

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Bachelor of Arts



Introduction to the Major

Students in international development and social change (IDSC) envision a more just world and gain the tools to make that world possible.

IDSC majors learn about the dynamics that shape our world with the aim of promoting equity and justice. Through classwork and community-based learning, students gain a deep understanding of the interplay of international, regional, and local dynamics as they prepare to become agents of social change. Students explore the varied institutions and actors that advance the global development agenda and learn about alternatives to mainstream development.

Highlights

Enjoy the benefits of being part of our renowned program, which is built on more than 35 years of collective field experience. Specializations within the major include health equity and reproductive rights, peace building, agriculture and food security, education and youth, gender equity, environmental sustainability, climate change, human rights and justice, and displacement and forced migration.



"I helped build an urban garden and workspace in Bogota, Colombia. The interdisciplinary nature of the project made it incredibly inspiring and ultimately successful."

- Carla Lee Perez '19



What can I do with my major?

JOBS & EMPLOYERS

Research and activism are hallmarks of the IDSC experience at Clark, from promoting sustainable development through local action to devising technological solutions to food shortages in developing nations. Our graduates — who have gone on to work for organizations including The World Bank, UNICEF, Care USA, Partners in Health, and the National Democratic Institute — work to create a better world every day.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Alumni have pursued advanced study at Brown University, Columbia University Teachers College, The New School, and University of Edinburgh.

Major Requirements

The IDSC major requires 12 units, divided into three categories:

1. **Foundational Courses** - An overview of IDSC, which is an interdisciplinary major
2. **Community Engagement and Effective and Ethical Practice** - Develop skills through a required internship or applied research project, as well as a research methods, intermediate language competency, or a Problems of Practice (POP) course.
3. **Area of specialization** - Focus on one topical area in the field of development.

Find out more at clarku.edu/programs/major/international-development-and-social-change-ba/

YOUR CLARK EXPERIENCE



Discover and Demonstrate your Purpose



Cultivate Your Communities



Engage Locally & Globally



Develop your Professional Identity

Year 1



Explore the International Development major

Take a 100 level course - Culture, Health, and Development and International Development and Its Alternatives are great places to start! Introduce yourself to the IDSC coordinator and learn more about core courses and major requirements.



Get Connected

Get involved in Worcester through the community engagement fairs. Explore the Peace Corps Prep Program to combine intercultural experience and community-based project learning.



Getting from here to there

Get started on your career exploration by visiting the Career Lab in ASEC to work on your resume. Build your language skills or start learning a new language to prepare for study abroad, research, or an internship in a different linguistic setting.

Year 3



Spread your wings at Clark

Look for courses in geography, political science, history, language, literature and culture, or economics that complement your major.



Plan for senior year and beyond

Consider applying for the 4+1 Accelerated Master's Degree. Explore if graduate school is right for you and connect with your career adviser to strategize and plan.



Connect with alumni

Look up IDSC alumni on LinkedIn. Consider doing an informational interview with someone in a job that interests you.

Join the Alumni Job Shadow Program to experience a day on the job in your fields of interest or build essential skills through an internship.

Year 2



What regions of the world interests you?

Take courses on a country or region and learn about your options to study abroad and away during your junior year!



Prepare for undergraduate research

The international development methods course will jumpstart your research interests and ideas. Visit the annual ClarkFEST to be inspired by your peers.



Ready for an internship?

Meet with your career adviser for support exploring opportunities with a variety of organizations including Ascentria, AIDS Project Worcester, Terra Cura, Girls Inc., and more. Connect with faculty to explore international internships.

Year 4



Share your knowledge

The IDSC fall capstone event and ClarkFEST are great places to present about your internship, honor's thesis or capstone project. Presenting helps build your skills, experience, and confidence.



What's next?

There are so many things to do after graduation! Learn about Americorps, City Year, Peace Corps, or a Fulbright fellowship. Ask faculty to serve as references for graduate school applications.



Get ready to launch

Check in with your career adviser to polish your resume, create a stellar LinkedIn profile, and try a mock interview. Attend career-related events to meet recruiters and learn about opportunities.