

2025 – 2026

Master of Arts in International Development

The MA in International Development focuses on development theory, policy-oriented decision-making and analysis, politics of institutions, and in-demand practical skills. The program prepares students for careers in government, multilateral and bilateral development agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. Development graduates also enter relevant doctoral programs.

The program reflects an approach to development that emphasizes not only economic issues but also the importance and interrelatedness of sustainable economic and human development, human rights, and environmental sustainability. We emphasize the diversity of needs, desires, opportunities, and constraints experienced by individuals of differing socioeconomic classes, ethnicities, and genders, as well as differences among nations and regions.

Students gain analytical skills that address not only policy issues, but also the logics and workings of diverse institutions that create, negotiate, and implement development policy. Students also engage the many power differentials that profoundly influence processes central to sustainable development. These power differentials exist not only among nations, but also among public- and private-sector partners within development programs; between development practitioners and their intended beneficiaries; and among those intended beneficiaries. Thus, we also engage with actors and processes across levels from the most macro-level international institutions and initiatives to the most micro-level agendas and actions taken by communities, firms, movements, and individuals.

The program provides training in key practical skills identified by development employers, including communications, quantitative analysis, program/project-focused management and assessment, qualitative and participatory field research, and cross-sectoral framework development. Through internships, students gain experience in meeting the challenges of development practice while applying these skills and their knowledge of ideas, institutions, and processes that have influenced the course of international development.

Curriculum Overview:

Candidates must complete sixty (60) credit hours.

Substitutions *must be* approved, in advance, by the degree director. Students should prioritize completion of the Degree Core and the Statistics requirement during their first year.

A list of recommended electives is available from the degree director. The director will be available to help students shape specializations and to identify relevant electives.

Degree Requirements:

1. Korbel Core – (4 credits):

- INTS 4091 - Great Issues in International Relations (*offered each Fall quarter; take as early in the program as possible*)

2. **Degree Core (three courses - 12 credits):**

- INTS 4350 - Economic Development
- INTS 4468 - Politics of Development
- One of the following:
 - INTS 4215 Gender, Aid, and Development
 - INTS 4353 Environment and Development
 - INTS 4435 Health and Development
 - INTS 4521 Postcolonial Thought and Decolonizing Development

Note: Not all of the above will be offered every year. To experience the degree as a cohort, you are encouraged to take the core course offered in Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters of your first year.

3. **Specialization (three courses - 12 credits):**

Specializations are sets of three, full credit courses (12 credit hours) that a student takes within their degree that are centered on a common topic, region, or degree-relevant methods and must be approved by the degree director. Korbel specializations are open specializations, which is to say that they are totally customizable and can be drawn from any and all eligible University of Denver graduate courses. The key is that they must be approved on submission for graduation by a student's degree director and students are encouraged to engage their degree director early in the process on what are approvable sets of courses. Specializations do not go on transcripts, so it is possible to organize courses into more than one set of three, but for completion of degree requirements, only one specialization is submitted as such on your program statement. Students who participate in a Korbel Certificate will put three of their certificate courses in their specialization and the other three in electives to fit the certificate within the 60 credit hours required for their degree. For more information on Specializations, see the Korbel Student Affairs Digication site.

4. **Skills Requirements (12 total credits):**

- INTS 4057 - Statistics
- A total of 8 more credits (in the form of 4-credit or 2-credit skills courses) of INTS or PPOL skills coursework drawn from the Korbel School Skills List. This list is updated annually and can be found on the Korbel Student Affairs Digication site. Students may also utilize graduate level skills courses in other DU departments/schools with pre-approval of their degree director.

5. **Internship:** Required (registered as INTS 4981) for 0 or 4 credits

- Please see the [Student Affairs Digication site](#) for more details

6. **Thesis (4 or 8 credits) or Substantial Research Paper (4 credits):** Optional

- Please see the [Student Affairs Digication site](#) for more details

7. **Supporting Courses:** Students will fill out their academic program as needed to reach the minimum requirement of **60 credits** with graduate level courses in fields and areas of study related broadly but directly to international studies (public policy) or research/policy areas and/or skills already established in their required coursework. These courses can be from Korbel (INTS or PPOL) and/or other relevant graduate departments/programs associated with the University of Denver or beyond. Courses from beyond Korbel should be pre-approved by the student's academic advisor. The total number of credits allowed for the degree beyond Korbel cannot be more than 12.

Degree Director(s):

Prof. Aaron Schneider

Aaron.Schneider@du.edu

303-871-3601

<https://du.digication.com/korbelgradstudents/international-development>