M.Sc. IN ECONOMICS FOR DEVELOPMENT HANDBOOK AND COURSE OUTLINES



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THE M.Sc. IN ECONOMICS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to Oxford and to the M.Sc. in Economics for Development!

This *Handbook* is designed to help you navigate your way through Oxford as a graduate student in development economics. It accompanies the *Notes and Guidance for Graduate Students in Economics* (known as the Pink Book). These documents provide you with key information concerning the M.Sc. course, its content, organization, and administration.

Course Aims and Objectives

Students pursue post-graduate study in development economics for a variety of reasons. For some the M.Sc. is the first step towards doctoral research and for some it provides the knowledge and training required to pursue a career in development with government agencies, international organizations, the private sector or the non-governmental sector. Others take the course out of interest in the subject before following careers not concerned with economic development.

To cater for this diversity, we have designed the course around two fundamental objectives. The first is to provide an overview of the field of development economics, a branch of economics that has in the last few decades moved from the margins to the centre of academic enquiry and policy debates. Our second objective is to provide an environment in which students can acquire the key analytical skills needed for careers as professional economists. Our approach to teaching and learning thus embraces two elements: teaching students about how economists approach questions of economic development, and providing the opportunity to answer some of these questions using the tools and techniques learned on the course, especially in applied empirical research. In other words: understanding what economists do, and doing what economists do!

Structure

The structure of the programme is described in detail later in this handbook, but it is useful at this point to stress three important features of the M.Sc. and indeed of the Oxford approach in general.

The first is that the components of the course vary considerably in style: some are more discursive than others, some more difficult and some require mastery of new mathematical and statistical techniques. Getting the most from the M.Sc. will require you to cover all areas and master the techniques of analysis used in each, but there is also scope to pursue your own interests according to your strengths and inclinations. We attach importance to the system of personal supervision and to the role of the Extended Essay (a short dissertation on a topic of your choice), allowing you to develop a course of study tailored as much as possible to your interests.

The second general point concerns assessment. Your overall performance will be assessed on the basis of final examinations in June. These examinations are not intended just to get you to repeat what you have been told in lecture courses, classes and seminars: they are intended to assess your mastery of the subject in general, and your ability to marshal evidence, analyse problems, and draw sensible conclusions. In this respect the correspondence between lectures and examinations is looser than at other universities, especially non-UK universities.

Two important implications follow from this structure. One is that teaching and learning is cumulative rather than modular, stressing the overlaps and synergies across course components. The other is that we expect you to engage in study in order to learn and understand and not just to pass exams. By gaining admission to the course you have already demonstrated your ability to perform well under exam conditions, and we confidently expect you all to pass the M.Sc. exams. Our ambition is greater: we seek to provide an environment in which you can explore widely

around the subject area, hone your skills in economic analysis and lay the foundations for careers as top-flight professional economists.

Finally, many students find the M.Sc. much more demanding than they expected, especially in the first term. The course proceeds more rapidly and often at a more technical level than anticipated. In all institutions the switch from undergraduate to graduate-level economics is marked, if not in content then in approach, and Oxford is no exception. New material and analytical techniques are introduced at a rapid rate and the pressure to produce written work, complete exercises, and make presentations is high and can feel relentless. In Oxford this problem is compounded by the short terms (8 weeks rather than the 10-12 weeks elsewhere) and by the fact that, unlike some M.Sc. programmes, you are required to submit your Extended Essay *before* Finals at the end of June. As a consequence, you should expect to put in almost as much work during the six-week vacations between Michaelmas and Hilary terms and Hilary and Trinity terms as you do in term!

These features of the programme will place heavy demands on your time-management skills. The trick is to strike a balance between work and leisure, so that you get the most from the course but also take full advantage of the wider intellectual and social life Oxford has to offer. Later in this handbook there is some information on support and guidance.

The Environment

Oxford University is a complex and decentralized institution whose intricacies and peculiarities can appear daunting, but it is not an unfriendly environment. As this handbook will explain, there are many people to whom you can turn for advice and support if necessary. Some of them are in your college, although you should bear in mind that for graduate students the relationship between colleges and the University is different than for undergraduates. You will have a college advisor with whom you can discuss your academic progress, but the academic side of graduate education is the responsibility of the University and your department(s), with colleges in a secondary role. Enjoy all that your college has to offer, but remember that we are your academic anchor.

Oxford University is a dynamic community, a great resource, and for many students an important milestone in their lives. On the M.Sc. you will meet and work with a world-class faculty and will find yourself immersed with a group of talented fellow students from around the world, each of whom brings different interests, experiences and perspectives to the course. I hope you will find the experience rewarding and I wish you an enjoyable and productive year.

September 2010

Adrian Wood Course Director, M.Sc. Economics for Development

WEB LINKS AND MAILING LISTS

1. Weblinks

All the information in the Handbook is reproduced on the course web pages hosted on the Department of Economics Intranet.

The Department website is at:

http://www.economics.ox.ac.uk

The top-level link to the M.Sc. course can be accessed at:

http://www.economics.ox.ac.uk/index.php/graduate

This material can also be accessed through the Oxford University Webleam portal (using your Oxford login) at:

https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/socsci/qeh

Note

These web pages are updated regularly and contain other useful information not available at the time this Handbook goes to press. You should visit the web pages regularly to keep abreast of news and announcements, changes to the lecture programme and course outlines, job openings etc. Lecture notes, handouts, problem sets and other course materials are also available on the Economics Intranet.

2. Mailing Lists

Your Oxford email address will be included in the class mailing list (which has the address **qeh-mscde@mailist.qeh.ox.ac.uk**). This list will be used by the course director, teaching faculty and administrators to inform you of day-to-day developments and course news.

All our email communication with you will be through your Oxford email address. We do not add non-Oxford University email addresses to this mailing list.

It is your responsibility to read your Oxford email. Anything that is emailed to you at your Oxford address will be deemed to have been read by you, and failure by you to do so will not be accepted as an excuse for any resulting problems.

THE TEACHING PROGRAMME

A General Overview

The M.Sc. course is organized around the following components:-

- Weekly lectures and classes in Economic Theory, divided between microeconomic theory, macroeconomic theory and trade theory, in Michaelmas Term;
- Weekly lectures and classes in Quantitative Methods (i.e. Econometrics) spread over the Michaelmas and Hilary Terms;
- Eight four-week modules in Development Economics during Hilary Term. Modules include lectures (given by faculty) and classes (run by faculty but including student presentations). Students typically follow four or five of the eight modules.
- Tutorials with your course supervisor and/or extended essay supervisor during all three terms.

Your overall performance is assessed by means of three Final Exam papers (taken around the end of Trinity Term) in Economic Theory, Quantitative Methods and Development Economics, and an Extended Essay of up to 10,000 words submitted prior to the Final Exams.

This constitutes the formal programme for the M.Sc. A variety of other lectures and seminars complement the core programme. These are discussed later in the handbook.

The Programme of Work

You are expected to attend all the *Economic Theory* lectures and classes and to complete two problem sets in microeconomics, two in macroeconomics and one in international economics. In addition, you should expect to write four theory essays for your supervisor during Michaelmas Term, selecting topics in consultation with your supervisor. You are expected to read more on your chosen topics than on topics on which you are not going to be writing essays.

You are expected to attend all the *Quantitative Methods* lectures and classes in Michaelmas Term and Hilary term, and to complete two problem sets per term. This component of the course is accompanied by computer exercises (two to three per term). The teaching assistants operate an "office hours" system (of which the details will be explained at one of the first OM lectures).

You should choose, again in consultation with your supervisor, four or five *Development Modules* to attend during Hilary Term. You should expect to participate actively in, and do written work for, at least three modules. You should make at least one class presentation in Development Economics during the term. You should also write up to four essays on development economics topics for your supervisor. The course assistant, Rachel Miller, keeps lists of module presentation slots and you should sign up for your presentation early (see the course outlines for details). Obviously, the earlier you sign up the wider the choice of presentation topics you will have.

Students develop topics for their *Extended Essays* in consultation with their supervisors. It is a matter for each student and their supervisor to determine a suitable timetable for the Extended Essay (some supervisors prefer students to start work early, others prefer them to take longer to develop a research topic). However, you must submit to the Course Director a brief outline of their research topic and proposed approach by the beginning of Week 7 of Hilary Term, and you

should aim to have completed a first draft by the end of the Easter Vacation. Extended Essays must be submitted to the Examination Schools by the end of 6th Week of Trinity Term.

Ongoing Performance Assessment

In addition to feedback on problem sets and tutorial essays, there will be three informal exams (referred to as "Collections") during the year. The Quantitative Methods and Economic Theory Collections are on **Thursday and Friday of 0th Week of Hilary Term** and the **Development Economics Collection on Friday of 0th Week of Trinity Term**. The results of the Collections do not affect your final degree marks, but are very valuable ways for you and your supervisor to assess your progress, to give you practice in writing Oxford-style examinations, and, if necessary, to trigger supplementary supervision support.

Please make a note of these dates: you will put yourself at a significant disadvantage by missing the Collections.

At the end of each term, your supervisor is required to write a report on your progress, which is available to you, and to the Course Director and your College, through the Graduate Supervision System (GSS) on the University intranet. Before your supervisor writes their report, the GSS will prompt you to write your own brief self-assessment. You are strongly encouraged to respond to the GSS prompts: these self-assessments will often be useful to you, by getting you to take stock of what you have learned (and still need to learn), as well as to your supervisor.

Students and paid employment

The QEH Graduate Studies Committee requires students who wish to take up paid employment to seek advice from their supervisors (course supervisors for Masters' students and thesis supervisors for doctoral students) *before* taking up any such employment. Students must ensure that paid employment does not impair their studies. Supervisors must be consulted on a termly basis to enable them to monitor that a proper balance is maintained between paid employment and academic course work. Please note that University guidelines allow doctoral research students to teach or undertake research assistance for a maximum of six hours each week, but that Masters courses are expected to entail full-time commitment.

MILESTONES TARGETS AND DEADLINES

Term	Lectures / Classes	Written work and	Seminars	Extended	Examinations and
		Presentations		Essay	Deadlines
Michaelmas	Microeconomic Theory 14 x 1.5 hour lectures plus 7 x 2 hour classes Macroeconomic Theory 14 x 1.5 hour lectures plus 7 x 2 hour classes Trade Theory 4 x 1.5 hour lectures plus 2 x 2 hour classes Quantitative Methods 16 x 1.5 hour lectures plus 8 x 2 hour classes	Problem sets and computer exercises 2 micro (groups) 2 macro (groups) 1 international (groups) 2 QM 2 QM computer exercises (groups) Macro group exercise [Week 8]	CSAE African Economics Seminar [Tuesday and Wednesday 1pm] And many, many others (see p 32)!	General reading and initial discussions with supervisor	
Christmas Vacation		2 micro theory essays 2 macro theory essays 1 trade theory essay (to be substituted for either a macro or a micro theory essay, so a total of 4 essays altogether)		Reading and refining research topic, exploring data availability	Economic Theory Collection [3 hour written paper, Thursday Week 0 Hilary Term] QM Collection [3 hour written paper, Friday Week 0 Hilary Term]

Hilary	Quantitative Methods 16 x 1.5 hour lectures plus 8 x 2 hour classes Development Economics 4 concurrent modules in weeks 1-4 4 concurrent modules in weeks 5-8 [A module is 4 x 1 hour lectures plus 4 x 2 hour	2 QM problem sets plus 2 computer exercises (groups) At least 1 seminar presentation Up to 4 development economics supervision	CSAE African Economics Seminar [Tuesday and Wednesday 1pm] And many, many others (see p 32)!	Confirm Essay supervisor if not already settled. Work with supervisor to develop a full essay plan and programme of work by the end of term.	Registration for Finals [Friday Week 4 via your College] Submission of Extended Essay outline [Monday Week 7]
Easter Vacation	lectures plus 4 x 2 hour seminar/classes]	economics supervision essays	CSAE Spring Conference [Week 10]	Finish research and write first draft of Essay	Development Economics Collection [3 hour written paper, Friday Week 0]
Trinity	Review Sessions Economic Theory Quantitative Methods Some modules	Up to 4 supervisions on essays based on past exam papers and written under exam conditions		Revise and finalise Essay	Submission of revised Extended Essay Abstract Friday Week 1 Submission of Extended Essay Week 6
					Finals commence in Week 8 or 9



ECONOMIC THEORY

I. MICROECONOMIC THEORY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Michaelmas Term Weeks 1 – 8 (no Tuesday lecture in weeks 6 and 8, no class in week 6)

Professor Marcel Fafchamps

Teaching Assistant: Dr Catherine Porter

Lectures: Department of International Development (SR3) Mon. 16.00 – 17.30

(except week 4, when on Monday 13.00-14.30, in SR1)

Tues. 11.30 – 13.00

Classes: Department of International Development (SR 3) Wed. 9.00 – 11.00

Requirements: This course covers material examined in the **Economic Theory paper in Finals** and the **Economic Theory Collection** (Week 0, Hilary Term). Students are required to complete **two problem sets** during the course.

Objective: The objective of this course is to provide a graduate-level introduction to the microeconomics of development and a basis for the relevant Development Economics modules.

Structure: The course is based on an eight-week lecture series, supported by classes. Coverage is theoretical with applications to development. Topics covered in the lecture course are:

- Producer and consumer theory
- Household models
- General equilibrium and welfare theorems
- Welfare, poverty and inequality
- Welfare analysis, consumer surplus, and policy evaluation
- Imperfect competition and game theory
- Uncertainty, time, and asset markets
- Imperfect information and contract theory

Note: A complete course outline and reading list will be distributed at the first lecture of the course and can also be found on the economics web pages at

II. MACROECONOMIC THEORY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Michaelmas Term Weeks 1-8 (no Tuesday lecture in weeks 5 and 7, and no class in week 8, but there is a macro data exercise in week 8)

Dr Christopher Adam

Teaching Assistant: Sam Wills

Lectures:	Department of International Development	(SR 2)	Mon.	9.30-11.00
		(SR 1)	Tues.	9.30-11.00
Data exercise	in week 8	(SR 3)	Thurs	10.00-12.00

Classes: Department of International Development (SR 1) Tues. 15.00-17.00

Requirements: This course covers material examined in **Economic Theory paper in Finals** and in the **Economic Theory Collection** (Week 0, Hilary Term). Students are required to complete **two problem sets** during the course, working together in small groups.

Objective: The objective of this course is to provide an overview of modern open-economy macroeconomics at the graduate level, to show how this body of theory can be adapted to the characteristics of open developing economies, and to provide a basis for the relevant Development Economics modules.

Structure: The course is based on an eight-week lecture series, supported by classes to explore in depth some of the models presented in the lectures, and to work through the two problem sets.

The 8th week class is devoted to group presentations of empirical material on the macroeconomic analysis of a specific country.

The lecture topics are:

- Long-run growth and short run shocks: an introduction to development macroeconomics
- Economic growth and structural transformation
- The open economy: dynamic models of the current account
- The open economy: inter-sectoral allocation and the real exchange rates
- Fiscal policy, debt and overlapping generations models
- Asset markets and money in the open economy

In each case, an account of recent approaches to the analytical and empirical issues will be given, paying particular attention to the institutional characteristics of different types of developing economies that underpin macroeconomic behaviour.

Note: A complete course outline and reading list will be distributed at the first lecture of the course and can also be found on the economics web pages at

III. TRADE THEORY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Michaelmas Term Weeks 5-8

Professor Adrian Wood

Teaching Assistant: Sam Wills

Lectures:	Week 5 Dept of International Development (SR 1)	Tues.	9.30 11.00
Lectures.	Week 6 Dept of International Development (SR 3)	Tues.	11.30 - 13.00
	Week 7 Dept of International Development (SR 1)	Tues.	9.30 11.00
	Week 8 Dept of International Development (SR 3)	Tues	11.30 - 13.00
Classes:	Week 6 Dept of International Development (SR 3)	Wed.	9.00 – 11.00
	Week 8 Dept of International Development (SR 1)	Tues.	15.00 - 17.00

Requirements: This course covers material examined in the Economic Theory paper in Finals and the Economic Theory Collection (Week 0, Hilary Term). Students are required to complete one problem set during the course.

Objective: The objective of this module is to provide a graduate-level introduction to international trade theory, focusing on the aspects that are most relevant for developing economies.

Structure: The module has four lectures and two accompanying classes. Topics covered are:

- Gains from trade and trade policy
- Theories of comparative advantage
 - o Ricardo, Heckscher-Ohlin, specific factors
- Product differentiation and intra-industry trade
- New economic geography

Note: Prior to the start of the lectures, a detailed course outline and reading list will be posted on the economics web pages at

QUANTITATIVE METHODS

Dr Francis Teal, with Dr Markus Eberhardt, Dr Simon Quinn and Dr Andrew Zeitlin

Teaching Assistants: La-Bhus Jirasavetakul and Ingo Outes-Leon

Michaelmas Term (lectures and classes continue into Hilary Term: times may differ).

Department of International Development (SR3) Lectures: Wed. 16:00-17:30 Fri. 14:00-15:30

Department of International Development (SR1)

Department of Economics IT Room Mon. 15.00-17.00 Classes: Week 4

Weeks 7&8 Mon. 12.00-14.00

All other weeks Mon. 14:00-16:00

Requirements: This course covers material examined in the Quantitative Methods paper in Finals. Students are also required to sit the Quantitative Methods Collection which consists of a three-hour written paper taken on the Friday of Week 0 of Hilary Term. There will be two **problem sets per term** and regular computer-based exercises.

Objectives: The objective of this course is to provide an introduction to the use of econometric methods in the study of development economics. Students will be encouraged to apply techniques covered in this course in other components of the M.Sc., including their Extended Essay.

Structure: The course is based around a formal lecture series, but emphasis will be placed on practical application through problem sets and computer exercises. Instruction in the use of STATA will be provided by the course TAs, although students may wish to use other software statistical packages. The course covers the first two terms.

Michaelmas Term

Week 1: Class 1: Describing and understanding data

STATA Review I

Lecture 1: An introduction to empirical development economics

Lecture 2: The simple linear regression model

Week 2: Class 2: Cross section data and issues of functional form

> Lecture 3: Multiple regression analysis: estimation Lecture 4: Multiple regression analysis: inference

Week 3: Class 3: Introducing maximum likelihood in STATA

Lecture 5: Maximum likelihood estimation

Lecture 6: Heteroskedasticity

Class 4: Normality, heteroskedasticity and the LPM Week 4:

> Lecture 7: Modelling choice: LPM, Probit and Logit Models Lecture 8: Logit and Probit models: inference and diagnostics

Week 5: Class 5: Interpreting marginal effects in Probits and Logits

Lecture 9: An introduction to time series

Lecture 10: Serial correlation in time series models

Week 6: Class 6: An introduction to time series

Lecture 11: Cointegration

Lecture 12: Panel data: an introduction

Week 7: Class 7: Using panel data sets

Lecture 13: Panel estimates: POLS, RE, FE, FD Lecture 14: Instrumental variable estimation

Week 8: Class 8: STATA Review II

Lecture 15: Program evaluation: the basics

Lecture 16: Program evaluation: imperfect compliance and heterogeneity

Hilary Term

Week 1: Class 1: Program evaluation using Progresa data

Lecture 1: Principles of modelling: endogeneity and instruments

Lecture 2: Econometric analysis of dynamic panel data

Week 2: Class 2: Using XTABOND2

Lecture 3: Estimating the Burnside and Dollar and the MRW growth models

Lecture 4: Panel data and endogeneity

Week 3: Class 3: Using structural models

Lecture 5: Structural models Lecture 6: Sample selection

Week 4: Class 4: Selection in Indian Schools: Do bossy parents have bolshie kids?

Lecture 7: The Tobit model Lecture 8: Multinomial choice

Week 5: Class 5: Multinomial and censored choice

Lecture 9: Long-t panel data analysis: an introduction

Lecture 10: Nonstationarity and cointegration in panel time series

Week 6: Class 6: Mean group estimators

Lecture 11: Cross-section dependence in panel time series Lecture 12: Growth and level effects in dynamic equations

Week 7: Class 7: Panel unit-root testing, testing for CSD

Lecture 13: Reduced form evaluation methods Lecture 14: Evaluation with structural models

Week 8: Class 8: Evaluation methods

Lecture 15: Modelling with cross-section data

Lecture 16: All you need to know about writing an empirical extended essay

Note: A complete course outline and reading list will be distributed at the first lecture of each term. This information, along with course materials can also be found on the economics web pages at

DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

The Development Economics component of the course, which runs through Hilary Term, consists of modules covering specific themes in development economics. Eight four-week modules are offered. Each module consists of 12 hours of lectures and classes.

The exact timetable for the modules is finalized in the course of Michaelmas Term. Modules 1 to 4 will be taught in Weeks 1-4 and Modules 5-8 in Weeks 5-8 of Hilary Term.

Requirements: The modules cover material relevant to the **Development Economics paper in Finals.** Students will be required to answer questions on material from three separate modules. Most students follow four or five modules during the year. There is a Collection in Development Economics at the beginning of Trinity Term.

Students are expected to make at least one class presentation during the year. A list of presentations and sign-up slots will be available in Rachel Miller's office (Mansfield Road, room 20:24) by Week 7 of Michaelmas Term.

A complete course outline and reading list for each module will be distributed at the first lecture of the course and can be found on the economics web pages at

MODULE 1: POVERTY, RISK AND INEQUALITY

Hilary Term Weeks 1 – 4

Professor Stefan Dercon

Student Presentations: Students interested in making a presentation should contact Professor Dercon by Week 0 of Hilary Term (stefan.dercon@qeh.ox.ac.uk) and copy the email to Rachel Miller, who will update the webpage as appropriate.

Objective: In this module, we will discuss some key issues related to development:

- 1. What is an appropriate way of conceptualizing and measuring progress and welfare in a society and at the level of the individual? How to incorporate multidimensionality or issues related to risk or time in welfare measurement?
- 2. What is the relationship between welfare outcomes and economic processes?

Content: The first part of the lectures will look at normative issues: how ought we to measure poverty and development? We will discuss concepts of welfare and well-being, including moneymetric approaches and contrast them to Sen's capability approach. It will introduce issues of measurement, including of different dimensions of poverty. A specific focus will be on the measurement of vulnerability and of chronic and inter-temporal poverty. The second part of the lectures will be focusing not on how we ought to think about poverty, but how poverty comes about. In other words, we will discuss the 'positive' theory of poverty. We will explore microeconomic approaches on how economic processes lead to poverty increases or poverty reduction, with a focus on the theory and evidence. Specific attention will be paid to theories and evidence on poverty traps, in particular those related to credit market failures, risk, social norms and attitudes, and spatial externalities.

Topics for presentations

- 1. How to construct an appropriate measure of poverty that takes into account the multidimensional nature of poverty?
- 2. Are poverty measures based on the "a dollar-a-day" poverty line a reasonable concept for thinking about poverty across the world? What does it show?
- 3. Can chronic poverty be measured?
- 4. Do social norms and attitudes cause poverty traps? What does this imply for policy?
- 5. Is geography a cause of persistent poverty?
- 6. Is risk a cause of persistent poverty?
- 7. How can credit markets induce poverty traps? Can microfinance programmes unravel the traps?

MODULE 2: HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Hilary Term Weeks 1 – 4

Professor Sudhir Anand

Student Presentations: Students interested in making a presentation should contact Professor Anand (<u>sudhir.anand@economics.ox.ac.uk</u>) by Week 0 of Hilary Term and copy the email to Rachel Miller, who will update the webpage as appropriate.

Objective: To provide an examination of the intrinsic role of health in human development, and its instrumental role in economic development. The module will include discussion of the concept and measurement of health and of inequalities in health.

Structure: The weekly lecture will consist of a 1-hour presentation on the chosen topic including a brief discussion of its policy significance and implications (which will be further explored in the classes). The weekly class will be a 2-hour session including student presentations and discussion, and short presentations by the Convenor on topics not covered in the lectures. Two students will each present and comment on papers relevant to the topic for the week, and are welcome to choose theoretical, empirical, or policy papers. Student presentations are not expected to exceed 15 minutes each.

Content: Topics to be covered in the module will include the following (in more or less detail according to student interest and time available): the concept and measurement of health; measures of population health; the role of health in human and economic development; health in indices of human development and poverty; the measurement of inter-individual and inter-group inequalities in health; the ethical significance of inequalities in health; the relation between income inequality and aggregate health; economic, social and other determinants of health; the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health; health workers and health outcomes (infant, child and maternal mortality, and vaccination coverage); the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

MODULE 3: FINANCIAL FLOWS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Hilary Term Weeks 1 – 4

Professor Valpy Fitzgerald and Professor Adrian Wood

Student Presentations: Students interested in making a presentation should contact Professor Fitzgerald (edmund.fitzgerald@qeh.ox.ac.uk, regarding private capital flows) or Professor Wood (adrian.wood@qeh.ox.ac.uk, regarding aid) by the end of Week 0 of Hilary Term and copy the email to Rachel Miller, who will update the webpage as appropriate.

Objective: This module covers theory and evidence on the economics and political economy of private capital flows and official aid to low- and middle-income countries.

Content. The first half of the module will cover the determinants of private capital flows (FDI, bank lending, bonds and equity); and the institutional and policy issues arising from their impact on macroeconomic stability and growth. The second half will cover both the positive economics of aid (from whom, to whom and with what effects) and the normative economics of aid (how to allocate and deliver aid better). A joint session will discuss the relationships between these two sorts of financial flows.

Topics for presentations

Specific topics for student presentations will be announced during Michaelmas Term.

MODULE 4: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Hilary Term Weeks 1 – 4

Dr. Albert Park

Student Presentations: Students interested in making a presentation should contact Dr. Park (albert.park@economics.ox.ac.uk) by Week 0 of Hilary Term and copy the email to Rachel Miller, who will update the webpage as appropriate.

Objective: Most of the population of developing countries work and live in rural areas. This module covers rural institutions and market performance in developing countries. For each of the key factors of rural production (land, labour, and capital), the course examines: 1) reasons for market failure; 2) the economic rationale for observed institutions; and 3) empirical research questions and approaches. Lectures focus on theory, while classes focus on empirical applications, including student presentations.

Contents:

- 1. Land (tenancy, shareholding, property rights)
- 2. Labour (labour markets, shadow wages, wage determination)
- 3. Migration (equilibrium models, causes and consequences, risk)
- 4. Credit and microfinance (credit rationing, household credit, lending to the poor)

Topics for presentations:

- 1. Economic importance of property rights
- 2. Wages and labour market development
- 3. Determinants of migration and/or household impacts
- 4. Impact of microfinance programs

MODULE 5: INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND TECHNOLOGICAL UPGRADING

Hilary Term Weeks 5 – 8

Dr. Xiaolan Fu and Dr Diego Sanchez-Ancochea

Student Presentations: Students interested in making a presentation should contact Dr Fu (xiaolan.fu@qeh.ox.ac.uk) by Week 4 of Hilary Term and copy the email to Rachel Miller, who will update the webpage as appropriate.

Objectives: This module examines industrial development and policy from the perspective of technological learning and innovation. We will analyse the interrelations between transnational corporations, domestic firms and the state, the interactions between foreign and indigenous innovation efforts and explore the debate on industry policy. The course will emphasise the importance of industrial policy for sustainable economic growth and economic upgrading. Particular attention will be paid to recent developments in emerging markets and to the policy space available in the current global environment.

Structure: The module comprises four blocks, each consisting of a one-hour lecture and a two-hour class. The principal topics covered are:

- industrialization, economic growth and the industrial policy debate
- The experience of the East Asian NICs: lessons and debates
- Transfer of technology and role of multinational companies
- Industrialisation and catch-up in the emerging economies: the BRICS and beyond
- Opportunities and constraints for industrial policy in the 21st century: internal and external dimensions

Topics for presentations

Specific topics for student presentations will be announced in the first half of Hilary Term.

MODULE 6: OPENNESS AND DEVELOPMENT

Hilary Term Weeks 5 – 8

Professor Adrian Wood

Student Presentations: Students interested in making a presentation should contact Professor Wood (<u>adrian.wood@economics.ox.ac.uk</u>) by Week 4 of Hilary Term and copy the email to Rachel Miller, who will update the webpage as appropriate.

Objective: This module, which builds on the international elements of the Michaelmas Term theory courses, explores ways in which developing countries may be affected by exposure to the world economy and considers the policy choices that they need to face.

Content: Topics to be covered include: the impact of trade and foreign investment on growth, inequality and poverty; variation in impact among countries with differing factor endowments and institutions; policy and non-policy barriers to external economic linkages; criteria and constraints in choice of external (and related internal) economic policies; industrial policy; market access, international and private rules governing trade; and regional integration.

Topics for presentations

Specific topics for student presentations will be advised early in Hilary Term.

MODULE 7: ECONOMICS OF EDUCATION

Hilary Term Weeks 5 – 8

Dr Chiara Binelli, Dr Justin Sandefur and Dr Andrew Zeitlin

Student presentations: Students interested in making a presentation should contact Dr Binelli (chiara.binelli@economics.ox.ac.uk) by Week 4 of Hilary Term and copy the email to Rachel Miller, who will update the webpage as appropriate.

Objective: The objective of this module is to address the key issues in the economics of education in developing countries and to bring students towards the research frontiers in this vibrant research and policy area, concerning both methodology and substance.

Content: There will be a combination of lectures and related classes. Most of the classes will involve student presentations on particular topics, case studies or articles. The topics will include:

Returns to Education

- 1. Education and earnings: theory and evidence.
- 2. Estimating returns.
- 3. Quality of education.
- 4. Policies to promote investment in education.

Production of Education

- 1. Incentives for students.
- 2. Input-based policies.
- 3. Incentives for teachers.
- 4. School choice and peer effects.

Topics for presentations

Specific topics for student presentations will be announced in the first half of Hilary Term.

MODULE 8: INSTITUTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Hilary Term Weeks 5 – 8

Professor Paul Collier and Dr Pedro Vicente

Student Presentations: Students interested in making a presentation should contact Professor Collier (paul.collier@economics.ox.ac.uk) by Week 4 of Hilary Term, and copy the email to Rachel Miller, who will update the webpage as appropriate.

Objectives:

The first part of the course provides an introduction to the growing literature on political economy and the role and failures of governments in development. Questions include: what does government do for economic performance? Do institutions matter for economic performance? Does governance matter for economic performance? Why do states fail? What causes civil war and what determines their duration? What are the costs of civil war and how can post-conflict situation be better handled?

The second part of the course will focus on standard workhorse political economy models and on the economics of corruption. It will begin by reviewing the main structure of standard political economy models (single-peaked preferences, median voter theorem, redistribution). Then, it will build up to some applications in regime formation and in lobbying. After reviewing the basic conceptual approaches to the economics of corruption, the course will emphasize corruption empirics (measurement issues, macro index-based research, and micro/experimental approaches).

Topics

- What does government do for economic performance?
- Breakdown of Government: State Failure and Civil War
- Political Economy Theory
- Economics of Corruption

Topics for presentations

Specific topics for student presentations will be advised in the course of Michaelmas Term.

THE EXTENDED ESSAY

Background, Choice of Topic, and Process

The Extended Essay is a core component of the M.Sc. and is the principal opportunity for you to explore in some depth issues of interest to you, and to develop and display your capacity to undertake economic research and scholarly analysis. Do not think of the Essay as a thesis, but rather as a potential journal article. The word limit is 10,000 words, but this is a maximum, not a target – shorter essays are welcome (8,000 words is the average length of a journal article).

There is a wide range of possibilities in terms of topics and approaches, but the essay must be on a topic in the field of development economics. Your supervisor will advise on the suitability of your chosen topic, after consultation with the Course Director if necessary. Most essays in recent years have made use of statistical data, applying econometric techniques, but this is by no means obligatory. An essay may also be a critical literature review or a synthesis of, or an addition to, a field of theory. Essays of all these sorts have been awarded high marks by the examiners. Good past essays are available in the Social Science Library and you can find lists of the topics of recent essays in the appendices of the examiners' reports on the course web page.

Unlike some other Masters programmes, it is a requirement that the Extended Essay be submitted prior to taking your Final Examinations. Work on the Essay must therefore be carefully planned and integrated into your overall work programme during the year. Start discussing ideas with your supervisor, other faculty, or fellow students in the first term (and seek feedback from them at all stages). Most of the work is usually done in Hilary Term and the following vacation, with a complete first draft at the start of Trinity Term. Big improvements in quality are generally made between the first draft and the final version, so do not leave the first draft until too late.

If you plan to do statistical work, it is essential to establish early that the data you require exist and are accessible by you. In the past, many excellent Extended Essay ideas have been thwarted by infeasible or over-ambitious data-collection plans. Also, you should take full advantage of the opportunities you will be offered for technical feedback from the teaching assistants and others involved in teaching the Quantitative Methods course, who may well be more familiar than your supervisor with recent developments in econometric methodology.

Bear in mind that empirical Extended Essays are marked by the Examiners on the quality of their scientific method, not on whether or not their results support the hypothesis being tested. It is in the nature of science that most hypotheses turn out to be false, despite having some theoretical or intuitive plausibility, and that many attempts to test hypotheses are inconclusive or failures because of limitations of the available data. Marks are thus not deducted for insignificant results, unless these are due to bad research design or implementation, but marks are deducted for failing to recognise the limitations of the data used. 'Torturing the data until they confess', or being unwilling to admit that a hypothesis is probably false, are not good scholarship.

Finally, in recent years a few cases of plagiarism have come to light, with disastrous implications for the students involved. It is important to read carefully the notes on plagiarism in the *Notes and Guidance for Graduate Students in Economics* (known as the Pink Book), and EPSC note on plagiarism reproduced on page 35 below. If you are in doubt, your supervisor will be able to give you further guidance. It is likely that during the year further procedures for detecting plagiarism will be announced.

Key Dates and Deadlines

Monday Week 7 Hilary Term Submission of Research Outline

The outline, of 1-2 pages, should contain: (i) the draft title of the Essay; (ii) a statement of its research question or main argument; and (iii) a description of the method to be applied. If the Essay is to be quantitative, the outline *must* discuss the data to be used (and their availability). Extended Essay forms should be collected from and returned to Rachel Miller.

Outlines will be reviewed by the Course Director and other faculty as required. The Director may discuss your proposal with you. Approval for Extended Essays will be given early in Week 8 of Hilary Term.

Friday Week 1 Trinity Term Submission of Updated Title and Abstract

The final title of the Essay, with an abstract of 100-300 words, must be submitted to Rachel Miller, for use by the Examiners in assigning Assessors. A form will be circulated.

Friday Week 6 Trinity Term Submission of Extended Essay

Two copies of the Extended Essay must be submitted to the Examination Schools at a date to be announced, most likely by noon on Friday of 6th Week of Trinity Term.

Essay Presentation

The Essay should be presented in a scholarly fashion, and printed on A4 paper with 1.5 line spacing and a 3cm margin on the left-hand side. The thesis must be securely bound in either hard or soft covers. Examiners naturally feel more positive about a well laid out and easy-to-read essay. So use a reasonably large font (e.g. 12 point), clearly label and explain tables and graphs, and don't overload tables and graphs with unnecessary detail. Examiners also find it easier to read essays that are printed on only one side of the paper.

Length

The essay must not exceed 10,000 words in length. This limit *includes* tables and figures (which count for the number of words that would have been in the space that they occupy) as well as footnotes and appendices, but it *excludes* the list of references, a one-page table of contents and an abstract of up to 300 words. To obtain a word count, the number of words on a typical page without tables or figures should be calculated and multiplied by the number of pages (excluding blank pages or part-pages, the table of contents, abstract and references). Examiners are not obliged to read beyond the length limit and will deduct marks from essays which exceed the word limit. They can deduct marks also if essays are submitted late.

Title Page

The two copies of the Extended Essay submitted to the Examiners must be anonymous, identified only by your candidate number. Do not include acknowledgements for help given. For any personal copies that you wish to make (or for copies to be placed in the library), your candidate number should be replaced by your name and College, and acknowledgements can be included. Template front cover layouts are shown on the following pages.

Delivery

Two copies of your Essay must be delivered in an envelope marked "Extended Essay, M.Sc. Economics for Development" to the Examination Schools, Oxford. You must also include a completed and signed copy of the *Declaration of Authorship* (see p. 29) – electronic copies of this form will be circulated by Rachel Miller in Trinity Term.

Title of Extended Essay

Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in Economics for Development at the University of Oxford

Date

By

Examination Number

Word count: _____

[NB: You must **not** include your name or college or any acknowledgements for help given in the Examiners' copies]

Title of Extended Essay

Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in Economics for Development

By

Candidate Name College, Oxford Date

[NB: You may include acknowledgements for help given in this copy]

M.Sc. in Economics for Development

DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

Name (in capitals):	Candidate number:	
College (in capitals): Supervisor(s) of essay:		
Title of Extended Essay (in capitals):		
There is extensive information and guidance on academic good University website: <www.admin.ox.ac.uk epsc="" plagiarism="">. complete one of the on-line plagiarism courses to which it pro-</www.admin.ox.ac.uk>	You are advised to read it, and to	
Please tick to confirm the following:		
I am aware of the University's disciplinary regulations concerning particular, of the regulations on plagiarism (c.f. The Procto Section 9.6 at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/info/pam/section	rs' and Assessor's Memorandum,	
The Extended Essay I am submitting is entirely my own work	except where otherwise indicated.	
It has not been submitted, either wholly or substantially, for a for a degree at any other institution.	nother degree of this University, or	
I have clearly signalled the presence of quoted or paraphrased sources.	material and referenced all	
I have acknowledged appropriately any assistance I have recemy supervisor(s) and for ordinary proof-reading.	ived in addition to that provided by	
I have not sought assistance from any professional agency (ot reading).	her than for ordinary proof-	
I agree to retain an electronic copy of the essay until the public result and to make the electronic copy available to the examin confirm my word count or to check for plagiarism.		
Candidate's signature:	Date:	

SUPERVISION

Core Supervision

Personal supervision is a key component of the Oxford approach and is central to the M.Sc. Following an initial meeting with the Course Director, you will be allocated a personal supervisor who will be your principal academic contact point throughout the year. Your supervisor will provide you with guidance, help you plan a programme of work for each of the courses, and will discuss and provide feedback on your written work and Extended Essay. Supervisors are also useful people with whom to discuss future career plans.

Supervisors obviously have their own areas of specialization and may arrange "swaps" with other supervisors to enable students to receive specialist supervision on specific topics. To ensure that this system functions effectively, however, you should not try to arrange "swaps" on your own.

Some of the core components of the course (such as Economic Theory and Quantitative Methods) are accompanied by classes taught by faculty and teaching assistants. These classes are used to help students absorb core material, but should be seen as a complement to, rather than a substitute for, personal supervision.

Extended Essay Supervision

Although we try to match you with a course supervisor who specialises in your area of interest, that person may not turn out to be the right supervisor for your extended essay, not least because your ideas and interests will evolve, in which case you will be assigned another faculty member or post-doctoral student as your extended essay supervisor. Your course supervisor will help you to arrange this. To find out the research interests of Oxford faculty you can look at the list on the Economics web pages at: http://www.economics.ox.ac.uk

The Safety Net

Occasionally, relationships between student and supervisor do not run smoothly. If this happens, or if there are issues that you feel you cannot discuss with your supervisor, you should contact the Course Director, who will seek either to resolve the problem or to advise you on appropriate next steps. See also the later section of this handbook on 'Support, Feedback and the Future'.

SUSPENSION OF STATUS, LAPSE OF STATUS AND REINSTATEMENT

(Extracted from the Pink Book)

You may apply to the Economics Graduate Studies Committee for suspension of status for a specified period. If the application is approved, you will not be required to pay fees during the period of suspension and will automatically resume your former status at the end of the period. Suspension of status may be for between one and three terms at any one time. No student may be granted more than six terms' suspension of status overall. Applications must be made to the Graduate Studies Committee (through the Graduate Studies Assistant) using the form GSO.17, should be for a specified period of time, and must have the support of the supervisor and the college.

The essential criterion for suspension of status is that there are good reasons why the student is unable to pursue his/her course of study or research. Relevant circumstances could include illness, accident, maternity leave, domestic crisis or unforeseeable financial difficulty. Alternatively, it might be essential to concentrate temporarily on some other project (e.g. gaining some other qualification) which might not reasonably be deferred until after postgraduate work was completed; or a student might have an exceptional opportunity to take up temporary work which was likely to be important to future career, and which was unlikely to recur.

SEMINARS FOR DEVELOPMENT ECONOMISTS

During term, there are many seminars on economics and development, given by Oxford faculty, graduate students, or visitors from elsewhere in the UK and overseas. The most useful seminar series for M.Sc. students is:

Centre for the Study of African Economies Seminar (Tuesday and Wednesday, 1.00pm)

The CSAE is a research centre on development economics with a focus on Africa, located in the Department of Economics. Speakers include Oxford and external faculty, as well as doctoral students. Most of the presentations are of applied econometric work.

Other frequently relevant economics seminar series are those of OXCARRE (a research centre on natural resource-rich economies) and OXIGED (an Oxford network on development and trade), but there are many other series in which seminars will sometimes be relevant to students on this course. All of them are listed on the Economics Department website:

http://www.economics.ox.ac.uk/index.php/seminars

Consider also attending some of the numerous development-related seminars in departments other than economics – in the Department of International Development (QEH), whose research centres all run weekly seminar series, in the Area Studies Departments (including Africa, China, South Asia and Latin America), and in the Politics and International Relations Department (including the Global Economic Governance programme based in University College). Information on most of these seminars is circulated to all QEH students by e-mail.

The Department of Economics and the Department of International Development (QEH) also host occasional lectures of interest to all economists and economics students in Oxford. These include the **Olof Palme Lecture**, the **Hicks Lectures** and the **Clarendon Lectures**, which are high-profile public lectures often given by major international figures (Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen presented the 2000 Olof Palme Lecture while recent Hicks Lecturers have included Robert Barro, Robert Lucas Jr, Paul Krugman and Thomas Schelling).

Your problem will not be finding enough interesting seminars to attend, but finding the time to do so. However, it is well worth squeezing some in. The number and quality of the economics and development-related seminars is one of Oxford's most valuable bits of educational capital.

EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

Regulations and Conduct

The conduct of all examinations in the University is in the jurisdiction of the Proctors, and it is to the Proctors, not to the Examiners, that applications for dispensation, complaints and appeals must be made, with the advice and support of the student's college.

Oxford University's rules on exams are set out in the current issue of *Examination Regulations*. A 40-page section near the beginning contains general 'regulations for the conduct' of exams, concerning such things as academic dress, illness or withdrawal from an exam.

There are three Examiners for this degree – two internal to the University, one of whom acts as the Chair, and one external. They are assisted, as required, by Assessors, who are other Oxford economists with specialised expertise on particular subjects.

Final examinations take place in the Examination Schools, and consist of three-hour written papers in Economic Theory, Development Economics and Quantitative Methods. Copies of exam papers from previous years can be downloaded from www.oxam.ox.ac.uk. The general form and structure of the written papers each year will follow those of the previous year unless major changes have been published in the *Examination Decrees* or minor changes have been notified to students by the Chair of Examiners.

Marking System

The marking scale is the same as that used for other Oxford graduate degrees in economics. The pass mark is 50 and the distinction level is 70. To pass the examination, a mark of at least 50 must be obtained on each of the three written papers and on the extended essay. To be awarded a distinction, a candidate must achieve an average mark of at least 70 across all four components of the examination.

The marks on each written paper and the extended essay will be communicated in the form of standardised transcripts that are available to students on the web.

The marks are used also by the Graduate Studies Committee in deciding whether students may proceed to the D.Phil (see 'Next Steps' below). To proceed normally requires a distinction in the M.Sc, and the support of a prospective D.Phil supervisor (who need not be the M.Sc. supervisor).

Viva voce Examinations

After the written papers have been marked, the examiners may decide to call some candidates for a *viva* (that is, an oral examination). The mark on one or more of the written papers or the extended essay then may or may not be adjusted upwards. Candidates will be called to a *viva* only in exceptional circumstances in which the examiners need more information, for example in cases of illness or of difficulty in understanding a written paper or extended essay.

Examination Timetable

The entry form for the examination, including the provisional title of the extended essay, must be submitted via students' colleges no later than Friday of Week 4 of Hilary Term. The exam timetable is usually published in April. Extended essays must be submitted by noon on Friday of Week 6 of Trinity Term. The written examinations are normally in Weeks 8 and 9 of Trinity Term. *Vivas*, if required, are normally held on a specified afternoon in Week 10, and the names

of those asked to attend are posted in Examination Schools on the morning of that day. The results are usually available by the end of week 10.

Prizes

The examiners may, if work of sufficient merit is presented, award three prizes: the *George Webb Medley* prize for the best overall performance; the *Luca D'Agliano* prize for the best extended essay by a candidate who is continuing to D.Phil research in Oxford; and the *Arthur Lewis* prize for excellence in development economics.

Re-taking examinations

A candidate who fails the examination may enter again, but only on one subsequent occasion and only within six terms of his/her initial registration. If a student has failed any of the written papers, but passed the extended essay, all three written papers must be retaken, but the mark on the extended essay is carried over. If a student has passed all the written papers, but failed the extended essay, only the extended essay needs to be resubmitted, and the marks on the written papers are carried over. A student who fails any of the written papers and also the extended essay must retake all three written papers and resubmit the extended essay.

EPSC NOTES OF GUIDANCE ON EXAMINATIONS & ASSESSMENT: PLAGIARISM

In their *Essential Information for Students*, the University's Proctors and Assessor draw attention to two extremely important disciplinary regulations for all students.

- "4 No candidate shall present for an examination as his or her own work any part or the substance of any part of another person's work.
- In any written work (whether thesis, dissertation, essay, coursework, or written examinations) passages quoted or closely paraphrased from another person's work must be identified as quotations or paraphrases, and the source of the quoted or paraphrased material must be clearly acknowledged.

.....The University employs a series of sophisticated software applications to detect plagiarism in submitted examination work, both in terms of copying and collusion. It regularly monitors on-line essay banks, essay-writing services, and other potential sources of material. It reserves the right to check samples of submitted essays for *plagiarism*. Although the University strongly encourages the use of electronic resources by students in their academic work, any attempt to draw on third-party material without proper attribution may well attract severe disciplinary sanctions."

(*The Proctors' and Assessor's Memorandum*, Section 9.5 http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/pam/index.shtml)

Guidance from the English Faculty provides a useful definition of plagiarism:

'Plagiarism is the use of material appropriated from another source or from other sources with the intention of passing it off as one's own work. Plagiarism may take the form of unacknowledged quotation or substantial paraphrase. Sources of material include all printed and electronically available publications in English or other languages, or unpublished materials, including theses, written by others.'

To avoid plagiarism, it is important for all students within individual subject areas to be aware of, and to follow, good practice in the use of sources and making appropriate reference. You will need to exercise judgement in determining when reference is required, and when material may be taken to be so much a part of the 'general knowledge' of your particular subject that formal citation would not be expected. The basis on which such judgements are made is likely to vary slightly between subject areas, as may also the style and format of making references, and your tutor or course organiser, where appropriate, will be in the best position to advise you on such matters; in addition, these may be covered, along with other aspects of academic writing, in your induction.

By following good practice in your subject area you should develop a rigorous approach to academic referencing, and avoid inadvertent plagiarism. Cases of apparently deliberate plagiarism, while happily infrequent in the University, are taken extremely seriously, and where examiners suspect that this has occurred, they bring the matter to the attention of the Proctors.

October 2004

NEXT STEPS

Transfer to D.Phil in Economics after M.Sc.

Students with good M.Sc results may be admitted to the doctoral programme as Probationary Research Students (PRS). Full details are provided in *Notes and Guidance for Graduate Students in Economics* (the Pink Book). The principal stages are as follows.

Students wishing to proceed to the D.Phil. in Economics should submit an application on a form obtainable from OSS Student Self Service, by January if applying for scholarships, otherwise by March. Applications for admission are considered by the Graduate Studies Committee after the exam results are available in late June or early July. In considering applications the Committee will take into account the recommendations of the M.Sc. Examiners, the views of the prospective D.Phil supervisor, and the student's research proposal (which need be only two or three pages in length – longer proposals rarely add much to the strength of an application). The examiners are likely to support the applications only of students with distinction or near-distinction marks both on the written exam papers and on the extended essay.

PRS is the first stage towards the DPhil. Students proceeding from the M.Sc. to PRS status will normally be required to pass the D.Phil. qualifying examination at the end of their first PRS year. This examination consists of two papers from the M.Phil. in Economics course, of which one will normally be in general economics (macroeconomics or microeconomics) and the other will be an option paper relevant to the student's plan of research. If this examination is passed and progress on thesis design is satisfactory, the PRS is then transferred to DPhil student status.

Transfer to D.Phil in Development Studies after M.Sc.

- 1. Applications should be made not later than March for entry the following October. Candidates who wish to apply for Oxford Scholarships should apply by January.
- 2. An application should be made using the pre-populated form provided by OSS Student Self Service. The form will automatically include some of the required information, but you will need to fill in other sections, for example:
- a) the provisional thesis title;
- b) a research proposal indicating the context in which the study is expected to make a significant contribution to the particular field of learning; the relationship of the research topic to the existing literature; the main research question; the likely source of data, fieldwork location etc as appropriate; and some indication of how this material would be used to answer the main research question. Applicants are expected to consult with their prospective supervisor on this outline.
- 3. Applications should be accompanied by:
- a) three confidential references to the Graduate Admissions Office, either at the same time as the form or later, so long as they arrive by the deadline for submission. These references should be from: the student's current M.Phil thesis supervisor; the member of ODID's academic staff who has agreed to supervise the D.Phil, confirming that they will do this and will be in Oxford during the proposed period of study (or will be able to carry out their supervisory duties satisfactorily while out of Oxford), and evaluating the applicant's research proposal; and one other academic with knowledge of the applicant's work;

- b) two separate pieces of written work;
- c) a curriculum vitae.
- 4. ODID's DPhil Admissions Committee will evaluate the application and supporting letters to determine whether the topic and method are appropriate to the inter-disciplinary field of Development Studies. If not, and if the applicant so wishes, the application will be forwarded to a more appropriate Department of the University.
- 5. Applicants will be made a written offer after evaluation of their applications; this offer will be subject to the applicant subsequently meeting the conditions in point 6 below.
- 6. The required standard is normally at least a 67% average mark in the MSc, with a distinction on the extended essay.
- 7. Admission is as a PRS, and the candidate must usually sit and pass a selected paper from the MPhil in Development Studies, or a paper from another Oxford postgraduate degree, at the end of the first year as a condition for transfer to DPhil status. This coursework will be discussed on arrival with the candidate by the supervisor and the Director of Doctoral Research, and approved by the Graduate Studies Committee of the Department of International Development at its first meeting in Michaelmas Term.
- 8. Students are informed of the decision of the Admissions Committee as soon as possible after the announcement of the Departmental M.Sc. results.

LIBRARY AND IT PROVISION

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE LIBRARY

The Social Science Library is located in Manor Road Building off Manor Road. The economics collection contains both research material in economics as well as a lending collection of items listed on graduate and undergraduate reading lists produced by the Economics Department. Over 2,000 journals and country statistical series offer particularly good resources for the graduate student in economics. The collection on international development is the major resource for the University on Development Studies (Anthropology, Sociology, History, Politics of Developing Countries as well as Economics).

The library is open during Term from 9.00am until 10.00pm (but no borrowing is allowed after 6.00pm), Monday –Friday, on Saturday from 10:00am until 6:00pm and on Sunday from 12:00 noon until 6:00pm. Admission to the library and the use of many library services is by means of the University ID card.

Photocopying facilities and a laser printer are available at 7p per page. A photocopy card may be purchased from library staff. 56 PCs offer access to all the University's networked electronic resources (e.g. EconLit, Social Science Citation Index, International Bibliography of the Social Sciences). A scanner in the library makes it possible to convert statistical tables into electronic data for easier manipulation and analysis.

Over 90% of the collection can now be found on OLIS. The use of online ordering, journal registration and lending makes it possible for library users to find out from OLIS when a book has been ordered, if a book is charged out to another reader and if a particular issue of a journal is to be found in the library. It is possible to place reservations and renew items using OLIS from any PC attached to the University's network.

Details may be found at http://www.ssl.ox.ac.uk/

Copyright Guidelines

The Copyright Act of 1988 states that readers may photocopy only an insubstantial amount of a work for private research or study. Library Association guidelines state the amount should not exceed:

5% or 1 chapter of a book 1 article from a journal issue

Only one copy may be made. Contents pages and bibliographies can only be included if they fall within the 5% limit. Illustrations have separate copyright attached to them.

Please note that copyright applies to a work for 70 years after the death of the author or, for works where copyright is held by the institution, for 70 years after publication. Any work published within the last 25 years is also in copyright.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your photocopying does not break the law. Library staff will be pleased to try to answer any queries you hay have on copyright issues.

IT PROVISION AND DATABASES

Registered graduate student in economics have access to high-quality IT facilities through the Economics Server. The server, which is loaded with an extensive range of econometric and data-analysis software, can be accessed from any web-connected computer (either through an ethernet connection from the Department of Economics or your College, or via the web using a commercial internet service provider).

Students will use facilities on the Server in the Quantitative Methods course, but are also able to use the Server for sending and receiving email, downloading information from databases or other useful sites (data, past exam papers, lecture notes and problem sets etc) as well as for general computing purposes.

The Department of Economics provides an Induction Pack for the Economics Server and limited IT support on the use of the Server. For general IT support and advice you are encouraged to approach your College IT Officer in the first-instance.

Widely used databases (such as those published by the UN, World Bank and IMF, National Bureau of Economic Research, Financial Times) can be accessed through OLIS information systems.

The IT Officer at the Department of Economics is

Mark George itofficer@mail.econ.ox.ac.uk

The IT officer at the Department of International Development is

Rachel Crawford <u>rachel.crawford@qeh.ox.ac.uk</u>

SUPPORT, FEEDBACK AND THE FUTURE

Support and Guidance

The M.Sc. programme is small, and the faculty are generally very approachable. If you need to discuss anything to do with the course or your academic progress, in the first instance you should contact your Supervisor or the Course Director, Adrian Wood. You can also consult your College Advisor. Within ODID, you could also contact the following people (see also the information in the next section concerning ODID and the University Code of Practice relating to Harassment).

Rachel Miller Assistant to Tel: (2)81807

Course Director Email: <u>rachel.miller@qeh.ox.ac.uk</u>

Dominique Attala Graduate Student Tel: (2)81806

Administrator Email: dominique.attala@geh.ox.ac.uk

Stefan Dercon Director of Tel: (2)81822

Graduate Studies Email: stefan.dercon@geh.ox.ac.uk

Christopher Adam Former Course Tel: (2)81816

Director Email: christopher.adam@qeh.ox.ac.uk

Valpy Fitzgerald Head of Department Tel: (2)73611

ODID Email:<u>edmund.fitzgerald@qeh.ox.ac.uk</u>

Complaints and Appeals

- 1. The University, the Social Sciences Division and ODID all hope that provision made for students at all stages of their programme of study will make the need for complaints (about that provision) or appeals (against the outcomes of any form of assessment) infrequent.
- 2. However, all those concerned believe that it is important for students to be clear about how to raise a concern or make a complaint, and how to appeal against the outcome of assessment. The following guidance attempts to provide such information.
- 3. Nothing in this guidance precludes an informal discussion with the person immediately responsible for the issue that you wish to complain about (and who may not be one of the individuals identified below). This is often the simplest way to achieve a satisfactory resolution.
- 4. Many sources of advice are available within colleges, within faculties/departments and from bodies like OUSU or the Counselling Service, which have extensive experience in advising students. You may wish to take advice from one of these sources before pursuing your complaint.
- 5. General areas of concern about provision affecting students as a whole should, of course, continue to be raised through Joint Consultative Committees or via student representation on the faculty/department's committees.

Complaints

- 1. If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision made *by ODID*, then you should raise it with your Course Director or with the Director of Graduate Studies (Professor Stefan Dercon) as appropriate. Within the department the officer concerned will attempt to resolve your concern/complaint informally.
- 2. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome, then you may take your concern further by making a formal complaint to the University Proctors. A complaint may cover aspects of

teaching and learning (e.g. teaching facilities, supervision arrangements, etc.), and non-academic issues (e.g. support services, library services, university accommodation, university clubs and societies, etc.). A complaint to the Proctors should be made only if attempts at informal resolution have been unsuccessful. The procedures adopted by the Proctors for the consideration of complaints and appeals are described in the Proctors and Assessor's Memorandum [http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/pam/] and the relevant Council regulations [http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations].

3. If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision *made by your college*, then you should raise it either with your tutor or with one of the college officers, Senior Tutor, Tutor for Graduates (as appropriate). Your college will also be able to explain how to take your complaint further if you are dissatisfied with the outcome of its consideration.

Academic appeals

- 1. An appeal is defined as a formal questioning of a decision on an academic matter made by the responsible academic body.
- 2. For undergraduate or taught graduate courses, a concern which might lead to an appeal should be raised with your college authorities and the individual responsible for overseeing your work. **It must not be raised directly with examiners or assessors**. If it is not possible to clear up your concern in this way, you may put your concern in writing and submit it to the Proctors via the Senior Tutor of your college. As noted above, the procedures adopted by the Proctors in relation to complaints and appeals are on the web [http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/].
- 3. For the examination of research degrees, or in relation to transfer or confirmation of status, your concern should be raised initially with the Director of Graduate Studies. Where a concern is not satisfactorily settled by that means, then you, your supervisor, or your college authority may put your appeal directly to the Proctors.
- 4. Please remember in connection with all the cases in paragraphs 1-3 above that:
 - a) The Proctors are not empowered to challenge the academic judgement of examiners or academic bodies.
 - b) The Proctors can consider whether the procedures for reaching an academic decision were properly followed; i.e. whether there was a significant procedural administrative error; whether there is evidence of bias or inadequate assessment; whether the examiners failed to take into account special factors affecting a candidate's performance.
 - c) On no account should you contact your examiners or assessors directly.
- 5. The Proctors will indicate what further action you can take if you are dissatisfied with the outcome of a complaint or appeal considered by them.

Student Consultation and Feedback

The formal institution through which M.Sc students interact with faculty is the **Graduate Joint Consultative Committee (GJCC).** The GJCC meets each term with members of the Economics Department's Graduate Studies Committee, including the M.Sc Course Director, to discuss issues relating to all graduate economics courses. The GJCC elects new members in Michaelmas Term, two of whom are representatives from the M.Sc in Economics for Development.

Careers Guidance

The Oxford University Careers Service is based at 56 Banbury Road. It provides information and advice on career opportunities and organizes recruitment meetings, many of which occur in the first term. Many major corporations and institutions (such as investment banks, management consultancy firms, the IMF and World Bank) host recruitment events each year in Oxford.

You should register with the Careers Service as soon as possible. Full details are available on their web pages (http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/). Be sure to read their *Message for Postgraduates on one-year courses*.

Frequently, we are advised directly of employment opportunities – especially for jobs in research, the NGO sector etc. Relevant information will be circulated by email or will be posted on the M.Sc. Notice board in ODID.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD Social Sciences Division

OXFORD DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT Oueen Elizabeth House



MSc in Economics for Development

INFORMATION ABOUT DEPARTMENTAL FACILITIES

Introduction

Welcome to the Oxford Department of International Development, Queen Elizabeth House. We hope you have an enjoyable and successful time in the department. These notes are to provide you with information on how the department works. If after reading them you still have queries about aspects of departmental functions, please do not hesitate to ask questions of the members of staff listed below.

The Oxford Department of International Development is now on one site at 3 Mansfield Road. A new building was completed in summer 2009 which enabled all research, support and lecturing staff to be based on this single site. This extension houses the Refugee Studies Centre (RSC), the Young Lives Research Centre and the International Migration Institute. In addition to offices and open working areas, the new extension houses two seminar rooms and further hot desking space. Three additional seminar/meeting rooms and the hall (or common room) are located in the old building and the Frances Stewart Wing.

Both the development studies and forced migration library holdings are housed in the Social Studies Library at Manor Road, the Social Sciences Centre, five minutes' walk from Mansfield Road.

The department is comprised of over one hundred staff - academics, researchers and support staff. Visiting research fellows also work here under a variety of schemes to undertake reading and research into aspects of development. At any one time the department has up to ten fellows associated with it.

In addition to the MSc in Economics for Development, the department's student body consists of those undertaking the MPhil in Development Studies, MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration, the MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy, the MSc in Migration Studies, and those working for a research degree.

Further information about the department can be found on http://www.geh.ox.ac.uk

People

Listed below are the names and internal telephone numbers of administrative and support staff based in the department with whom you are likely to come into contact in the course of your degree studies here.

Graduate Student Administrator
Graduate Student Coordinator (MSc ED)
Main Reception
Assistant to the Head of Department
Administrator
Accounts Officer
IT Officer
Caretaker

Dominique Attala (81806) Rachel Miller (81807) Penny Rogers (81800) Denise Watt (81803) Julia Knight (81804) Wendy Grist (81824) Rachel Crawford (81821) Gary Jones (81818)

Administrative offices

The core administrative staff are based on the first floor of the old building adjacent to the graduate student administrative office (20.24). Office hours are Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 5.15 pm. A message can be left on general enquiries voice mail ((2)81800) out of office hours.

Opening hours

The main Mansfield Road building is open and Reception staffed from Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. to 5.15 p.m. Access is unavailable after this time.

Teaching Rooms

The main seminar rooms in the department are the Seminar Room 1 (ground floor, old building), Seminar Room 2 (first floor, old building), and Seminar Room 3 (lower ground floor, new extension). There are also two seminar/meeting rooms, one in the library wing and one on the lower ground floor of the new extension.

Some lectures may also be held at Manor Road (please see the Manor Road Building website http://www.manor-road.ox.ac.uk for details of opening times and location). Details of the day's programme of lectures and seminars for all courses will be available at Mansfield Road reception. If you are unsure where a lecture is being held, please check in reception.

Smoking is not allowed anywhere in the department.

Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off during lectures and seminars.

General Facilities

There are **noticeboards** in reception which cover information about University seminars and courses, health and safety and general what's-on-in-Oxford.

Telephones in the public areas of the department can be used for calls within the University and Colleges at no cost. Emergency calls (999) can also be made on these phones.

There is a code-operated photocopier in reception. Students who have work to present at a formal seminar which requires multiple copying may use this machine; please remember to enter the number of copies generated in the book on reception. Please ask a member of reception staff to set the machine for you. If you need to back, collate, staple etc. please *ask* how the machine works. All users must be aware of copyright legislation covering the use of photocopiers. *Please read the notices by the machines. A notice regarding copyright legislation is also provided in the induction pack.*

The main fax machine is in reception ((2)81801).

Common Room and Catering

The department's common room (hall) for students and staff is located on the ground floor. The room is available during working hours and there is a selection of papers to read.

The department has a kitchen run by Will Pouget, who operates the Vaults and Alpha Bar in the Covered Market, supplying mainly organic snacks and light lunches from 12.00 to 1.30 pm, Monday – Friday in term time. A fair trade coffee machine is also available in the kitchen area. The main seating area for consumers is in the area adjoining the kitchen, but people are welcome to use the common room and courtyard.

Manor Road also has a catering facility and a common room which is available to students during the building's open hours.

Parking

Car parking is for permit holding University staff only and are patrolled by the University's Security Service staff who have the authority to clamp parked cars not displaying a permit.

There are public bicycle racks in Mansfield Road and Jowett Walk. You are strongly advised to secure your bike with a strong lock. Please do not leave your bike in the racks over long holiday periods.

Addresses

It is important that your Graduate Student Coordinator is kept informed of any change of address.

Safety and Security

The departmental guidance note **Safety for Staff, Students and Visitors** can be found on WebLearn at: https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/socsci/qeh/safety. Read it carefully and if you have any queries please refer to the Administrator or the Safety Officer. A fire drill will be held in Michaelmas Term. Please ensure that you understand the procedures by reading the blue notices posted around the building. If the drill is not carried out satisfactorily we are obliged to repeat it.

All students, whether or not they use a computer in the department, should read the **DSE** (**Display Screen Equipment**) notes carefully.

See https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/socsci/qeh/safety/page/resources for departmental notes on DSE use and http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/safety/ups0809.shtml for the University's policy statement on the use of DSE. The department has staff who can advise on workstation layout. Please refer to Dominique Attala if you would like advice.

The department's insurance cannot accept liability for loss of personal possessions. It is important that belongings are not left unattended in seminar and lecture rooms. If your class leaves a room for a short break, do not leave any valuables in the room, particularly cash or cards. CCTV is in operation in various parts of the department.

Safety in Fieldwork and Travel Insurance

There are extensive guidance notes and information regarding safety in fieldwork on WebLearn (https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/socsci/qeh/safety/page/resources). These must be read before any fieldwork is contemplated. When you know in which countries you wish to undertake your fieldwork you will need to complete a questionnaire and undertake a risk assessment which must be approved and signed off by your Supervisor. Information about travel and medical insurance can also be found in the same document. Please read this carefully and complete the appropriate forms at least two weeks in advance of travel in case there are queries and delays in obtaining insurance.

Library Services

The extensive Development Studies/Economics holdings are housed in the Social Science Library at Manor Road, the Social Sciences building, five minutes' walk from Mansfield Road. Mark Janes is the Development Studies specialist. The Refugee Studies Library is also based in the SSL. The librarian is Sarah Rhodes.

See the Social Science Library webpages (http://www.ssl.ox.ac.uk/) for more information.

Occupational Health Service

The Service provides travel advice, immunisations and antimalarial prophylaxis to University staff and students travelling in the course of their work, for example, undertaking research abroad, attending conferences or going on field trips. There is a travel clinic on Monday afternoons in the University Occupational Health Service at 10 Parks Road. Telephone 01865-(2)82676, or e-mail enquiries@uohs.ox.ac.uk.

Book well in advance so that courses of immunisation can be completed in good time (at least six weeks before your departure date). Bring a completed travel appointment request form (see Dominique Attala for more information on this form). This service does not extend to families or other accompanying persons. It also does not extend to travel on College business. Advice for non-University business travel should be obtained from your G.P.

More information on vaccinations and preparation for travel abroad are available from the Occupational Health website at: http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/uohs/at-work/travel/

Wireless access

The department is linked to the Oxford Wireless LAN (OWL). Full details of OWL and how to connect to it are available at http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/network/wireless/

Wireless access is available in the following locations:

Seminar Rooms 1 and 2 The Main Hall Frances Stewart Wing New Extension

Computing Facilities

IT at Oxford

You will find a useful introduction to IT at Oxford at http://welcometoit.ox.ac.uk/. This site provides information on the various resources available throughout the University, and how to obtain access to them. The University's Computer Usage Rules and Etiquette can be found at http://www.ict.ox.ac.uk/oxford/rules/. A copy of the University's Rules for Computer Use can be found in this pack.

Oxford University Computing Service (OUCS)

The University's Computing Service is located 15 minutes' walk away in Banbury Road. It offers a wide range of services, including a large variety of courses that are open to all students. Further details may be found at http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ or via the department's Noticeboard page, in various information leaflets available from OUCS and displayed on ODID Foyer noticeboards. In order to use these services you will be required to identify yourself by your University card, giving the card's barcode number where necessary.

MSc Economics for Development students will have access to computing facilities in the Department of Economics, Manor Road.

Email

The main central email server at Oxford is called Nexus. Nexus is one of the systems run by OUCS (Oxford University Computing Services).

All new members of the University are automatically pre-registered for a Nexus account when they arrive in Oxford. Most Oxford users have an email address relating to their college, e.g. chris.jones@sant.ox.ac.uk. Graduate and staff users also get an email address relating to their department, e.g. chris.jones@qeh.ox.ac.uk.

Once your Nexus account is set up and available for use, you can try it out. Connecting via Nexus's web-based Webmail interface is simplest way to get started. All you need is Nexus's internet address which is https://nexus.ox.ac.uk/ - you can type this into your web-browser's address box just like any other web address.

WebLearn

All course materials (lecture lists, reading lists, etc) are now held on WebLearn.

WebLearn (http://www.weblearn.ox.ac.uk/) is a web-based virtual learning environment (VLE), which can be used to support and enhance teaching and learning. WebLearn is based on an open source Collaborative Learning Environment called Sakai. Sakai is used in many of the world's leading Universities such as Cambridge, Yale, UCB, Stanford, ANU and MIT.

In order to access the site you will require a username and password. Your username is your Oxford Username (*i.e.* the same as your Webmail username/password) (see Webauth (https://webauth.ox.ac.uk/) for more details about University of Oxford Authentication)

Harassment

The University's Code of Practice relating to Harassment is available at: http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/har/policy.shtml. The department has two advisors who are ready to advise in complete confidence on any problems that may arise from alleged or apparent breaches of the Code. The advisors are:

Ms Julia Knight ((2)81804) julia.knight@qeh.ox.ac.uk Prof. Robin Cohen ((2)81828) robin.cohen@qeh.ox.ac.uk

Disability

If you have any concerns or need advice please refer to your supervisor or your Graduate Student Co-ordinator, Rachel Miller.

The University's Disability Office website is at: http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/. The department's Disabilities and Special Needs Committee usually meets twice a year. Issues to be raised should be forwarded to the secretary Luci Cummings (tel: 81805, email: lucienne.cummings@qeh.ox.ac.uk) who will refer to the Chair if immediate action is required.

Language Centre

The University's Language Centre is located at 12 Woodstock Road. It provides resources for members of the University who need foreign languages for their study or interest. There may be a charge. For more information see the website: http://www.lang.ox.ac.uk/

Careers Service

The University's Careers Service is situated at 56 Banbury Road Oxford. The Careers Service exists to enable current and recent Oxford University students to make and implement well-informed decisions about their careers. More information regarding this is available from their website at: http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/.

Cycling in Oxford

Oxfordshire County Council provides a website offering comprehensive information on cycling in Oxford (e.g. regulations, safety, details of cycle lanes/routes). The website is at http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cyclemaps

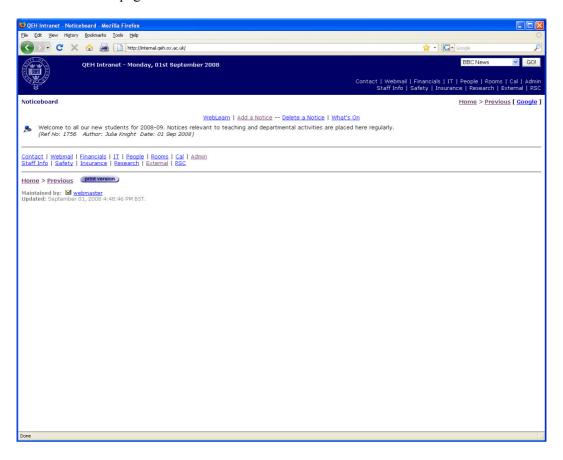
Useful Information for Students

The drop down list on the department's Noticeboard page has links to many useful sites, mainly in the University but some outside. The University of Oxford link directs you to the University's home page where a Current Students link http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/index.html leads to a wide range of information including Careers Service, Language Centre, IT, student organisations, study information, funding information and publications. If you cannot find what you require please ask Rachel Miller or your supervisor who will help.

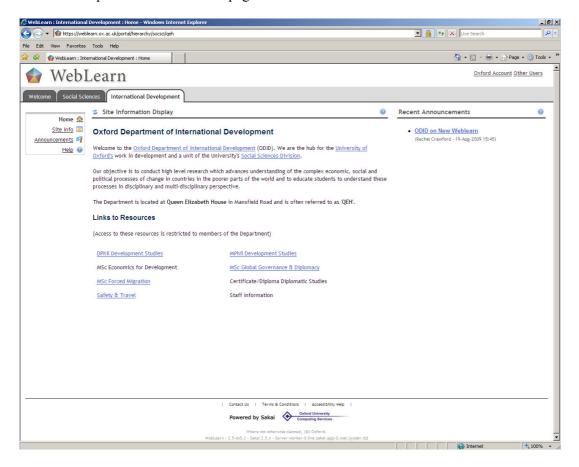
We all wish you a pleasant and successful time in the Department.

The ODID Intranet

The Noticeboard page:



The main Departmental WebLearn page:



Safety and insurance page, showing safety in fieldwork information (WebLearn):

