

DEVELOPMENT, PHD

Admissions to the Development, PhD have been suspended as of spring 2019 and will be discontinued as of fall 2025. If you have any questions, please contact the department (academicaffairs@cals.wisc.edu).

The mission of the PhD program in development studies is to prepare PhD graduates for careers in social science research, policy, and education related to international development issues. The target audience includes people who wish to prepare for careers in international development as well as midcareer international development professionals who will return to their original employer or employment sector after earning a PhD. Applicants are expected to have experience working in developing countries. The program emphasizes interdisciplinary social science research and analysis designed to address the problems of developing and emerging economies.

Students from the United States and 40 countries have enrolled since the program was established in 1970. Over 125 alumni work in a wide range of capacities with various government agencies, nongovernment agencies, and universities in the United States and other countries. Most alumni from other countries have returned there to take up senior-level posts in government and other national institutions and in academia.