



# WHY MS-DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AT IBA?

IBA's MS Development Studies program offers a rigorous interdisciplinary approach that equips students to critically examine global and local development processes. Offered jointly by the Departments of Economics and Social Sciences & Liberal Arts, the program integrates classical and modern development theories with research-based methods, empowering students to lead inclusive, sustainable change across diverse communities. It prepares graduates for impactful roles in development organizations, policy think tanks, academia, and international institutions.

- 30 credit hours, Evening classes for professionals
- 2 years completion time
- Focus on sustainable & inclusive development
- Supervised thesis under experienced PhD faculty
- Work with think tanks & global agencies
- Blend of classical theories with modern research

## SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & SOCIAL SCIENCES



IBA is located in Karachi — the financial hub of Pakistan — and is one of the country's most prestigious higher education institutions.

Its School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS) is a dynamic academic hub that brings together two departments, two research centers, and three specialized labs. The school hosts over 1,000 students with a balanced male-to-female ratio (48:52), fostering diversity and inclusivity. With 45+ PhD faculty members, SESS emphasizes academic rigor, research excellence, and global engagement. Students benefit from international exchange opportunities, research grants, and vibrant campus life. SESS maintains global connections with a 1,200+ strong alumni network across the US, UK, Germany, Turkey, Canada, and beyond—many of whom have pursued graduate studies on prestigious scholarships like Fulbright, Erasmus, DAAD, and Chevening.



## COURSE STRUCTURE

The MS Development Studies program at IBA, offered by the Department of Social Sciences & Liberal Arts, provides rigorous interdisciplinary training in development theory, policy, and practice. It explores how historical, cultural, ecological, and political contexts shape local responses to global challenges, preparing graduates for impactful careers in research, policymaking, and development sectors.

### SEMESTER 1

- Theories and Critical Approaches in Development
- Research Methods in Development
- Elective I
- Elective II

- Policy Analysis: Theory & Practice
- Anthropology & Development
- Elective III
- Elective IV

### SEMESTER 2

## ELECTIVE COURSES

The MS Development Studies program offers a broad range of electives across Physical Resources, Human Resources, and Society & Economy. Students can explore topics like climate change, urban development, data science, gender studies, migration, and health. Specialized courses in public financial management, aid & development, political ecology, and communication for social change enable students to tailor their learning to diverse development challenges and career paths.

## SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Installment Plan:** The students can apply for 2-3 installments per semester. However, the installments must be paid within the same semester.

**Qarz-e-Hasna:** The IBA facilitates its students in securing an interest-free loan (Qarz-e-Hasna) to pay their tuition fee during their study period.

**Need-based Financial Assistance:** The IBA encourages aspiring students from diverse social backgrounds to enroll and study at the IBA.

**Research & Teaching Assistantships (RA/TA):** IBA offers part-time, paid opportunities for students to work as Research Assistants (RAs) or Teaching Assistants (TAs) as part of its financial assistance and academic enrichment initiatives.



## ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

### INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING & CRITICAL THINKING

SESS programs emphasize interdisciplinary learning through research, discussion-based seminars, and coursework that integrates perspectives from economics, politics, sociology, psychology, and urban studies. Students engage in intellectually rigorous analysis of real-world issues, developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for research and policy roles.

### RESEARCH LABS & FIELD EXPOSURE

Students benefit from hands-on research experience through access to specialized labs such as the Social Inequality Lab, Karachi Urban Lab, and Population Research Center. Fieldwork, research projects, and collaborations with international institutions provide real-world exposure and methodological training.

### SCHOLARSHIP & SOCIAL RELEVANCE

With a focus on ethical inquiry and social responsibility, SESS encourages students to pursue research that addresses pressing societal issues. The curriculum promotes thoughtful engagement with development, inequality, and public policy through an inclusive and justice-oriented lens.



## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The students enrolled in the MS Development Studies are provided with multiple opportunities to enhance their academic skills and to assist them financially:

- Policy Analyst at government or global agencies
- Advocacy and Public Policy Specialist
- Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Specialist
- Program Officer at NGOs
- Corporate Finance
- Roles in organizations like UN, World Bank, etc.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applicants must have at least 16 years of education (BS/BBA/BE or equivalent), with at least 4 years from an HEC-recognized university, and a minimum CGPA of 2.5 (out of 4.0) or 60% marks in the last degree.
- All international certificate/degree holders must provide an equivalency certificate from IBCC/HEC. Candidates with work experience are preferred.

### APTITUDE TEST EXEMPTION

Minimum score of 600 on the GMAT, or a GRE score of 160 in quantitative and 150 in verbal.



<https://msdev.iba.edu.pk>

FOR MORE INFORMATION



#### Main Campus

University Enclave, University Road,  
Karachi - 75270 Pakistan  
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[www.iba.edu.pk](http://www.iba.edu.pk)

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#### City Campus

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SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

# MS - DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

RESEARCH · REFORM · RISE

GRADUATE PROGRAM