

IDEV*4600: ADVOCATING & EFFECTING CHANGE

International Development Studies
University of Guelph

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Course Description

This course aims to equip students with the knowledge and understanding needed to advocate for, and bring about, change in policy and practice that impact inclusive and sustainable development within government, civil society organizations and the private sector. The course examines the actions and processes through which changes in policy and practice take place, and the barriers that need to be overcome in order to effect such changes. These might include formal legal, political and administrative engagement, use of social media, protest, civil disobedience, etc.

In this course you will advise me on how to do the most good with a \$2,000 donation to a Canadian charity. Everything in the course exists to help you do this well. At the end of the course, the class will vote on where I should donate and then I will make the donation.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Explain and critically assess the core principles of various ethical theories or normative approaches to conceptualizing and measuring welfare.
2. Evaluate the strengths and limitations of project evaluation techniques, including randomized controlled trials in development economics and portfolio approaches combining hard-to-evaluate projects with large upsides.
3. Critically apply cost-effectiveness analysis methods to evaluate charitable interventions.
4. Develop and present evidence-based proposals for allocating money by integrating ethical theory with quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Readings

Readings for each week are defined below. All readings are either free and online or posted to Courselink. There is no required textbook.