements included in this module range from women's movements to gay and lesbian struggles to youth and Dalit assertions and tribal and disability movements.

Module B2: Environmental Governance, Movements and Climate Action in India

This module deals with climate change issues and policies and programmes adopted by India as mitigation strategy. Various institutional mechanisms and its implications on climate change and forest governance would be discussed. A brief idea would be given on state environmental regulation and development interventions leading to curtailing rights over resources. Environmental movements in India will be discussed.

Core Module C: Research Methodology in Development Studies: Approaches, Tools, and Applications

Module C 1: Application of Quantitative Methods in Development Studies

This course module introduces fundamental concepts in basic Statistics with a special thrust on their applications in Development Studies. Illustrative examples are used to develop the concepts of types of data, graphical and numerical summaries of distributions and associations between different types of variables, using the framework of exploratory data analysis. The model also introduces statistical tools for exploring the relationship between two or more variables using linear and non-linear regression techniques. Finally principal component analysis techniques, construction of index numbers are introduced and will be taught with applications of real data. The module ends with brief introduction to meta-analysis techniques.

Module C 2: Application of Qualitative Methods in Development Studies

This module addresses the broader methodological questions in social science research, introducing the various methodological positions that guide research on development. The first section of the module discusses the different methodological paradigms within the social sciences, namely positivism, interpretivism, social constructionism, critical theory and postmodernism, as the larger framework within which social research can be located. The second section of the module then takes up for discussion the qualitative research strategies that are usually used in social science research ranging from ethnography to case study to focus group discussion, oral history and archival sources, that can help students to become well versed in the use of these research strategies when they take up empirical research in the later part of the course. The third section deals with analysis of qualitative data.

Module C3: Data Analysis Using Software

This course provides practical training in statistical, spatial, and qualitative data analysis using software tools such as Stata, R, NVivo, and Atlas.ti. It covers data visualization, bivariate and regression analysis, spatial econometrics, and handling large-scale survey data. The module also introduces qualitative research software and methods for analysing textual and interview data.

1. Introduction to statistical & GIS software (Stata/R): interface and functionalities
2. Graphics in R/Stata (charts, graphs, histograms)
3. Bivariate & regression Analysis using Stata/R: Chi Square, Ttest, PCA, Regression
4. Spatial econometrics using R
5. Handling Large-scale Survey Data using Stata/R

6. Introduction to software for qualitative research (NVivo/Atlas.ti): interface and functionalities
7. Qualitative research analysis using Atlas.ti/Nvivo

Core Module D: Survey Based Research Designs and Field Survey

The purpose of this module is to teach the students all essential steps of a survey-based research design theoretically and then implement those steps by choosing a particular research topic which can be studied through a field-based research design. As far as theoretical part is concerned, the students will be taught different empirical research designs, methods of data collections, testing the reliability and validity of various survey instruments, survey ethics and different strategies and techniques of sampling and case selection for qualitative study. On the applied front, the students get hands on training of choosing a relevant topic for a survey-based research, doing systematic review of literature and evidence, identifying evidence gaps, preparing schedule and questionnaire and agenda for qualitative investigation, pre-testing of questionnaire, conducting the actual survey with both quantitative and qualitative instruments, coding of information, doing data-entry and cleaning, analyzing the survey data using various data entry and statistical software and finally writing report individually or in groups. Students are also taught free-source tab/mobile based survey and data entry software.

Field Study

The field survey, which is a compulsory module for all students, covers the following components: designing of questionnaire, sampling techniques, conducting the field survey, data coding, entry and cleaning and finally writing the field survey report based on analysis of field data by using quantitative and qualitative tools. For practical exposure to conducting the field survey, students are taken to a rural or urban area for a week and guided by faculty members. In the past few years, IDSK students have conducted field surveys on the following topics as part of their Masters (diploma) and MPhil Programme in Development Studies:

- Assessing Livelihood Vulnerability in Ghoramara Island, South 24 Parganas: Intersections of Agriculture, Fishing, Water Resources, and Climate Change
- Effects of Changing Livelihoods on the Residents of Hadia Village in West Bengal
- An assessment of the socio-economic profile of people living in select villages in South 24 Parganas
- An assessment of the implementation of NREGA in Birbhum district of West Bengal
- A study of Primary School dropouts in Birbhum district of West Bengal
- A study of the status of elderly population in Nadia District of West Bengal
- Health-seeking behaviour of people in 2 blocks of Birbhum district of West Bengal
- Exploring quality of life: a case study of Kaliaganj, Uttar Dinajpur
- Health insecurity and vulnerability across socio-economic classes: a study of Sarberia-Agarhati Gram Panchayat in North 24 Parganas district
- Assessing rural women's health, empowerment and economic status, a study of Urelchandpur and Daiji villages in Magrahat II blocks, South 24 Parganas
- People's awareness on select health, education, political issues, government schemes and citizen rights: A study of four villages in Pandua block, Hooghly district
- Impact of women credit co-operative society in Bansihari, Dakshin Dinajpur

- Livelihood choices and strategies in rural West Bengal: A study of Ausgram I Block, Burdwan district
- Livelihood, Resilience and Vulnerability: A Study of Sagar Island, South 24 Parganas
- Livelihoods of Forest Village Dwellers in Jalpaiguri District, West Bengal



Interviews and FGDs during field surveys by IDSK students

Eligibility

Any student, who has passed the undergraduate degree (a minimum of 50% for General/OBC and 45% aggregate marks for SC/ST candidates) in any discipline from any recognised university, is eligible. Applicants who are awaiting the results of the final part/semester examination of their under-graduation programme may also apply. Candidates, who are currently working or undergoing any regular course (above under-graduation) can also apply provided they can make themselves available to attend the classes (Friday evening and Saturday – full day). All the eligible candidates will have to sit for an online entrance test. The number of students to be admitted will not exceed thirty. Selection of candidates for interview will be based on his/her academic qualifications and performance in the entrance test. Thereafter only the short-listed candidates will be called for an interview.

Course Fees

The course fee per semester is Rs. 20,000, which is to be paid at the time of admission for the first semester and at the beginning of the second semester. The total course fee is Rs 40,000. Additionally, during the field survey, students are required to pay approximately ₹3,000 to cover field survey expenses.

Course Duration & Class Timing

The course will be of one-year duration, split into two semesters. Classes will be held on two days per week, preferably in the Friday evenings (5.00 -8.00 PM- tentatively online) and Saturdays (11.00 AM – 5.00 PM-offline at IDSK). A minimum of 60% attendance in first semester is mandatory for appearing in the first semester examination. As fieldwork constitutes an essential component of the curriculum, participation in the field survey is compulsory for all students.

How to Apply

An applicant is required to apply online, through a Google form, with complete, correct information, application fee and attachments. The applicant will be solely responsible for the authenticity of the submitted information. The link to the Google form is <https://forms.gle/5HuelkQ72L62itfp7>. Applications without the application fee will not be considered. Application forms have to be filled only in online mode (through a Google form) and no hard copy of the filled-in form will be accepted. Once paid, the application fee is non-refundable and non-transferable under any circumstances.

Application Fee

Application fee for the General/OBC category is Rs.600/- (Rupees six hundred only) and for SC, ST, and PwD category is Rs.350/- (Rupees three hundred and fifty only). Payment should be made online through NEFT/RTGS or UPI. The online payment reference number or transaction ID needs to be mentioned in the online application form.

For UPI payment, use the following QR code:



For making NEFT /RTGS, IDSK bank details are the following:

Account holder's name: Institute of Development Studies Kolkata
Account Number: 30195141536, IFSC: SBIN0001612
Bank: State Bank of India, Salt Lake Sector I Branch
Type of account: Savings

Contact Persons

For further programme and admission-related queries, get in touch with either of the following course coordinators:

Dr Saswata Ghosh

Dr Pallabi Das

Institute of Development Studies Kolkata

DD 27/D, Sector I, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700064

Email address: pgdds.idsk@gmail.com, idsk@idskmail.com, pallabipc@gmail.com

Phone number (033) 23213120/21. Extension numbers 245 (**Saswata Ghosh**); 251 (**Pallabi Das**)

Important Dates (tentative)

Last date for submission of a filled-in application	July 16, 2026
Online entrance examination	July 27, 2026
Publication of short-listed candidates to be called for interview	July 28, 2026
Interview of short-listed candidates (online/ offline)	July 30-31, 2026
Publication of the list of selected candidates	August 1, 2026
Completion of admission procedure	August 3-6, 2026
Admission date for waiting-list candidates (if any)	August 7, 2026
Commencement of classes (Tentative)	August 14, 2026

Facilities at IDSK

Library

IDSK library houses an impressive number of knowledge resources focusing on various research areas in Development Studies, Economics, Sociology, Geography, Demography, Education, Public Health, Political Science, Gender Studies, Anthropology, Ethnography, Environmental Studies, Regional Development, Human Sciences and Globalization. It began functioning in December 2002 on the 5th floor of Alipore Campus of Calcutta University. It moved to its present campus at Salt Lake in 2010. The library occupies two floors (2nd and 3rd floor) of the southern block of the building. Library has a total collection of 20,314 processed documents including books, bounded journals and other processed documents of which IDSK's collection is 10,078, Rabindranath Tagore Centre for Human Development Studies' collection is 4,102 and the rest 6,172 are gifted collections. The library subscribes to 27 print journals, 61 online journals of Sage publication, Economic and Political Weekly, and the New York Review of Books, The Economist and Review of Agrarian Studies. It has procured JSTOR Developing Nations Collection Package (2000 Journals) and e-books from Cambridge University Press. The library procures the Prowess IQ database and the Indiastat database. It has a substantial collection of CD-ROMs/DVDs relating to books, data etc.

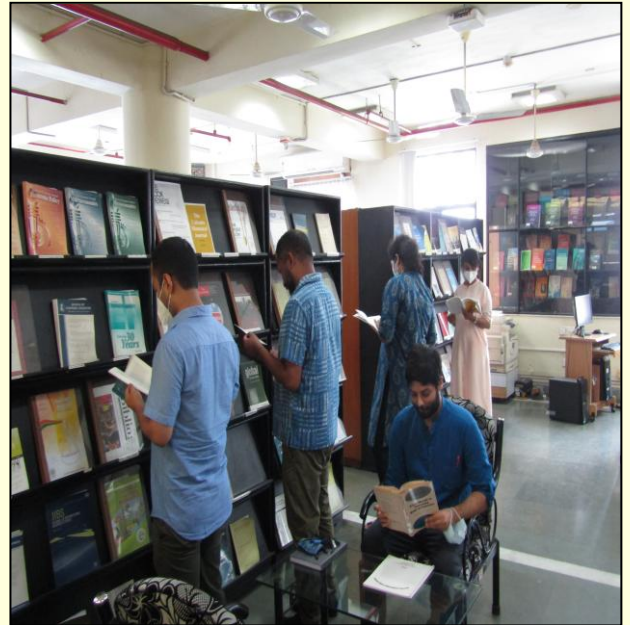
The internal users enjoy library lending, document delivery and reading facilities. IDSK Library also provides a reading facility to external scholars. The library provides the following services and facilities to its members: (a) lending facilities; (b) reading and reference services; (c) Web Online Public Access Catalogue services through computer terminals, smartphones and tablets; (d) document delivery services (both print and e-documents; (e) access to electronic library having

online and offline databases; (f) research assistance through helping referencing and citation management tools, plagiarism detection; (g) Interlibrary loan service – through DELNET, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Kolkata and American Library, Kolkata

Computing Facilities

The IDSK has well-furnished computer lab along with adequate infrastructure with compatible computer hardware and the latest networking equipment and software. Round-the-clock Internet access is available on campus to students, faculty and staff. Wi-Fi facility is available for all users. IDSK has a computer lab with 22 desktop PCs connected to the Internet and available for use by students and researchers. Network laser printers and HP colour scanners are available for printing and scanning purposes. The OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) of our library can also be accessed from the PCs in the computer lab. IDSK provides its faculty, research staff, and students with the latest statistical and econometric software such as Stata and NVivo.

Library



Computer laboratory and auditorium



Workshops organized at IDSK



Conferences and seminars at IDSK





Students with faculty members and office staffs



Faculty

Byasdeb Dasgupta

PhD in Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Professor and Director

Areas of interest:

Political Economy of Development, labour, Financial Economics, Gender Studies, Migration Studies

Anwasha Sengupta

PhD in History, CHS, JNU and CSDS

Assistant Professor

Areas of interest:

Decolonization in South Asia, Forced Migration Studies, Border Studies

Gorky Chakraborty

PhD in Economics, Dibrugarh University

Associate Professor

Areas of interest:

Development Related Issues in North East India

Nandini Ghosh

PhD in Social Sciences, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Assistant Professor

Areas of interest:

Gender Studies, Disability Studies, Qualitative Research Methodologies & Marginalisation Studies

Pallabi Das

PhD in Population Studies, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

Assistant Professor

Areas of interest:

Population Geography, Public Health, Cultural Demography, Nuptiality, Fertility, Spatial Econometrics

Rahul Rajak

PhD in Population Studies, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai

Assistant Professor

Areas of interest:

Occupational Health, Maternal and Adolescent Health, Urban Demography, Population Policies, Systematic Review, Meta-analysis, Narrative Review, Scoping Review

Saswata Ghosh

PhD in Population Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Associate Professor

Areas of interest:

Fertility Transition, Family Demography, Religious Demography, Historical Demography

Simantini Mukhopadhyay

PhD in Economics, University of Calcutta

Assistant Professor

Areas of interest:

Health Economics, Child Health and Nutrition, Measurement of Poverty and Inequality, Microeconometrics

Subrata Mukherjee (on lien)

PhD in Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Associate Professor

Areas of interest:

Health Economics, Labour and Migration, Quantitative Methods, Field Survey Techniques, Machine Learning Models

Supurna Banerjee

PhD in Political Science, University of Edinburgh

Assistant Professor

Areas of interest:

Gender, Women, Labour, Migration, Social Space, Activism, Caste, Violence



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