

# Rural Development Dynamics

MA



## Why study this programme?

Many challenges beset the livelihoods and well-being of people in developing countries, particularly those living in less favoured rural areas, and factors such as climate change, volatile markets, conflict, emergent diseases and major migratory pests all further increase vulnerability. Key concerns for the international development sector are understanding the consequences of these challenges, undertaking research to monitor and assess the outcomes of development programmes and advising policy makers on appropriate policies. A need for improved capacity in social research skills and communicating the results to a wide and diverse audience has also been identified. This programme aims to develop a cadre of professionals able to increase the impact orientation of development activities and contribute more effectively to the development process.

## Why study with us?

The Natural Resources Institute (NRI) is a specialist development institute of the University of Greenwich and is based at the Medway Campus in Kent, England, approximately 30 miles from central London. This multi-campus university serves higher education needs both locally and nationally within the UK and regionally in the European Union as well as attracting many international students. It also provides research, consultancy and education services worldwide, in the main through NRI's long-established international activities on the sustainable management of natural and human resources. Our wealth of international development knowledge and teaching experience is combined to support the learning of each student. Staff are involved in development research and consultancy and provide practical experience as part of their teaching.

Medway Campus is located in Chatham Maritime, a rapidly developing area that offers excellent leisure facilities. The town centres of Chatham and Gillingham, and the historic city of Rochester, are nearby. The campus is well served by public transport and has easy access to the county's motorway network and London's airports. The university also provides a bus service between campuses.



## What will you study?

This programme focuses on deepening understanding of the social and economic aspects of development, including institutional and organisational issues, and their link with technical aspects of rural service delivery and innovation – a recognised international strength of NRI. The programme combines in-depth investigation of rural change with a study of key concepts and their application, and a research methods core that provides advanced training in social science methodologies and particular applications of these approaches. This includes substantial training in social research principles, approaches and methods; applied research tools for use in diagnostic and baseline studies; action research; situation and gender analysis; process monitoring and evaluation; and impact assessment. Students also select two options from a range of specialist courses. Individual research interests are further developed through an independent research project, submitted as a dissertation.

## Course list

### Core courses

- Social Research Methods 1: Origins and Defining Features of Social Science (30 credits)
- Social Research Methods 2: Advanced Social Research (30 credits)
- Understanding Rural Change: Core Concepts and their Application (30 credits)
- Project Dissertation (60 credits)

## Options

Specialty courses – a total of 30 credits to be selected from the following:

- Agricultural Innovation for Development (15 credits)
- Corporate Social Responsibility and Natural Resources Management (15 credits)
- Economics, Agriculture and Marketing (15 credits)
- Livestock and Sustainable Agriculture (15 credits)
- Risk Analysis for Agriculture and Environment (15 credits)
- Tools for Sustainability (15 credits)

## Career opportunities

This programme provides specialist expertise for those working or wishing to work in rural development management or research or to pursue an advanced social science-orientated research qualification.

## Teaching and assessment

Teaching and learning includes a variety of educational styles including seminars, lectures, group work, reflective blogs, and tutorials. Assessment consists of a combination of assignments, essays, presentations, reports, portfolios and examinations.

## Financial information

For up-to-date information on tuition fees, bursaries and scholarships, visit [www.gre.ac.uk/finance](http://www.gre.ac.uk/finance).



## Key facts

**Attendance:** 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time, starting September 2011

### Entry requirements:

Applicants should have:

A 2.2 or above degree or equivalent professional qualification in an appropriate subject.

- Where English is your second language, an IELTS score of 6.5 (across each of the four areas) or 7.0 is required.

### How to apply:

- Applications should be made on a university application form. This is available from the Enquiry Unit or International Office or can be downloaded from [www.gre.ac.uk/apply](http://www.gre.ac.uk/apply). An international student's application form is available for download from [www.gre.ac.uk/international](http://www.gre.ac.uk/international).
- There is no closing date for applications to postgraduate programmes, but many fill up quickly, so applicants are advised to apply early. You do not have to wait for examination results.



The images within this leaflet show people working with NRI staff in a variety of rural research projects in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

## Your next step

University Open Days are held several times a year. They include a programme of talks and offer you the opportunity to speak to staff and students. You may also be given a tour of the campus. A list of dates can be found at [www.gre.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.gre.ac.uk/opendays), or contact the Enquiry Unit or International Office for further information.



Why not sign up as a Greenwich VIP and create your own Greenwich webpage, personalised to

your choice of programme and interests? Becoming a Greenwich VIP is a fast route to ordering our publications, booking an Open Day and finding out more about the university. You can also take part in chat sessions with staff and students, receive text and e-mail alerts, and enter our online competitions. Sign up at [www.gre.ac.uk/study](http://www.gre.ac.uk/study).

## For further information

To find out more about studying at the university, please contact:

Website: [www.greenwich.ac.uk](http://www.greenwich.ac.uk)

### UK students

#### Enquiry Unit

Telephone: 020 8331 9000

Fax: 020 8331 8145

E-mail: [courseinfo@gre.ac.uk](mailto:courseinfo@gre.ac.uk)

### International/EU students

#### International Office

Telephone: +44 20 8331 8136

Fax: +44 20 8331 8625

E-mail: [international@gre.ac.uk](mailto:international@gre.ac.uk)



UNIVERSITY  
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GREENWICH

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