



International Development Thesis

Dr Ben Hunter

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Note. Do not register yourself for the International Development Thesis module online.

You should register for other modules and can transfer onto the Thesis module if a supervisor is found for your proposed project.

Module overview

Optional final-year module (30 credits),
taken in Autumn term or Spring term

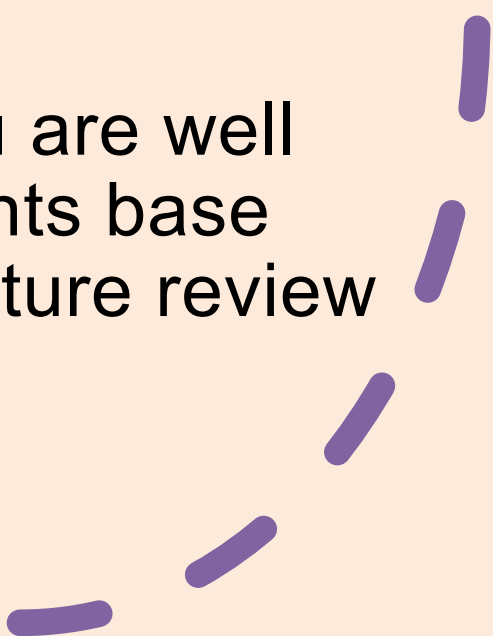
Independent research on an issue of your
choice

- set your own topic, research questions
and methods

Assessed by 8,000-word thesis

Supported by up to 2 hours of meetings
(usually 4 x 30-min) with an assigned
academic, plus a series of workshops
organised by the convener.

Opportunity to do fieldwork if you are well
organised, although many students base
their thesis on an extended literature review
or analysis of existing datasets



What's in it for you?

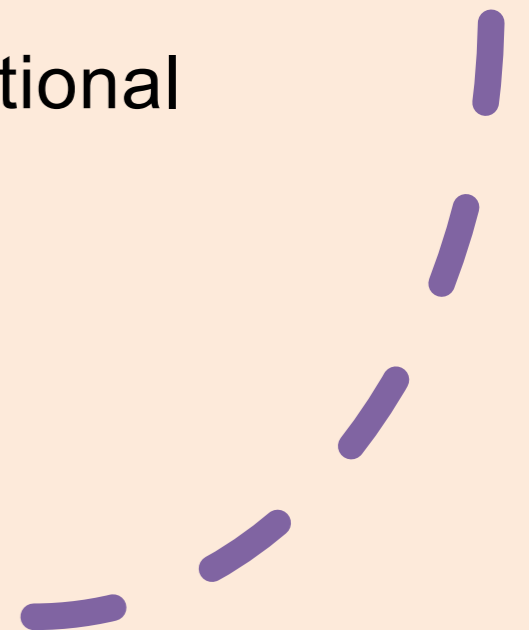
Experience of carrying out a research project from start to finish

Chance to explore a topic that interests you

Transferable and practical skills for future employment

Possibility to undertake independent fieldwork, in the UK or abroad (could be supported by [Nicola Anderson bursary](#))

Annual prize for the best International Development thesis



What does it involve?

Timeline	Milestone
By midday Friday 19th March (2 nd year, Spring term)	Two-page thesis proposal submitted to: benjamin.hunter@sussex.ac.uk
2 nd year, Spring term	Convener tries to allocate supervisor; notifies students of outcome
Summer between 2 nd /3 rd year	Begin reading and, if relevant, data collection
Autumn and/or Spring term, 3 rd year	Supervision meetings, group workshops, further reading, data collection (if relevant), and writing up
Spring term assessment period, 3 rd year	Thesis submitted



Previous titles have included:

Public art, tourism and urban transformations in South Korea

‘Why U Ruin Ridley Road?’: effects of gentrification on Ridley Road Market

Implementation of inclusive education in Tanzania: what are the benefits and challenges for inclusive schools in Dar es Salaam

The exploitation of hope: exploring child labour across three industries in Dhaka, Bangladesh

The ID Coordinator in the School office (intdevoffice@sussex.ac.uk) has a longer list of previous titles and copies of some full dissertations which you can request to look at

Tips from last year's ID thesis students and things they wish they had realised before starting

“I would have felt more comfortable knowing that you do not have to come up with an idea that is really new and original” – it can be a small contribution to knowledge

“You are not tied to the exact research questions you submit in the proposal” – projects naturally narrow and evolve over time, although the topic usually stays constant

“If you can, start reading on your topic during the summer” – this allows you to make best use of supervision time

“It took a lot longer than I expected to do primary research” – try to be realistic about what you can achieve in terms of access to people/data

Please look at the ID research pages to see the main areas of expertise in the department (<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/development/research/>). It will be easier to find a supervisor for you if your proposal reflects one of the ID areas of research.

Applying to do an ID thesis

Thesis proposals (max. two pages) to be submitted by email to: benjamin.hunter@sussex.ac.uk
by midday on Friday 19th March

Your proposal should include:

- your name, course (joint or single honours) and term in which you would like to take the module for credit (Autumn or Spring)
- a brief introduction to your topic and why it is important
- your (tentative) research aim and research questions
- proposed methods (including any relevant pre-existing connections if you are proposing fieldwork)
- a bibliography that indicates the type of literature you want to use