

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, PHD

Global Development Studies (GDS) offers interdisciplinary graduate programs leading to both the Master of Arts and PhD degrees. Both degree programs make considerable use of the techniques and concepts of social science disciplines, including Political Science, Anthropology, Sociology, Geography, Environmental Studies, History, and Economics, to critically analyze and engage with some of the world's most complex and enduring problems.

The PhD in GDS is an interdisciplinary doctoral program emphasizing research leading to an original contribution to the advancement of knowledge in GDS. The PhD Program specializes in political economy approaches to global development, with students encouraged to specialize in a specific sub-area such as:

- trade, fair trade and trade policy
- environment, climate change, and environmental governance
- migration, gender, and development
- global displacement
- agrarian change, food sovereignty and resource rights
- race and capitalism
- labour and development

Admission Requirements

The minimum admission requirements for this program are:

- a Master's degree with First Class Standing, equivalent to a minimum GPA of 3.70 on a scale of 4.30 (A-)
- a Master's degree in International/Global Development Studies, or a closely related social science discipline

In addition to the general requirements set out by FGSR for all doctoral applicants, applicants must submit:

- a 2,500 word research plan setting out in detail their proposed dissertation project and area of research
- a Letter of Intent outlining their preparation for pursuing doctoral level research, and
- an up-to-date curriculum vitae.

Language Requirements

Applicants to this program, whose first language is not English, must demonstrate their English language proficiency as outlined in Graduate Academic Regulation 1e (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/academic-regulations/admissions/>) with the following additional requirement:

- a TOEFL (iBT) score of at least 100 with no individual band below 20; or
- an IELTS score of at least 7.0, with no band below 6.5.

The deadline for applications is February 1st for entry in September of the same year. There are no deferred admissions to the PhD Program, and there are no mid-year (January) entries into the PhD Program.

Supervisor

In admitting students to the program, the Ph.D. Program Committee will take into account the availability of potential dissertation supervisors.

On entry to the Ph.D. program, students will be assigned a supervisor who will be appointed on the basis of his or her expertise in relation to the student's dissertation at the time of entry. Where a successful applicant has already identified an appropriate supervisor, every effort will be made to ensure that they are appointed as the student's supervisor. While applicants are not required to identify and contact potential supervisors before applying, they are strongly encouraged to do so.

Note: The Ph.D. Supervisor should normally be a tenured faculty member at Saint Mary's University or other post-secondary institution in Atlantic Canada. In the latter case, such faculty must be recommended by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research as Adjunct Professors at Saint Mary's University. These are the normal minimum requirements, but each case will be evaluated on its own merits.

Financial Support

Full-time students admitted to the program may be eligible for funding administered by Saint Mary's University. Funding recommendations are made by the program. All successful applicants are automatically considered for graduate funding. Students are encouraged to apply for external scholarships.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
GDST 7500	Advanced Development Theory (formerly IDST 7500)	6
This 6-credit hour course is split into two parts, allowing students to explore recent research at the highest level in development theory, and its implications for students' doctoral research. The first half of the course (Fall Term) is organized around class-based seminars, while the second half (Winter Term) will follow a Directed Study format, normally with the candidate's supervisor.		
GDST 7600	Advanced Doctoral Research Methods (formerly IDST 7600)	6
This 6-credit hour course is split into two parts, allowing students to explore traditional and recent research methods, both qualitative and quantitative, for collecting data relevant to participating students' research projects. The first half of the course (Fall Term) is organized around class-based seminars, while the second half (Winter Term) will follow a Directed Study format, normally with the candidate's supervisor.		
Comprehensive Exams		
In December of Year 2, PhD candidates will write comprehensive exams that are intended to evaluate both the breadth and depth of the student's knowledge of the field as it relates to their proposed research. Advancement in the Program requires the successful completion of one's comprehensive exams.		
The Dissertation Proposal		
In the Winter semester of Year 2 in the Program, PhD students shall defend a dissertation proposal that will provide a detailed overview of the student's research objectives, methods, arguments, literature, and research protocol of the proposed dissertation. Permission to advance in the PhD Program is dependent on a successful outcome of this defence. In cases of an unsuccessful defence, candidates will be given an opportunity to redefend in 4-6 months. Should the second defence prove unsuccessful, candidates will be required to withdraw from the Program.		
GDST 8000	Doctoral Dissertation (formerly IDST 8000)	6

Upon entry into Semester 2 of the GDS PhD Program, students must enrol in GDST 8000 - Doctoral Dissertation. This course will remain In-progress (IP) until the student successfully defends the dissertation, at which time a **Pass** or **Fail** will be entered for this course.

Normal Program Sequence

Year 1

- **Fall Semester:** Advanced Development Theory (formerly IDST 7500) (GDST 7500) and Advanced Doctoral Research Methods (formerly IDST 7600) (GDST 7600)
- **Winter Semester:** Advanced Development Theory (formerly IDST 7500) (GDST 7500) and Advanced Doctoral Research Methods (formerly IDST 7600) (GDST 7600)
- **Summer Semester:** Preparation of the comprehensive exams and dissertation proposal.

Year 2

- **Fall Semester:** Preparation for comprehensive examinations, to be scheduled during December of Year 2. Preparation of dissertation proposal.
- **Winter Semester:** Preparation and finalization of the dissertation proposal, to be defended by the end of the Winter semester.
- **Summer Semester:** Candidate begins structured independent and supervised research following the research protocol contained in the dissertation proposal. The research will consist of both primary data acquisition in the field and secondary research, as required by the research objectives of the dissertation.

Year 3

- Structured independent and supervised research
- Data analysis

Year 4

- The fourth year consists of all activities leading to the preparation of the final draft of the dissertation (extensive consultation with the supervisory committee, submission of various drafts of the dissertation for comment, either in whole or in part, final write-up, etc.), and will finish in a public, oral defence of the thesis and an examination of the candidate by the appropriate examination committee (the supervisory committee plus an external examiner).