MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Master of Development Practice program provided me with the academic training, technical skills, and field experience to help me bridge the theory and practice of international development work. I was able to have access to practitioners, policy makers, and major players like USAID that helped to foster my professional development.

Frantzie Saint Juste

DEGREE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Addresses issues of poverty, social justice, and sustainable development in the developing world for those committed to public service

Teaches the knowledge and interdisciplinary tools to develop, assess, and evaluate alternative approaches to current and emerging issues in international development

Provides a dedicated cohort of international development professionals who share a passion for making the world a better place

Offers a thriving environment of dynamic discussions through policy forums with visiting scholars, community activists, and government leaders

Provides access to many departments, centers, and schools, taking full advantage of the talent and expertise across the University of Minnesota

Through dynamic interdisciplinary training in public policy, education, public health, and natural and social sciences, the Master of Development Practice (MDP) degree program prepares students for careers in international development, equipping them with the skills needed to address the problems of poverty, social justice, and sustainable development. While the large majority of our MDP students are focused on the developing world, some graduates use their skills to work in the domestic arena.

The MDP degree program spans seven academic units across the University of Minnesota and provides training in policy analysis and management, health and education, natural sciences, social sciences, and interdisciplinary research methods.

The MDP degree is jointly administered by the Humphrey School and University of Minnesota’s Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change (ICGC), which are members of the Global MDP Association.
POSITIONS HELD BY MDP GRADUATES
Career options span all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector.

SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER OF GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT
Republic of Liberia

CONSULTANT
Organization of American States, Washington, D.C.

POLICY OUTREACH ASSOCIATE
Center for Global Development, Washington, D.C.

INTERNATIONAL RECRUITER
American Refugee Committee, Minneapolis

SPECIALIST
International Horticulture Collaborative Research Support Program, University of California–Davis

PROJECT MANAGER
Health and Wellness Community Partnerships, HealthPartners, Minneapolis

The Twin Cities offer a wealth of opportunities to engage with the international community. Many local organizations work on development, trade, human rights, or other international issues, including the American Refugee Committee, Center for Victims of Torture, Global Volunteers, Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, International Institute of Minnesota, and The Advocates for Human Rights.

INTERDISCIPLINARY CURRICULUM
Drawing on the rich resources of the University of Minnesota, the MDP offers interdisciplinary coursework options ranging from epidemiology to environmental change, from global public health to agricultural systems, from educational reform to financial analysis, and many more.

REQUIRED CORE COURSES
- Ways of Knowing and Sustainable Livelihoods
- Research Methods for Sustainable Livelihoods
- Field Study and International Field Seminar
- Capstone Workshop in Development Practice
- Theories and Policies of Development
- Development Planning and Policy Analysis
- Empirical Analysis I
- Introduction to Financial Analysis and Management
- Economics of Development

PLUS COURSEWORK IN:
- Education policy
- Management and policy analysis
- Environmental sciences
- Public health

ACCESS TO EXTENSIVE RESOURCES
The Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change, which offers the core courses for the MDP, supports research and scholarship addressing issues of peace, conflict, security, social and environmental change, human rights, and international cooperation.

REQUIREMENTS
- Development practice orientation
- 50 semester credits
- Electives in the natural sciences, health and education, management and policy analysis, and social sciences
- International field experience

PREREQUISITES
- A four-year bachelor’s degree from an accredited U.S. university or foreign equivalent
- Competence in college-level algebra (functional notations; algebraic manipulation of polynomials, logs, exponentials; graphic representation of equations)
- Previous training in microeconomics and a grade of B or better in a college-level science course that teaches scientific methodology (examples include biology, chemistry, physics, environmental science, or ecology)
- Computer competency in MS Excel and Word
- International professional experience and foreign language competency strongly preferred
- If English is not your native language, you must pass the TOEFL or IELTS exam with a minimum TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based), 250 computer based), 100 (internet-based, minimum 22 on each section), or 7 for the IELTS. TOEFL or IELTS scores must be less than two years old.

APPLICATION MATERIALS
- Résumé
- Personal statement
- College transcripts
- GRE scores
- Three letters of recommendation
- TOEFL/IELTS scores (required for most non-native English speakers)

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
301 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
612.624.3800
hhh.umn.edu

"Through my research in the developing world, I have seen firsthand how people challenged by poverty, disease, and unemployment can build their own futures with the support and guidance of international development professionals. This is what MDP graduates do—what you can do with an MDP from the Humphrey School."

Professor Ragui Assaad, professor and director of graduate studies, MDP program