International Development Studies

CAREER GUIDE

What to do with a degree in ... INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

If you are questioning your career options or what others like you are doing with their degree this guide is a good place to start. It will provide you with industry specific information on careers, schools, associations, labour market information, and more.

Career & Leadership Development Centre
dal.ca/cldc
Overview of Major and Job options

The world seems to get smaller and smaller everyday. Poverty, political instability and ethnic and religious divisions faced in developing and Third World countries have an impact on life in Canada. And vice versa. Policies made by our government can affect the lives of people halfway around the globe.

International Development Studies aims to foster greater understanding between developed and underdeveloped societies through study, research and cross-cultural learning experiences. [Dalhousie Canadian Studies Department]

Like many degrees, international development studies does not prepare you for a single career path. Instead it provides you many options. The career options available to you will likely depend on what transferable skills you have developed, and your career interests and goals. When considering where to start keep in mind any significant projects you were involved in, internships, personal strengths, past employment, and other background information that may guide you.

Though you can end up in a variety of jobs with this degree the skills you have developed may make you especially competitive in the following areas:

- Politics
- Non-Profit
- Fundraising
- Tourism
- Foreign Service
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Economics
- Public Relations
- Trade, Import, and Export
- Social Activism
- Immigration
- Foreign Aid Agencies

It is also important to identify positions outside of your field but within your skill set. In your studies you will have developed a number of transferable skills that can be used across multiple fields. These skills include:

- Cross-cultural competency
- Political understanding
- Critical thought
- Business Development
- Economic understanding
- Ethical citizenship
- Persuasive writing
- Resource sustainability
- Program analysis

Some graduates seek additional education after their degree. By doing so they can better target a specific area of employment that pairs well with their degree. Whether you seek a graduate degree, undergraduate degree, or certificate program, additional education can opens up a variety of other options. Here are some options available to a international development studies graduate who has completed additional training:

- Stock Broker
- Lawyer
- Teacher
- Government Administration
- Market Analyst
- Interpreter/Translator
- Economist
- Health Care Aide

With the plethora of options a international development studies graduate can choose, it can be hard to know where to start when looking for a career. It would be of value to try out as many different jobs, positions, and experiences to help discover what you are good at and enjoy. This will help point you in the right direction when looking for a career path.
Opportunities in Your Program

Study Abroad - Explore two distinct programs, the Cuba Intensive Program (6 weeks & one full credit) and the Cuba Semester Program (12 weeks & three whole credits). Or explore other programs offered in India, Uganda, and Kenya.

Opportunities at School

Involvement in extra curricular activities will make you a more competitive candidate for positions in your field. It will also give you the chance to focus on any specialties you are interested in. Consider joining a program like the ones listed:

- DAL Action
- Dalhousie World Vision Society
- Dalhousie Entrepreneurial Society
- Dalhousie Islamic Relief

- IDEAS
- DALConnects
- Dalhousie Global Brigades
- Dalhousie Model United Nations Society

The Dalhousie Co-curricular record (CCR) is a great way to track your extra-curricular involvement and display it for employers. Visit dal.ca/ccr to learn more.

Summer Jobs and Volunteer Work

Summer jobs and volunteering are great ways to gain experience, develop specialties, and discover what you like in a job. Check out these resources:

Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)
A program that provides post-secondary students with experience related to their field of study.

Talent Egg
This website provides postings for internships, co-ops, volunteer opportunities and entry level jobs.

Volunteer Halifax
A posting board where non-profits in Halifax post their volunteer opportunities and positions.

Fusion Halifax
A resource linking local organizations with young people.

Professional Associations & Conferences

Professional associations and conferences are a great way to network with professionals in your field. This is especially true for graduate students. Below is a sample listing of professional associations that may be worth examining.

The Canadian Association for the Study of International Development  
www.casid-acedi.ca

International Development Conference  
http://www.utoronto-idc.org/
Undergraduate

Offered through the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, International Development Studies gives students an interdisciplinary education at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Students draw upon a wide range of subjects to tailor their degree programs, including biology, comparative religion, economics, language study, political science, sociology and social anthropology.

Core classes in IDS will introduce you to a broad overview of the themes and issues which define the study of international development — the challenges of debt, development assistance, aid and disasters. These core classes will consider international development from a variety of viewpoints, whether liberal, socialist, conservative or populist.

In addition to IDS core and elective classes offered by the department, you can take classes offered by other departments for IDS credit. These include classes in biology, comparative religion, Earth sciences, English, economics, environmental studies, history, philosophy, political science, sociology and social anthropology, and women’s studies.

IDS students are encouraged to acquire competence in basic statistics and research design, as well as one relevant language in addition to English — for example, Arabic, French, Spanish or Russian — to advance your communications skills with those from other countries.

As an interdisciplinary program, IDS recommends students consider combined degree programs. Students are therefore encouraged to enter the combined honours or double major programs, which provide opportunities that further integrate their IDS studies with those of an approved arts or science field. Double majors and combined honours degrees provide additional opportunities for students to pursue graduate studies in more than one area.

[Dalhousie International Development Studies webpage]
There are many other established international development studies programs in Canada and abroad. A great resource for examining post-secondary programs is Career Cruising. Career Cruising can be accessed through your Dalhousie MyCareer profile or by visiting the Career & Leadership Development Centre. Below are some notable international development studies programs:

**University of Ottawa**
Location: Ottawa, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Economics, Politics and Globalization, Developing Countries, International Development Funding.

**University of Guelph**
Location: Guelph, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Geography, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, Food and Agriculture, Epidemiology, Philosophy.

**Wilfrid Laurier University**
Location: Waterloo, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  

**Saint Mary’s University**
Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia  
BA, MA, PhD  

**University of Waterloo**
Location: Waterloo, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Environmental Studies, Social Sciences, Business, Languages Sustainable Development, Economics, Culture and Ethics, Organizational Behaviour.

**Queens University**
Location: Kingston, Ontario  
BA, MA  
Subject areas: Trade, Aid and Finance, Cultural Production, Gender, Sexuality, Indigenous Peoples, Economics.
Labour Market Information

Given the broad array of directions you can take a international development studies degree it is difficult to choose a specific sector to analyze the job outlook. So to begin it is important to first identify the sectors that international development studies students work in. Looking at LinkedIn statistics on Dalhousie alumni, it appears that most alumni end up in the following fields:

- Education
- Consulting
- Research
- Sales
- Operations
- Entrepreneurship
- Media and Communications
- Program and Project Management
- Marketing
- Business Development
- Information Technology
- Engineering

Projections

The following Labour Market Information (LMI) was taken from jobbank.gc.ca. It represents the 2013-2015 projection period. For jobs with a 4 digit number you can use that number on Job Bank to look up additional information on the field.

For more LMI on other jobs within your field click on 'Explore Careers‘. If you search by occupations or education program then click on outlook for specific LMI.

Good Outlook ★★★ (3 out of 3 stars)

The best career outlooks for individuals with an international development studies degree are:
- Financial Auditors and Accountants (1111), Shippers and Receivers (1471), Retail Trade Supervisors (6211), and Sales Representative and Wholesale Trade (6411).

Fair Outlook ★★ (2 out of 3 stars)

Jobs for international development studies majors in Nova Scotia with a fair outlook include:

Limited Outlook ★★ (1 out of 3 stars)

Jobs for international development studies majors with a limited outlook within Nova Scotia include: Government Program Officers (4168), which includes jobs such as Foreign Service Officer, and Federal-Provincial Relations Officer. Other jobs with a limited outlook include Senior Government Managers and Officials (0021), and Immigration Officers (1228).
Online

My World Abroad - http://myworldabroad.com/
A global career site for individuals who want to go abroad to study, volunteer, intern, teach or work. To get full access to the site for free access the link in the career resource section of myCareer.

MyCareer - https://mycareer.dal.ca/
A resource for Dalhousie students to connect with jobs, employers and career related events on campus.

TalentEgg - tallentegg.ca
A great website to find internships, student jobs, and entry level positions. You can also find great advice and career guides. In addition to this, TalentEgg has challenges to help young people build transferable skills.

Tiger Society - https://tigersociety.dsu.ca/
This site lists all Dalhousie Societies and information about them. You can register to join a society through this site.

Career Beacon - careerbeacon.com
Provides job listings and corporate profiles with a strong presence in Nova Scotia and other Maritime Provinces. It can be a great resource for identifying what jobs are in your field and what skills employers are looking for.

Career Cruising - careercruising.com (log on available through MyCareer)
A comprehensive website that provides information to help you make informed choices about your career path.

Employment and Social Development Canada - National Occupational Classification
Contains occupational information and is used to find jobs that exist within Canada’s labour market.

Print


The Canadian Student & Grad Job Search Directory. Senor Media inc.

What Color is your Parachute: A practical manual for job-hunters and career-changers (2014)

How to Find a Career With Your Humanities Degree in 126 Days (2009). James Mulvey

* Located within the Dalhousie Career & Leadership Development Centre

Other

Career Counselling - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This free service is a confidential and collaborative process in which you work with a career counsellor who assists you in your educational and career decision-making

Career & Leadership Development Centre - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This resource centre can provide you with all the career tools and resources you need. Drop in for assistance with resumes, cover letters, interviewing and more.

DALConnects - Leadership Program - dal.ca/dalconnects
This program will connect you with leadership opportunities and workshops.
Coordinator, Food Safety Projects

Position: Full Time - Salary: $65,000-70,000 - Hours: 40

Our company assists the government in developing policies, programs and projects to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition. We help develop agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors and use natural resources in a suitable way.

The overall goal of the projects is to strengthen the capacity of Bangladesh institutions to manage safety in the food chain, including through the National Food Safety Laboratory, and the newly created Bangladesh Food Safety Authority.

Duties

• Coordinates project matters such as work plans, budgets and ensures timeliness of deliverables and reporting of progress;
• Supports the engagement of government departments, food safety projects and relevant stakeholders to ensure the involvement and inclusion of all partners in food safety activities;
• Plans and coordinates project requirements and full project implementation and liaises with other stakeholders as well as with senior food safety advisors assigned to the projects;
• Initiates and oversees project life cycle (recruitment, LoA processes, procurement, budget monitoring, reporting closure formalities, etc);
• Prepares terms of reference reflecting the outputs and results of the projects against agreed work plans, and identifies constraints and issues that require timely resolution and corrective actions; and
• Supports and coordinates the process of selecting suitable international and national consultants to work on the project activities.

Qualifications & Skills

Minimum Requirements:
• University degree in economics, development studies, or related field; and

• Relevant experience in programming, planning, operations, and/or implementation of development projects in a national and international environment.

Technical/Functional Skills:
• Work experience in more than one location or area of work, particularly in field positions is desirable;
• Relevant experience in project operations, budgeting and coordination activities;
• Relevant experience liaising with stakeholders;
• Relevant experience implementing food safety related project activities; and
• Knowledge of another language.

Make sure you tailor your resume to the position by examining the responsibilities and matching your experiences with them. By examining job ads you can identify skills/experience gaps you should develop throughout school.

Skills you will have developed throughout your education and can further develop by working or volunteering at an NGO:

• Can develop by studying abroad or through a summer job.
• Skills you can develop in a society or Dial After Dark.
• By targeting a specialty throughout your degree you can make yourself competitive.
• Fulfill this requirement by studying another language while completing your degree.
For more information, comments, or questions please contact:

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