

Course title: IDEV*3300 (Fall 2025): Engaging in Development Practice

Instructor Details

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Course Description

This course provides an opportunity for students to engage with development practitioners in a real-world context. The focus of engagement opportunities will be on the analysis of a development issue and defining related policy and/or practice options. The course explores the challenges associated with engaging with development practitioners in the real world and equips students with the necessary skills for successful engagement.

In this course, students will implement a team-based community-engaged research project determined in consultation with a community partner. For the F25 offering of the course, the community partner is the Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development (EDID-GHID) Research Partnership, which is based out of the Live Work Well Research Centre at the University of Guelph. At the end of the course, students will share key learnings from engagement projects and invite input from partners, peers and other relevant community stakeholders.

Learning Outcomes (LOs)

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

LO1: Undertake analysis of development issues and real-world challenges in the context of development practitioners' and community stakeholders' needs and priorities.

LO2: Understand and reflect critically on the perspectives of development practitioners and stakeholders with respect to development priorities, challenges, related policies and practices.

LO3: Develop strategies for improving intercultural competence. The main tools that will be used for this objective during the seminar portion of the course will be the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) survey, cultural training activities, the microcredential course on identity and unconscious bias, and the final reflective essay.

LO4: Effectively communicate with development practitioners and stakeholders through written and oral forms

Experiential Learning Objectives

The IDEV*3300 course simulates a work environment similar to, for example, a research consultant, community developer, or policy analyst, among other careers, conducting work on behalf of stakeholders in the public, private or community development sectors. By consulting with a community partner to address their research needs, the students of the IDEV*3300 course work in a professional setting much the same as a research consultant or policy analyst

would work with their stakeholders. Students of the IDEV*3300 course will narrow a research question, then plan and implement research projects with high-quality deliverables in a very quick turnaround time.

The IDEV*3300 students' coursework closely mirrors the contexts, processes and practical experiences of international development specialists, policy analysts and research consultants. Learning to be adaptable to carry out emergent research projects and communicating effectively to be responsive to the needs of community partners increases the capacity and employability of students. The course eases students' transition to the workforce by providing an opportunity to develop and apply skills in a professional domain.