MSc programme in Migration, Mobility and Development

Burmese refugees in Thailand await resettlement to the USA. © IOM - MTH0304 (Photo: Thierry Falise)

This innovative new programme in the Department of Development Studies offers students the opportunity to combine study and analysis of critical perspectives on development and the increasingly important and related field of migration studies.

The MSc in Migration, Mobility and Development will focus attention on the political economy of migration from a historical perspective, major trends in migration theories, and different forms of and approaches to the study of migration and displacement.

The programme draws on the expertise of staff in development, migration and forced migration contexts from the Development Studies department, and encourages inter-disciplinary dialogue with other relevant departments and centres within SOAS.

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Programme Aims and Career Options

The MSc in Migration, Mobility and Development will provide a thorough analytical grounding in international migration including different types of forced and voluntary migration, facilitating the development of specialized knowledge of particular case studies, as well as overall trends and theoretical frameworks. A rigorous academic programme, it will also give students the confidence to think in policy relevant terms and will be equally valuable to those proceeding to professional employment in the sector with international organizations, NGOs and government bodies, and for students intending to go on to carry out PhD research.

Entry Requirements

Normally a good Upper Second class BA (Hons) degree in a social science subject. Relevant professional experience will also be taken into account.

Programme Structure

i)   **Migration and Development** 2 term core course
ii) EITHER
     Theory, Policy and Practice of Development 2 term core course, OR
     Political Economy of Development 2 term core course, OR
     another specified core course to be offered by the department
iii) **Optional courses** (two 1-term courses or one 2-term course) from optional courses offered within the department or from other departments in the School by agreement.
     Optional courses include (All 1 term unless otherwise stated)
     - Borders and Development in the age of Globalisation
     - Civil Society, Social Movements and the Development Process
     - Critical Introduction to East Asian Development
     - Development Practice
     - Famine and Food Security
     - Fundamentals of Research Methods for Development Studies
     - Gender and Development
     - HIV, Culture and Development
     - Industrial Globalisation and Development
     - Issues in Forced Migration
     - Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) as Development Agencies
     - The Political Economy of Violence, Conflict and Development (2 terms)
     - Problems of Development in the Middle East and North Africa
     - Security
     - War to Peace Transitions
     - African and Asian Diasporas in the Contemporary World (2 terms Anthropology Dept)
     - African and Asian Diasporas in the Modern World (1 term Anthropology Dept)
     Further information on all courses can be found on the Development Studies Department webpage http://www.soas.ac.uk/development/
iv) **10,000 word dissertation** on a topic relevant to the programme.

Duration

Full time over one calendar year, or part time over two years (daytime only).

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from:
i) the Department Web page http://www.soas.ac.uk/development/
ii) from the Programme Convenor and Admissions Tutor, Dr Tania Kaiser tk51@soas.ac.uk
iii) from the SOAS Student Recruitment Office study@soas.ac.uk.

Please note that while the information presented here is correct at the time of printing, course information is subject to change.

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Core course

The programme's 20-week core course will focus on the migration–development nexus, broadly conceived and defined. It will also expose students to a range of interlocking theoretical approaches which set out to account for constructions of and responses to migration and migrants, as well as to the scope and scale of migratory processes. Broadly, Term 1 provides analysis of the institutional, political, social and economic contexts where migration takes place and considers differentiated/mitigated effects. Term 2 builds on this to discuss types of migration via case study and other material, placing more emphasis on migrants' perspectives and how these are mitigated by 'contexts'.
Topics and themes include:

- Sedentarism and the study of migration
- Polities & economies of migration
- Colonialism
- Nations, states and territory
- Globalisation
- (Illegal) workers in the global economy
- Place and emplacement
- Assimilation/acculturation/discrimination
- Transnational migrants & mobile lives
- Trafficking
- Development and migration
- Diasporas and development
- Refugees and internally displaced persons
- Development-induced displacement
- Environment and refugees/displacement
- Climate change-related migration
- Policy responses to migration
- Transformations North and South

Refugees prepare for repatriation to Sudan