

## Advanced Study (Year in Residence)

Advanced study for 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 academic and professional interests. Working closely with their faculty adviser, they produce a research paper on a significant development problem or issue.

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.

### *Advanced Study Requirements*

Like all 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 Master's Paper Writing Seminar (HS338a) in the fall semester
- Enroll in 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 event

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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56 CREDITS</b>

### *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.

### *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](https://guides.library.brandeis.edu/EndNote) or [Zotero](https://guides.library.brandeis.edu/sid/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.

Information about EndNote can be found here: <https://guides.library.brandeis.edu/EndNote>

Information about Zotero can be found here: <https://guides.library.brandeis.edu/sid/zotero>

- **Value the opportunity to work with their faculty adviser**. Before meeting with their adviser, 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 adviser. 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.