

University of the Free State
Centre for DevelopmentSupport
Applications for Masters of Development Studies (MDS) Programme - 2024

Please complete the following two tasks:

1. Compose an essay (3 000 words; Arial or Times New Roman 12 Size Font, Single Spacing) on what you consider as the major development challenges facing your region/locality. Consider the practicalities of improving the state of human development in that region/locality and construct an argument for how it could be done.

The essay will be assessed critically graded, therefore pay attention to the following issues:

- Brief background to your region;
- Challenges facing the region;
- Construction of argument;
- Academic writing style;
- Plagiarism; and
- Referencing

The essay will be assessed in terms of the following assessment rubric – please ensure that you attend to all the sections of the rubric:

Section	Content	Marks
1. Introduction	Purpose of essay; Research Problem; Lay-out	10
2. Brief introduction to region / locality	Concisely describe the region/locality your essay will be dealing with. Do NOT deal with countries but stay with regions, provinces, towns etc.	10
3. Development challenges	Identify a maximum of three development challenges facing the above region/locality and describe them in detail. Look at economic, social, political factors playing a role.	20
4. Possible practical solutions	Describe possible solutions to the developmental challenges using real-life current or future solutions to the challenges	20

5. Conclusion	What is your own opinion on what should be done?	10
6. Technical Care	Make sure that ALL sources are acknowledged in the text (Harvard Referencing Technique) and that ALL sources are included in a bibliography at the end of the essay. Language is correct. Pages and sections are numbered. Plagiarism will be monitored.	10
7. Organisation	Make sure the arguments made are well-structured and presented in a logical fashion. The challenges should be scrutinized and solutions synthesised in an orderly fashion. Independent thinking will be important.	20
TOTAL		100

- Write a motivation on why you wish to be included in the Master of Development Studies Programme (500 words; Arial or Times New Roman 12 Size Font, Single Spacing). Focus on your past experience in developmental issues and your future planning on the utilisation of the MDS qualification in addressing developmental challenges in your professional environment.

Please note that the essay will be subject to plagiarism checks and AI verification. The plagiarism and AI use should not exceed 20%, as stipulated in the UFS plagiarism policy.