

M.A. IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

(2026-2028)

(2 Year Programme)



Institute of Development Studies Kolkata
University of Calcutta



The Institute of Development Studies Kolkata (IDSK), was promoted by the Government of West Bengal as an autonomous centre of excellence in social sciences and was founded in 2002 as a registered society with a governing body comprising eminent scholars and Government's nominees. It is fully funded by the Government of West Bengal. During the twenty-two years of its existence, IDSK has made its mark in the world of research in social sciences and humanities in India. In 2014 the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) recognized IDSK under the 'New Category of ICSSR Recognized Institutes'.

IDSK is devoted to advanced academic research and informed policy advice in the areas of education, health, gender, employment, technology, communication, governance, climate change, tribal issues, human sciences and economic development. Previously, its flagship programme included training of research scholars in the social sciences working towards MPhil, awarded by University of Calcutta. Presently, IDSK conducts PhD in Development Studies in collaboration with the University of Calcutta. The Institute is committed to dissemination of its research findings through workshops, seminars, publications in the media, and other public counselling and education programmes.

IDSK has actively collaborated with a good number of academic institutions in India and abroad. Its close association with the University of Calcutta started since its inception. Other institutions with which IDSK has actively collaborated in the recent years include the Monash University (Australia), University of Melbourne, University of Geneva, University of Rome "La Sapienza", Italy, and others.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) sponsored the setting up of the Rabindranath Tagore Centre for Human Development Studies (RNTCHDS) under the auspices of IDSK through the University of Calcutta. In 2026, a new Advisory Committee of this centre has been constituted by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta as Chairperson along with the Director, IDSK and other representatives from University of Calcutta and IDSK. This new committee accepted the proposal of the Director, IDSK to set up a sub-centre of RNTCHDS titled *Rabindranath Tagore Centre for Climate Change and Sustainable Development (RNTCCSD)*. The proposed Centre shall integrate the ongoing work at IDSK as well as in the various Departments under University of Calcutta on different dimensions of climate change and sustainability.

Development Studies as a Professional Field

Development Studies as a Professional Field 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.

REGULATIONS AND SYLLABUS FOR M.A. IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Regulations and Syllabus for Four Semesters (Two years) Master of Arts in Development Studies in the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata under University of Calcutta under the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS).

This Regulations and Syllabus is divided into **Five** Parts:

- Part I General Regulations,
- Part II Choice Based Credit System,
- Part III Course Outline, and
- Part IV Detailed Syllabus of First, Second, Third, and Fourth Semesters

PART I GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR M.A. IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

1. The Master of Arts in Development Studies shall extend over a period of two academic years, beginning from July each year under the Semester System with four semesters in regular mode. The First and Third Semesters (Odd Semesters) shall begin in July and shall end in December while the Second and Fourth Semesters (Even Semesters) shall begin in January and shall end in June.
2. Admission to this Master Degree Course shall be open to persons who have passed their 3-year B. A. /B.Sc./ B. Com degree with at least 120 credits of this University or any other University recognized by this University or UGC or any competent Regulatory authority in India and such degree has been obtained in regular mode (not in a distance mode) and admission to this Master Degree Course shall be on merit through admission test/counselling. Reservation for ST/SC/OBC/PH/EWS candidates will be applicable as per university rules. The students shall be awarded the degree of M.A. in Development Studies from the University of Calcutta after successful completion of the Course and passing all examinations.
3. The courses will be offered at **400 level in 1st and 2nd semesters** and at **500 level in 3rd and 4th semesters**. In the 1st, 2nd and 3rd semesters, there will be coursework along with practical and fieldwork wherever relevant. In the 4th semester, students will have to take up research in a topic allied to their interests in Development Studies. The students have to study **five (5) Core Courses** each in the First, Second, and Third Semesters, each of 50 marks amounting to 2 credits. There will be 2 papers of Discipline Specific Electives in each of the first 3 semesters, each carrying 50 marks and amounting to 2 credits. There will be 2 courses in Open Electives of 25 marks each and of 2 credits each. In Skill/Ability Enhancement and IKS modules there will be 1 course each of 25 marks and 1 credit each, in the first 3 semesters. In the fourth semester, there will be compulsory Dissertation and Viva-Voce of 250 marks and 24 credits (Dissertation 200 and 50-marks Viva-Voce). (Refer to Table in Part III)
4. At the end of each Semester there shall be one end-Semester University Examinations of each paper of 40 marks (except dissertation and viva-voce). Total Marks of this Master Degree Course shall be 1600. Each paper of 50 marks shall consist of 40 marks for the end-semester

examination and 10 marks for internal assessments. End Semester University examinations will be held twice in a year: one for Odd Semesters, and another for Even Semesters. The duration of the written examination shall be 2 hours and each paper shall carry a maximum of 40 marks. Duration of the theoretical examinations: Up to 25 marks: 1 hour, 26 to 50 marks: 2 hours, 51 to 80 marks: 3 hours, 81 to 100 marks: 4 hours.

5. Each student shall be required to attend at least 60% of classes to be eligible to appear for the end-semester examinations. A student attending at least 60% but less than 75% of the total number of classes held shall, however, be eligible to appear at the concerned End Semester Examination upon obtaining condonation order from the Director, IDSK and on payment of requisite condonation fees/short attendance fees as may be prescribed by the University/Institute from time to time. A student can appear higher semester examinations without appearing/clearing lower semester, but he/she shall complete this Course within four years from the date of admission in the First Semester. If a candidate unsuccessful to pass a semester can appear in next examinations of that semester. Pass marks of a paper of 50 marks is 20 and pass marks of a paper of 25 marks is 12, but pass mark of a semester is 50% in aggregate.
6. In the Fourth Semester, there shall be Dissertation and Viva-Voce is of 250 marks (Dissertation 200 and 50-marks Viva-Voce). Each candidate shall be required to submit three copies of the Dissertation. The Dissertation shall be evaluated internally and externally. The viva voce test shall take place at a declared date and time after the submission of the Dissertation.
7. This Master degree course shall be regulated under the Choice Based Credit System. For detail see Part II below.
8. A candidate is required to appear in the Internal Assessment as well as the End Semester Examination in each and every paper/course/module/part/group of the respective syllabus. A candidate in order to be declared to have passed an examination, must obtain at least 40% marks in each paper/course. Internal Assessment, wherein applicable, has to be done in the semester in which a candidate becomes eligible to appear in the concerned End Semester Examination and modalities of the Internal Assessment will be based on the recommendations of concerned Post Graduate Board of Studies. Marks obtained in Internal Assessment shall be retained for the entire duration of his/her enrolment.
9. A candidate who is eligible to appear at any of the End Semester Examinations does not enrol or does not appear at the examinations or fails to secure pass marks in any paper(s) at the concerned examinations, will be allowed to attend the classes in the next higher semester, as applicable.
10. A candidate may continue his/her course of study for the next higher Semester and appear at any higher End Semester examination without appearing at the lower End Semester Examinations subject to adherence to rules of attendance as mentioned in Clause 6 of this document
11. If a candidate fails to secure pass marks in one or more papers in 1st to 3rd Semester Examinations, he/she may appear in the Supplementary Examinations to be held after 3 months of the publication of results of each Semester Examinations. A failed candidate, intending to re-appear in a subsequent semester examination has to submit examination

form/application to the Controller of Examinations through the Director, IDSK as per the notice to be issued by the department of Controller of Examinations.

12. The schedule for the End Semester Examinations shall be prepared and announced by the Controller of Examinations based on the recommendations of the concerned Post Graduate Board of Studies.
13. An examination shall be held always under the current syllabus. Question papers shall be set in English.
14. Medium of Answer: For examinations in subjects (other than language-based ones) candidates shall have the option of writing their answers in either Bengali or English unless instructed otherwise in respective question paper(s).
15. The provisional result of each semester will be published showing the details of courses studied (code, title, marks secured, credits, grade point and letter grade) along with SGPA of that semester and Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of all the semesters.
16. Candidates appearing in a semester examination shall have to take admission to the next higher semester (wherever applicable) immediately after completion of the examination.
17. Application for review shall be restricted to theoretical modules/courses only. A candidate will be eligible to apply for seeking re-examination of his/her script if he/she appeared in the said semester examination as a whole but not appeared as supplementary candidate i.e. any candidate who appear for some courses (but not all courses) of the concerned semester of examinations will not be eligible to re-examine his/her scripts. Maximum two (02) theoretical modules/courses in any semester examination may be re-examined on request by the examinee subject to the condition that she / he secures a minimum of 40% marks in the rest of theoretical modules/courses in a semester.

In re-examination of module(s)/course(s) for any semester of Post Graduate Examinations, the marks awarded by the re-examiner in a particular module/course will be taken as the marks obtained by the examinee in that module/course.

Recommendation for re-examiner and third examiner to be proposed by the chairperson of the PGBOS and that should be duly approved by the Director IDSK.

Granting of Degree

18. Students intending to transfer to another university will receive a Transcript of their semesters that includes Letter Grades, Grade Points, and CGPA certification from the University of Calcutta in exchange for a specified fee.
19. If a candidate enrolled in a 2-Year Master's Programme chooses to exit after one year (having successfully completed two semesters with at least 40 credits), he/she will be eligible to receive a PG Diploma in the corresponding discipline. A candidate who chooses to exit must submit an application to the concerned authority at the time of admission to the 3rd semester.
20. In accordance with the Act and current Regulations in effect, a candidate shall be eligible for the Post Graduate Degree/Diploma, upon fulfilling the following conditions:

- The candidate has successfully completed all the theoretical and practical/tutorial courses/papers required for the Programme and gained the credits as required by the Regulations and Guidelines.

PART II CHOICE BASED CREDIT SYSTEM FOR M.A. IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

21. Grading System and Conversion of Percentage into Grade(S)

The following formula shall be applied for conversion of the percentage(s) to Grades and computing Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA) and Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) for 4 Semesters (2 years) M.A. in Development Studies at the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata allied to the University of Calcutta.

(A) The marks secured by the students shall be converted to the Grades as mentioned below:

% of Marks	Letter Grades	Grade Points (D)
90 to 100	O (Outstanding)	10
80 to below 90	A+ (Excellent)	9
70 to below 80	A (Very Good)	8
60 to below 70	B+ (Above Good)	7
50 to below 60	B (Good)	6
40 to below 50	C(Average)	5
30 to below 40	P (Pass)	4
0 to below 30	F (Fail)	0
	AB (Absent)	0

- (B) Letter Grade/ Grade Point: It indicates the performance of a student in a paper/course described as Letter Grade/ Grade Point as mentioned above. A student obtaining Grade “F” or “AB” with Grade point “0” shall be considered failed and will be required to re-appear in the examination.
- (C) Credit Points: Credit point is the product of grade point and number of credits for a course. Thus, credit points are obtained by multiplying credits in a course with grade point = Number of credits in a Course x Grade point.
- (D) Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA): The SGPA is a measure of performance of work done in a semester. It is ratio of total credit points secured by a student in various courses registered in a semester and the total course credits taken during that semester. It shall be expressed up to two decimal places.
- (E) Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA): The CGPA is a measure of overall cumulative performance of a student over all semesters. The CGPA is the ratio of total credit points secured by a student in various courses in all semesters and the sum of the total credits of all courses in all the semesters. It is expressed up to two decimal places.
- (F) Computation of SGPA and CGPA: The following procedure shall be used to compute the Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA) and Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA): First, the SGPA is the ratio of sum of the product of the number of credits with the grade points scored

by a student in all the courses taken by a student and the sum of the number of credits of all the courses undergone by a student, i.e. $SGPA (S_i) = \frac{\sum(C_i \times G_i)}{\sum C_i}$.

Where C_i is the number of credits of the i th course and G_i is the grade point scored by the student in the i th course.

The CGPA is also calculated in the same manner taking into account all the courses undergone by a student over all the semesters of a programme, i.e. $CGPA = \frac{\sum(C_i \times S_i)}{\sum C_i}$.

Where S_i is the SGPA of the i th semester and C_i is the total number of credits in that semester.

The SGPA and CGPA shall be rounded off to 2 decimal points and reported in the transcripts.

(G) Table of Letter Grade Norm

CGPA	LETTER GRADE
9 and above	O (Outstanding)
8 to below 9	A+ (Excellent)
7 to below 8	A (Very Good)
6 to below 7	B+ (Above Good)
5 to below 6	B (Good)
4 to below 5	C(Average)
Below 4	P (Pass)

(H) Assignment of Credit: The credit for each subject/ paper has been specified in the table below.

Dissertation and Viva-Voce paper shall have 24 credits. There shall be a total of 90 course credits.

PART III COURSE OUTLINE FOR M.A.IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

22. Every paper/subject consisting of 50 marks out of which 40 marks shall be for end-semester examinations and 10 marks shall be for internal assessment except dissertation and viva-voce. The dissertation is of 200 marks and the viva voce is of 50 marks. This Master's degree course is assigned to class participation, internal assessment, end-semester examinations, and a dissertation with viva voce. See also the detailed syllabus in Part IV.

	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
Core Courses	Introduction to Development Studies	Gendered Perspectives on Development	Evaluating Public Policy	Dissertation
	Perspectives on Development	Inequality and Social Exclusion	State Market and Public Policy	
	RM -I Quantitative	Quantitative Research Methods-II	Environmental Governance and Climate Action	
	RM -I Qualitative	Qualitative Research Methods-II	Population and Development	

	Development Experience in India	Field Survey I	Field Survey II 6 credits	
Discipline Centric Elective Course	2 courses to be selected from A1 to D1	2 courses to be selected from A2 to D2	2 courses to be selected from A3 to D3	
Open Elective Course	Data sources in Development	Food, Health and Wellbeing	Software based Data Analysis	Literature Review, Research Outline, Research Analysis, Research Presentation, Evaluation
	Information and Data Management	Museum, Heritage and History	Machine Learning and AI	
Skill/Ability Enhancement Courses	Effective Communication	Writing Social Research	Internship	
Indian Knowledge Systems	IKS	IKS	IKS	

Knowledge Resource Centre (Library)

The IDSK Library is an ideal place for knowledge enhancement of academics as well as research professionals. It began functioning from December 2002 at 5th floor of Alipore Campus of Calcutta University. It has moved to its present own campus at Salt Lake in 2010 and occupies two floors (2nd and 3rd floor, 1700 sq. ft. each) of southern block of the building.

The Library houses an impressive number of knowledge resources focussing on various research areas in Development Studies, Economics, Sociology, Demography, Education, Public Health, Political Science, Gender Studies, Anthropology, Ethnography, Environmental Studies, Regional Development, Human Sciences and Globalization. It has a total collection of 21063 processed documents including books, bound journals and other processed documents of which IDSK's collection is 10614, Rabindranath Tagore Centre for Human Development Studies' collection is 4102 and the rest 6358 are gifted collections.

From April 1, 2025 to 31st March 2026, the library has accessioned 44 purchased books, 12 gifted books and 2 PhD theses. The library subscribes the print journals: *Journal of Indian Anthropological Society*, *Awards Digest*, *Review of Agrarian Studies*, *Biblio: A Review of Books*, *Science and Culture*, *The Book Review*, *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, *Journal of Educational Planning and Administration*, *Sudhu Sundarban Charcha*, *Desh*, *Boier Desh*, *Social Scientist*, *Frontline*, *IASLIC Bulletin*, *Yojana*. *EPW* (online), *Down To Earth* (online), *The*

Economist (online), *The Caravan* (online) have also been subscribed by the library. It procures *EPWRF India Time Series and Indiastat databases* and purchases four newspapers, *The Hindu*, *Business Line*, *Business Standard* and *Labanhrad Sambad*. Recently the library has also received access of *ONOS platform*.

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 12 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.

Computer Facilities

Computer infrastructure of IDSK consists of compatible computer hardware and the latest networking equipment and software. Round the clock Internet access is available on campus to students, faculty and staff. All the computers on campus are connected through Ethernet-based LAN30 MBPS leased line is used for Internet connection throughout the campus. IDSK has a computer lab with 22 desktop PCs connected to the Internet and available for use by students and research staff. 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.

IMPORTANT DATES/ADMISSION SCHEDULE

Last date for submission of application	-- July 31, 2026
Dates for counselling	-- August 17 & 18, 2026
Publication of the list of selected candidates	-- August 24, 2026
Dates for taking admission	-- August 25-28, 2026
Commencement of classes	-- September 01, 2026

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



Paschimbanga Divas (West Bengal Day) Celebration at IDSK Auditorium
 Professor Ashutosh Ghosh, Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta with Director,
 Faculty Members, Students and Staff of IDSK



Conference, Workshop, Lecture at IDSK



Institute of Development Studies Kolkata
 (A Centre of Excellence in Social Sciences funded by Govt. of West Bengal
 & recognised by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, Govt. of India)
 DD-27/D, Sector-I, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700 064
 Phone: +91 33 2321 3120/21 E-mail: idsk@idskmail.com Website: www.idsk.edu.in