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The Master of Public Administration in Development Practice (MPA-DP) at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) trains the next generation of development practitioners to design, implement, and manage results-oriented, integrated approaches to sustainable development. The program emphasizes practical technical knowledge and skills training while providing high-level opportunities to work directly with leading development organizations and practitioners in the field. The goal is to train and deploy practitioners capable of understanding and crossing institutional, sectoral, and regional boundaries to integrate diverse stakeholders and methodologies to sustainably address complex development challenges. MPA-DP graduates are not generalists, but specialists in integrated approaches to development. They are rising leaders at NGOs, private sector companies, social enterprises, UN agencies, development banks, philanthropic organizations, academic research institutions, government departments, and bilateral aid agencies working toward the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

“We are not spectators of development. We are participants. We learn, we reflect, and we act to bring about positive change.”

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs on the MPA-DP Program

“Let us face the facts: the old model is broken. We need to create a new one—a new model for dynamic growth. Growth that is equitable... growth that can be sustained within planetary boundaries... growth that will benefit current and future generations.”

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

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**KEY PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS**

**EMPHASIS ON APPLIED PRACTICE**
Summer field placements, client-facing classroom projects, field workshops, skills clinics, and expert seminars allow students to engage directly with leading development organizations and practitioners to address challenges in the field and in the office. These opportunities equip students with skills and practice in management, communications, and technology, as well as quantitative and qualitative analytical experience.

**MULTILEVEL, MULTISECTOR PERSPECTIVE**
The MPA-DP looks at sustainable development through identification in the field up to project and program design, organizational management, and high-level national and global policy formulation.

**HIGH-ImpACT GLOBAL PartnersHIPS**
The MPA-DP holds key relationships that provide unparalleled access to the high-level dialogue and on-the-ground opportunities advancing a new era of sustainable development: (1) The Earth Institute, one of the world’s leading organizations for research, education, and policy on sustainable development, and (2) the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, established by the UN Secretary-General to convene and support the private sector, multilateral donors, UN agencies, and civil society to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

**SPECIALIZED AND FLEXIBLE**
Through the MPA-DP’s unique core curriculum, students concentrate and specialize in integrated approaches to development. However, this core represents about 50 percent of the minimum course load for the MPA degree, allowing each student total freedom and flexibility to use electives at SIPA and Columbia’s other graduate schools to explore and refine their expertise.

**GLOBAL MDP ASSOCIATION**
Since the MPA-DP’s founding at Columbia, the Global Master’s in Development Practice Secretariat and the MacArthur Foundation have helped more than 25 institutions on six continents launch Master’s in Development Practice programs, providing an unprecedented professional network and resources for our students and alumni.

**THE DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONERS SEMINAR**
This weekly series of discussions with international practitioners provides opportunities for students to ask candid questions, gain career insights, and spark professional exchanges from leading practitioners that open doors to future field placements, internships, and employment.

**INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTIVE**
Columbia University launched the first MPA-DP program in 2009. With more than 188 alumni now working around the world, the program has established a global brand and proven impact. Yet for each incoming class, the program remains entrepreneurial and adaptive to the evolving expectations of students and employers.

**SUMMER PLACEMENT**
(2010-2015)
** EXAMPLES OF PARTNERS**
Accountability Lab
Asian Development Bank
Attorney General of Myanmar
Bioversity
BRAC
CARINA Corporation
DAR
FHI 360
GIZ
HIAM Health
Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation
Mercy Corps
Seeds of Life
Socialab
Sustainable Amazon Foundation
TechnoServe
UNICEF
UNORCID
UNRASSCH
UNDP
WFP
World Agroforestry Centre
World Fish

**LOCATIONS**
- Armenia
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Burkina Faso
- Cambodia
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Ghana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Jordan
- India
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Mexico
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Philippines
- Romania
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Korea
- Sri Lanka
- Tanzania
- Timor-Leste
- Uganda
- United States
- Uruguay
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

**CORE COMPETENCIES AND CROSS CURRICULUM**
The MPA-DP curriculum is based on the following core competencies, essential for practicing sustainable development at the grassroots project level and at the highest levels of national policy formulation:
- Problem identification and appraisal
- Program and project design
- Implementation and management
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Technology use and integration
- Communications
- Capacity building
- Ethics and intercultural interaction

Students develop these core competencies by learning foundational knowledge and practicing critical skills in the following program components:

**COURSE WORK**
The MPA-DP core classroom curriculum spans economics, quantitative analysis, management, health, environmental sustainability, infrastructure, and food systems.

**THE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE LAB**
The DP-Lab is an effort to methodically deliver hands-on training for high priority skills in the field of development practice and integrate the MPA-DP curriculum across different disciplines.

**THE SUMMER FIELD PLACEMENT**
MPA-DP curates and funds high-level, dynamic, 12-week positions and consultancies for students, either pairing students’ interests and skill sets with the needs of partner organizations or helping students advance their own entrepreneurial endeavors. More than 190 students have worked in more than 40 different countries for partners spanning development and management consultancies, multilateral institutions, NGOs, social enterprises, and foreign governments. Within the first two months of arrival, students sit down one on one with MPA-DP’s dedicated Practice Manager to discuss their goals both during graduate school and beyond. Students also develop a plan to acquire applied skills, professional experiences, and classroom learning to ensure that they graduate with the portfolio needed to reenter the workforce as practitioners of sustainable development.
CORE CURRICULUM

ALUMNI EMPLOYMENT

BACKGROUND:

SPRING

THE YEAR 1:

More than 190 MPA-DP students have worked with partner organizations in more than 40 countries on innovative development projects, including:

• Design and field test new intake and follow-up processes for health applications on the rural Indian subcontinent.

• Incubation of a startup venture that uses time banking to improve social cohesion in Bogota, Colombia.

• Assisting USAID in launching a mobile payment system for a cooperative in the Philippines by finalizing a business model and preparing training and marketing materials.

• Strategy and intervention design to develop an inclusive regulatory environment for micro- and small enterprises in Jordan.

The below core courses represent approximately 50 percent of the SIPA minimum required course load, leaving MPA-DP students with flexibility to pursue their specific sector or skill-based focus.

The second half of an ongoing series of hands-on, team-oriented, practitioner-led workshops focusing on skills, tools and techniques for program design and implementation.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS FOR INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS II

Part two of the yearlong economics sequence with a focus on macroeconomics.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELECTIVE AREAS

MDA- DP students specialize in integrated approaches to development but are not required to have a sector or skill-based specialization. As early career professionals from a variety of backgrounds, students are free to design a curriculum of electives that best fits their academic and professional aspirations. Students supplement MPA-DP core courses with electives at SIPA and other Columbia graduate institutions.

NEW YORK CITY

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ALUMNI EMPLOYMENT INCLUDE

Abt Associates

Clinton Health Access Initiative

Cornell University

DHL

Deloitte

EA Consultants

Fintech Inc.

Innovations for Poverty Action

International Finance Corporation

Japanese Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries Laboratory

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POPULAR ELECTIVE AREAS

Agriculture, Food Security, and Nutrition • Business, Finance, and Social Enterprise • Disasters, Emergency, and Crisis Management • Education • Environment and Energy • Gender, Social Inclusion, and Human Rights • Governance, Partnerships, and Civic Participation • Health • ICT and Data Use • Development • Infrastructure

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Please visit our website for more information about admission, tuition, financial aid, and details on how to apply: www.sipa.columbia.edu/mpa-dp

If you would like to speak to a program representative, please e-mail sipa_mpadp@columbia.edu or call 212-854-2636.