

MINOR

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORK



CHALLENGING

YOU

TO REFLECT

AND

ACT ANEW

ON

GLOBAL ISSUES



MINOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORK



Social workers and related professionals increasingly have to address social problems that are accelerated by global forces and events. This minor program will give you the opportunity to expand your repertoire and competencies by learning about theories, approaches, methods and actors in international development as well as give you the chance to practice in the field!

With the Sustainable Development Goals as a blueprint for a better and sustainable future you will work individually and in subgroups on practical and theoretical assignments addressing global issues such as poverty, inequality, peace and justice and environmental degradation.

Entry requirements:

- > Bachelor students
- > Good oral and written English language skills

Program:

The minor program contains topics such as:

- > The Sustainable Development Goals
- > Theories and history of international development
- > Community development
- > Climate change and environmental justice
- > Social entrepreneurship
- > Good practices in international development work

Dutch and international experts in the field of development work will regularly give guestlectures. An excursion to Sarajevo and Srebrenica in Bosnia is included in the program.

International classroom:

We welcome students of all kinds of studies to our minor. The program can be explicitly recommended to students of Social Work, Health Care, Pedagogy, Education and Teaching, International business and Economics. Both Dutch and international students participate in the minor adding a stimulating, intercultural dimension to the program.



Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop **Desmond Tutu** endorses our students working on a fieldwork project in South Africa (for non-profit organisation Health Promoters):
“...I am happy to see young people from the Netherlands sharing their energy and strength with their peers in South Africa, because I believe that education is the key to unlocking the door that will eradicate poverty and that young people have the power to make it happen.”

(video message, august 2014)

Program option 1	EC	Block	Program option 2 (abroad)	EC	Block
Theories of change: Development studies, climate and ecological justice, community development and preparation of your own practical project.	15	A	Theories of change: Development studies, climate and ecological justice, community development and preparation of your own practical project.	15	A
Practices of change: Development studies, social business, fieldtrip to Bosnia (community development) and implementation of your own practical project	15	B	International practices of change: 15 Implementation of your own full-time practical project abroad.	15	B
Study credits (EC)	30		Study credits (EC)	30	

In block A the focus is on acquiring knowledge about theories of international development, climate and ecological justice and community development. You will also prepare your own practical project. In block B the focus is on exploring and reflecting on good practices of international development, social entrepreneurship and rebuilding communities after a disaster. A fieldtrip to Srebrenica in Bosnia is included in option 1. During block B you will be executing your own practical project. If you opt for **International Practices of change** you will be working on a full-time practical project for a non-profit organisation abroad during the second half of the semester (November - January). Due to obligations with our partner universities abroad, you can **only choose option 2 if you are a student of a Dutch university (of applied sciences)**.



Good to know

- < We welcome both full- and part-time students.
- < If you choose option 1, you will work **part-time** on a practical project in block B in a group of students. You will also have theoretical classes in block B and take part in a fieldtrip to Bosnia.
- < If you choose option 2, you will work **full-time** on a practical project in block B abroad. You will not have theoretical classes in block B and will not be able to join the fieldtrip to Bosnia.
- < Location: Utrecht.
- < Classes will be scheduled for 2 days a week, but please notice that the studyload is 840 hours!
- < Semester: Fall (block September-January).
- < There are extra costs for the fieldtrip to Bosnia. i.e. transportation v.v. & 7 nights stay.
- < There are extra costs for travel and stay abroad if you choose International Practices of change.

Some quotes from our former students:

"The minor gives you an interesting overview of different perspectives on international topics and encourages you to think out of the box"

"The program provided me with new insights and guided me into a future direction."

"Now I have realized that you can 'do good' and be in business at the same time."

"Writing the blogs for my practical project really helped me to reflect on what I learned from my experiences abroad."

"I think the minor is eye-opening for any student and is complementary to their own field of study, whatever that may be."

Theories of change

The learning outcomes

- You have basic knowledge and insight concerning a number of key issues in development studies like: possible meanings of development; understanding colonialism – imperialism – neo-colonialism – post-colonialism and their legacies; theories and strategies of development; the relationships between globalisation, development and underdevelopment and culture as a factor that affects development.
- You have basic knowledge and insights concerning key issues into the transformation into a sustainable society
- You have basic knowledge and insights concerning key issues of community development and human rights from below.
- You are able to formulate your own opinion on dilemmas regarding international development issues and substantiate your arguments with relevant scientific sources.
- You are able to align the objective(s) of practical development aid projects with well-founded principles for effective development cooperation.
- You prepare your practical project in a methodological way.

Assignment

You will be questioned on your knowledge and insight concerning development studies development, climate and ecological justice, practical development aid projects and community development.

The assignment of block A will be in the form of a written (take home) exam.

Lecturer **Felix van Vugt** studied Culture and Science Studies in Maastricht and completed the teacher education program for social studies teacher in secondary education.

After working as a social studies teacher for seven years he became a teacher educator himself.

He specializes in Education for Sustainable Development (climate literacy), diversity in education (mostly LGBTQIA+ issues) and Formative Assessment. He is also involved in the climate movement (a.o. Fossilvrij NL and Extinction Rebellion).





FUNDACION COLMENA

CASA MODELO

4C. AL SUR, 1C. AL ESTE



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(International) Practices of Change

The learning outcomes

- You obtain skills for the application of executing a practical project in a methodological way in the field of international development work.
- You have basic knowledge and insight concerning the possible roles of development aid in the field of development cooperation and are able to critically reflect on these roles.
- You can apply (in your fieldwork project) community development principles such as bottom-up development, valuing local wisdom, knowledge and skills, diversity, inclusiveness, participation and reflect on your own cultural assumptions, ideas and views in relation to others.
- You are able to connect the main concepts of social business theories and practices of international development work.

Assignment

The assessment exists of two parts:

- A final presentation
- A (written) individual reflection

Final presentation:

During the final presentation, you/your group will present the results of your practical project and share your reflection of your experiences with your fellow students and lecturers. Your fellow students will provide you with peer feedback. The lecturers will assess you.

In your (written) individual reflection you critically reflect on your learning process with regard to the practical project and you connect your project to principles and theories of international development, social entrepreneurship and community development.

Lecturer **Pim van Heijst** studied Human Geography and Extension Studies. In his professional career he worked a.o. as a local employee at the Dutch embassy in Zimbabwe and a field director for a local NGO in Indonesia. Since 2004 he works as a senior lecturer and researcher at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht with a focus on participation, community development, prevention of poverty and the role of professionals.





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DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Why are some countries more developed than others and should anything be done about it or not?

These offer an introduction into the interdisciplinary field of development studies.

As such it provides a foundation for the other courses of the minor with a focus on the macro - and meso-level.

Given the extensive body of knowledge available, the classes will be given during block A and block B of the minor. Concepts, ideas and ideologies concerning the nature of development will be discussed as well as pragmatic attempts to promote development. It also addresses the issue of how development has been conceptualized and measured. Topics like the nature of colonialism and imperialism, decolonisation and post-colonialism will be scrutinized. Concerning theories of development, a whole range of approaches will be surveyed, including approaches



with modernisation as its central concern, historical-empirical approaches, radical-political approaches including dependency-thinking and alternative and bottom-up approaches to development with a focus on participation, self-reliance and sustainability. All approaches have their strengths and weaknesses and none of them has the complete answer. If one thing will become clear during this course, it is that development thinking and practice is a very complex affair and there is no such thing as a 'one-size-fits-all' approach. Only tentative analyses and solutions can be given.



Lecturer **Ahmet Onur Talan** studied Sociology and has specialized in minority rights and ethnic conflict in developing countries. He is involved in a small NGO, committed to help persecuted minorities. He initiated several social and educational projects in Tanzania, Kirghizia and Bangladesh. In his lectures he uses his experience in the field to combine it with theoretical knowledge and to highlight critical issues from multiple perspectives.

DEVELOPMENT

STUDIES

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FITS ALL'

APPROACH

HU UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES UTRECHT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community development entails the work that is done by paid and voluntary workers, based in and /or concerned with stimulating or developing communities of place, interest or identity (Banks 2013, 1). Therefore, Community Development is a powerful ideal. However, it can be considered as a complex, perhaps even confusing term: what exactly are you expected to do? How do communities develop and how can people be part of social change within a community? How does the volunteer differ from the professional? How do you choose to position yourself within this process?

To work on development within a community, professionals need to value the normative base of the local culture. You cannot just bring your own methods to another culture. You cannot assume that your way of working is the right way. The overall question during community development is: how can you cooperate with a local community and at the same time work on community development as well?



An important aspect of social development work is community development.

If you wish to develop a community, changes are inevitable. You will be able to achieve a positive outcome if a community agrees to change. During the module Community Development we will discuss how you can accomplish social change. Which ingredients are really necessary? What kind of cooperation do you need?

In the seminars you will experience which methods work well and why. We'll stimulate you to think the topics over and discuss them with each other.

Community Development is a way of thinking, of having a vision. Gaining more insight into some visions is an important step before bringing community development into practice!



Lecturer **Alma Mustafić** is an educational expert, researcher and lecturer at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht. Her expertise field is research in education and she is also a graduation and study coach. In 1995 she survived the genocide in Srebrenica, but her father and many other family members did not. Nowadays she tries to increase knowledge and awareness about genocide to ensure that nothing like this will ever happen again. Alma developed a theater play called "Dangerous Names", an interdisciplinary honor program on human rights & genocide and she will host the fieldtrip to Bosnia for our minor.

COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT

IS NOT AS MUCH

ABOUT GAINING

KNOWLEDGE

AS IT IS ABOUT

HAVING A VISION

HU UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES UTRECHT

CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

Climate change is affecting all countries in the world, with the poorest and most vulnerable nations often being hit the hardest. The historic Paris Climate Agreement provides an opportunity for countries to coordinate efforts to keep a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and preferably limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. In order to address this global challenge and to build a more sustainable future for all, solutions are required that need to be coordinated at both the national and international level.

In these classes we will explore what the concept of climate and ecological justice would entail, addressing it at an intra- and interpersonal level as well as a meso and macro level. We will address the history of human-induced climate change and the concept of sustainability, finding out that ecological issues or sustainable development are tightly knit with challenging the fundamental bases of neoliberal capitalist globalisation. Topics like industrial pollution and environmental degradation, renewable energy and



social problems, the relationship between environmental degradation, social conflict and mass migration, social exclusion in relation to natural disasters and world views of indigenous peoples and their struggles will be discussed in this course.

You will be challenged to explore how your own field of study is intertwined to the concept of climate and ecological justice and how your own personal choices can have an impact. Special attention will be paid to the implications of this concept for social work professionals.



Lecturer Marijke Christiansson was educated both as a coach, an international lawyer and as a teacher/trainer in intercultural communication. She has vast international experience, having lived in Belgium, Canada and 3 years in Shanghai, China. In Canada, she studied (a.o.) on the topics of migration, integration and the rights of First Nations. In Kenya she worked as a volunteer on a project with streets kids. Subjects that she is working on right now are how to professionally support others in dealing with grief and loss, sustainability and global citizenship.

CLIMATE AND

ECOLOGICAL

JUSTICE

A GLOBAL

CHALLENGE FOR

EVERYONE,

EVERYWHERE

SOCIAL BUSINESS

In the social business classes we focus on Nobel Peace Laureate Muhammad Yunus' concept of social business. You will learn about the history of microcredit and social business, study and reflect on case studies of social enterprises and businesses and find out how they can contribute to the sustainable development goals.

During the classes you are stimulated to formulate your own opinion about the use of social business in relation to your own field of study, whether it is social work, education, business, economics or any other background.

The classes are interactive with plenty of room for discussion. Topics that will be discussed are, amongst others, the history of microcredit and its pros and cons, examples of social businesses and enterprises from your home country and the principles of Prof. Yunus' concept of social business.

You will be able to visit a social entrepreneur



and conduct research into the effects of social business on community development using case studies like Grameen Danone and Grameen Shakti.

During the classes we will also address social, political and economic dilemmas such as new views on capitalism and democracy. We will stimulate you to critically address these subjects, form your own opinion and connect them to the concept of social business.

Also you will be stimulated to explore which possibilities there are to connect the concept of social entrepreneurship to your own practical project.



Lecturer **Gerian Alofs** studied Social Work and Film and Photographic Studies. She is the coordinator of the minor program International Development Work and has experience as a volunteer for several non-profit organisations. In her voluntary work she often combines her knowledge on international development with her media background, initiating several photographic projects with youth in South-Africa and Nicaragua.

SOCIAL BUSINESS

AN IDEA THAT

RAPIDLY GROWS

AND SPREADS ALL

AROUND THE

WORLD

HU UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES UTRECHT

FIELDWORK (ABROAD)

During the minor you will execute a practical project that will benefit an organization dealing with (international) development issues (a non-profit organization or social entrepreneur). While working on the project you will go through a methodical cycle of preparation, implementation and evaluation.

For the students who would like to stay in the Netherlands, we offer a part-time practical project that you work on in a small group of approx. 4 students. For the students who would like to go abroad we offer the opportunity to work on a full-time fieldwork project in the second part of the minor (November-January) on an individual basis.

Throughout the entire minor there will be regular opportunity to consult the lecturers for feedback on the preparation and progress of your project. The non-profit organization you work for also provides a contact person whom you can consult on a regular basis. x

You will be encouraged to formulate and justify your own opinion on working in the field.



implement your knowledge and reflect on international development and community development theories and practices.

Please note that the full-time option to work abroad is only open for Dutch students due to contract obligations with our international partner universities; all international students will work on a part-time field project in the Netherlands (as well as those Dutch students who don't go abroad).

Blog: Our students who go abroad share their experiences on the minor's blog:

<http://minoridw.hu.nl>. Check it out for stories and pictures and inspiring organisations!

You can choose your own non-profit organization for your practical project abroad, make use of our international contacts or use an intermediate like:

- > **Pure volunteer:** <http://purevolunteer.nl/>
- > **On Stage Latin America:** www.onstagelatinamerica.com
- > **Aviva, South Africa:** <http://www.aviva-sa.com/>
- > **Ontmoet Afrika:** <https://www.ontmoetafrika.nl/>

FIELDWORK

(ABROAD)

PUTTING

DEVELOPMENT

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Learn about theories, approaches, methods and actors in international development as well as gain experience in the field

More information

HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht
Institute for Social Work
Minor International Development Work
Coordinator Gerian Alofs
Padualaan 101
3584 CH Utrecht

E gerian.alofs@hu.nl
W www.hu.nl

