

Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies



Programme Overview

The Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Development Studies at the University of the Free State (UFS) is a one year distance learning programme designed to strengthen students' knowledge in the interdisciplinary field of Development Studies, to equip them with the skills to address development challenges in a range of contexts, and prepare them with the ability to relate knowledge to a range of contexts in order to undertake professional or highly-skilled work. The programme includes themes such as poverty, governance, regenerative sustainability, conflict-sensitive development, community development and project management, preparing students to make meaningful contributions in the public, private, and civil society sectors. The programme is offered online only, providing flexibility for working professionals and international students.

Who should apply?

This programme is ideal for:

- Individuals passionate about addressing development challenges.
- Professionals seeking to enhance their skills in community development, governance, and project management.
- Scholars from across Africa are particularly welcome.
- Those interested in advancing their careers in the development sector.
- Students and graduates aiming to pursue further studies, such as a Master of Development Studies.

www.ufs.ac.za

*Inspiring excellence,
transforming lives
through quality,
impact, and care.*

VISION **130**
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towards 2034

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



UFS
ECONOMIC AND
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Why Study PGDip in Development Studies at UFS?

The PGDip in Development Studies at UFS offers:

- A unique blend of theoretical and inter-disciplinary knowledge and practical skills.
- Access to expert faculty in the Centre for Development Support.
- Flexible online learning, accommodating working professionals, distance learners and international students.
- Opportunities to engage with real-world development issues and projects.

Career opportunities

Graduates can pursue careers in:



Development
agencies



Corporate Social
Responsibility (CSR) initiatives



Non-governmental
organisations (NGOs)



Community-based
organisations



Government departments



Research institutions

Curriculum

The programme consists of seven (7) compulsory modules, each at NQF Level 8, totalling 120 credits:

Development, Underdevelopment and Poverty (16 credits)	Conflict Sensitive Development (16 credits)
Governance and Development (16 credits)	Research Methods for Development (20 credits)
Regenerative Ecology and Development: Beyond Sustainability (16 credits)	Project Management for Development Practitioners (20 credits)
Community Development (16 credits)	

Admission Requirements

Applicants must have:

- Bachelor's or BTech degree, or a relevant Advanced Diploma in a related field with an average of 60%.
- A written motivation of 200 words as to why the candidate wishes to study the PGDip in Development Studies.
- An essay of 2000 words on the topic "What do you consider to be the most significant development challenges facing your region?"
- Certified Copies of their previous qualifications and transcripts, ID/Passport, and up to date Curriculum Vitae (CV).
- If your qualification was obtained from outside of South Africa, you have to submit the SAQA verification certificate.
- Access to a computer and stable internet connection for online classes and assessments.

How do I apply for this programme?

Applications close on 30 September each year. Visit the UFS online application site to apply:

 <https://apply.ufs.ac.za/Application/Start>

Where can I get more information?

For more information, contact the Centre for Development Support Office at cdspostgrad@ufs.ac.za or call +27 51 401 3812

 <https://www.ufs.ac.za/cds>

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