

MA/SID Advanced Study In Residence

Advanced study for MA/SID students is a second-year in academic residence. Students focus their year's coursework on expanding their knowledge and skills in accordance with their intellectual and professional interests. Working closely with their academic advisor, they produce a master's paper on a significant development problem or issue.

Advanced Study Requirements

Like all MA/SID students, advanced study students write a second-year proposal in which they identify a development problem or issue. The proposal must be approved and signed by the program prior to the start of the second year. During the second year, students must:

- Enroll in SID Advanced Study Seminar (HS338a) in the fall semester
- Take a minimum of 12 credits per semester
- Meet all required deadlines and milestones during fall and spring semesters related to writing and submitting the master's paper
- Present at the SID Capstone Seminar and participate in all Capstone events

Advanced Study	
Term	Credits
Year 1—Fall	16 min; 20 max
Year 1—Spring	16 min; 20 max
Year 2—Fall	12 min; 20 max
Year 2—Spring	12 min; 20 max
TOTAL	56-80 CREDITS

The Summer Advantage: Preparation for the Second Year

Advanced study students may want to take advantage of the summer break to get a head start on their research for their master's paper. If students visit their home country or the area on which their master's paper will focus, they can gather information, visit sites, and informally interview individuals from relevant ministries, NGOs, donors, community leaders, university researchers, and other experts.

Students may also want to create a time management plan. Although the reduced 12-credit requirement is designed to create space and time for students to work on their papers, it can still be a challenge to balance coursework with the demands of the master's paper, especially at the end of the year. Students should build their schedules around the required submission dates for their proposal and paper.

Students use this time to:

- Contact organizations and establish relationships with experts and practitioners knowledgeable about their area of interest.
- Take an ESL course or an on-line course. (There are many options for on-line ESL coursework. Santa Fe College is one example of an excellent service—please see Santa Fe College's website for details: <http://www.ed2go.com/santafecce/index.html>. On this website, type "ESL" in the Search Courses field. Explore *Grammar for ESL* and *Writing for ESL*.)

- Think about their learning goals for their second year and make a plan for the year
- Complete a summer internship: Gain skills, journal experiences and record findings, network, and access gray literature
- Read widely about their development problem or issue

Making the Most of the Second Year In Residence

To make the most of their second year in residence, students can:

- **Identify and clearly define the development problem or issue** that they will focus on for the year. Then **limit the scope of their topic and identify relevant sources**. This will provide the context, structure, and focus they need for a successful second year in residence and a strong master's paper.
- **Take classes that are relevant to their topic** and that increase specific skills they will need for their studies and profession.
- **Hone library research skills in the fall semester**. Learn to use [EndNote](#) or [Zotero](#) to track their sources. Find learning opportunities in the area: Attend lectures, workshops, and other extracurricular events at Brandeis and in Cambridge, Boston, and other places.
- **Value the opportunity to work with their academic advisor**. Before meeting with their advisor, they should think through their questions so they are well prepared. They should share their progress as well as the challenges of their work to maximize the time with their advisor. Students should pay careful attention to feedback on their drafts. If they do not feel they have enough feedback to guide them, they should ask for it.

Development problems have multiple components, so students may wish to meet with other faculty members who also have relevant expertise related to their development problem. Even if they have not fully decided on their topic, they should make an appointment; many people need to talk things out in order to gain clarity.

The Role of the Master's Paper in the Advanced Study Experience

The master's paper is the core of the advanced study students' second year. The paper should:

- emerge from a problem or issue of they would like to explore in more depth;
- focus on a development problem or issue they care deeply about and would like to study for a year;
- strengthen their professional purpose and goals;
- build on their coursework during their two years at Heller;
- contribute to the advancement of the field of sustainable development;
- allow them to build a strong intellectual, academic and practical basis for their future career; and
- align with their practicum (as applicable for advanced study with concentration students)

While writing their master's paper, students should remember their larger purpose. Producing a scholarly professional paper of this complexity and significance is not just an exercise or requirement. If students

approach their paper professionally with an eye toward making practical recommendations and a real contribution to solve the issues related to a development problem, researching and writing their paper is development work in and of itself. Quality work on the master's paper increases students' capacity, establishes their expertise, advances their career, and allows them to serve the values of sustainable development with a solid contribution.

SID Concentration

SID concentrations begin in the second year. Students must complete the SID first year in residence to receive a solid grounding in the program's holistic, integrated approach to development. Under this alternative, their second year is a concentration within a significant field of development. Second-year concentrations are offered in the following areas:

- Management and Development
- Gender and Development
- Environmental Conservation and Development
- Coexistence and Conflict Resolution (COEX)

Note that courses for the COEX concentration must be taken in the fall semester of the second year, while all other concentration courses are taken in the spring semester of the second year.

The SID Concentration Requirements

Students must complete a three-month field practicum in the fall semester of the second year (12 credits) and one semester of coursework in residence in the spring semester (a minimum of 16 credits). Like all MA/SID students, concentration students write a second-year proposal, in which they identify a development problem or issue within the area of the chosen concentration. The proposal must be signed and approved by both the SID program director and the practicum coordinator prior to the start of the second year. For the concentration, students must:

- Enroll as a full-time student in the practicum course (HS230a)
- Complete a three-month field practicum in the fall of their second year (or spring of their second year for COEX concentration students)
- Complete a minimum of 16 credits in their concentration. All courses must be selected from the [approved course list](#). This list is updated annually.
- Produce a master's paper focused on the concentration and situated within the broader goals of sustainable international development.
- Present at the SID Capstone Seminar and participate in all Capstone events.