

INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

The Master's in Development Practice (MDP) is part of an international system of 26 prestigious universities throughout the world that offer the MDP, grouped in the Global Master's in Development Practice Network (www.globalmdp.org). The MDP is focused on training leaders who can effectively guide sustainable rural development processes in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is designed and structured to complement the training of professionals in all disciplines related to complex development processes: health, education, agricultural and forest production, law, policies, planning, public and private administration, environmental conservation and others.

The goal is to help professionals develop the skills and strengths necessary to work effectively in inter-sectorial and multi-disciplinary processes that require a complete overview, a receptive, assertive and participatory attitude, clear thinking, social commitment and an adequate set of practical tools to facilitate and/or mobilize participatory processes. The set of guiding competences of the MDP include the following:

1. Promotion of equity in all its forms and in all processes.
2. Design, plan, execute, monitor and evaluate processes, projects and organizations, in a participatory manner, for different periods.
3. Team work
4. Integrated and trans-disciplinary work
5. Conflict mediation and resolution.
6. Promotion and development of rural enterprise initiatives based on biodiversity conservation and its articulation with value chains and local development processes.
7. Facilitation of participatory processes with multiple actors and concurrence of different disciplines.
8. Development of training activities at different levels and for different audiences and manage knowledge promoting the use of education, dissemination and extension methods that are appropriate for the rural context based on intercultural dialogues.
9. Understanding of ecological processes and biodiversity conservation strategies, processes and mechanisms to strengthen specific technical knowledge about conservation and as a cross-cutting framework to develop other skills.
10. Promotion and development of sustainable governance, management and local policy processes that are in line with national and global political and legal frameworks.

General structure and learning activities

The MDP is a professional master's program that allows participating professionals to develop knowledge and abilities through four groups of activities equivalent to an academic course load of 60 credits:

- Courses (classes and homework) equivalent to 46 academic credits
- Directed practical field trips to real scenarios
- Rural development workshop (one day per week, during the entire first year)
- Graduation project, equivalent to 14 credits.

The first three activities are conducted during the first 18 months of the MDP, with professors in charge of their planning, design, execution and evaluation. Graduation work has a variable duration, but must be completed within 24 months of having begun studies. It can be conducted in any country or organization that requires the work, including the student's own organization.

Required courses (46 credits)

The following table shows the course list for the MDP, with the trimester when these courses are offered and academic load. Students interested in the contents of the courses should consult the complete document available on the Website (www.catie.ac.cr/practicadesarrollo).

PRIMER TRIMESTRE		Créditos
1	Nivelación en producción agropecuaria y sistemas de producción	2*
2	Nivelación en bosques y biodiversidad	2*
3	Nivelación en sociología rural e interculturalidad	2*
4	Nivelación en economía	2*
5	Desarrollo local	2
6	Investigación bibliográfica y redacción técnica	2
7	Educación y facilitación	2
8	Taller de práctica del desarrollo	0
Total de créditos obligatorios		12

* Solo tres cursos de nivelación son obligatorios

SEGUNDO TRIMESTRE		Créditos
Cursos obligatorios		
1	Estrategias de vida y análisis de situación	2
2	Equidad y desarrollo rural	2
3	Salud rural	2
4	Análisis social a escala local	3
5	Información y comunicaciones en la práctica del desarrollo I	1
6	Taller práctica del desarrollo	0
7	Giras de práctica dirigida (enfoque en medios de vida y análisis social)	0
Total de créditos obligatorios		10
Cursos electivos		
1	Clima y cambio climático	2
2	Fundamentos biológicos de la conservación	2

TERCER TRIMESTRE		Créditos
Cursos obligatorios		
1	Información y comunicaciones en la práctica del desarrollo II	2
2	Mediación de conflictos	2
2	Sistematización de experiencias	1
4	Creación de capacidades para el desarrollo local	2
5	Taller práctica del desarrollo	0
6	Giras de práctica dirigida (enfoque facilitación de procesos y manejo de conflictos)	0
Total de créditos obligatorios		7
Cursos electivos		
1	Gestión participativa de áreas protegidas	3

CUARTO TRIMESTRE		Créditos
	Cursos obligatorios	
1	Gestión de empresas locales	3
2	Gestión de empresas asociativas	2
3	Taller de práctica del desarrollo	0
4	Giras de práctica dirigida	0
	Total de créditos obligatorios	5
QUINTO TRIMESTRE		Créditos
	Cursos obligatorios	
1	Fundamentos de gobernanza local y desarrollo	2
2	Procesos e instrumentos de gobernanza local	2
3	Diseño, ejecución y evaluación de proyectos de desarrollo	2
4	Planificación estratégica	2
5	Taller práctica del desarrollo	0
6	Giras de práctica del desarrollo	0
	Total de créditos obligatorios	8
	Cursos electivos	
1	Financiamiento de la conservación	2
2	Gestión integrada de zonas marino-costeras	2
SEXTO TRIMESTRE		Créditos
	Cursos obligatorios	
1	Gestión del paisaje para el desarrollo sostenible	3
2	Preparación del trabajo de graduación	1
	Total de créditos obligatorios	4
	Cursos electivos	
1	Monitoreo y gestión para la conservación	1
2	Gestión local de la vida silvestre	2
SÉPTIMO Y OCTAVO TRIMESTRE		Créditos
1	Elaboración del trabajo final de graduación	14
2	Seminario de presentación del trabajo final de graduación	0

Elective and optional courses

Students in the MDP are able to take other courses besides the required courses listed above. All courses that are offered for all of the Graduate Certificate Programs in Development Practice, most of the courses in CATIE's academic master's programs, and those offered specifically for the MDP are considered to be optional or electives. These courses are included in the student's academic file, but each student must decide whether or not he/she takes any of these.

Rural development workshops

Each quarter, students should register in the rural development workshop where they will conduct case studies, attend lectures by invited specialists in areas of interest, learn about rural development experiences or those related to projects and initiatives regarding the different emphases. Rural development workshops do not offer academic credits, but have mandatory attendance.

Directed practical trips to the field and to real scenarios

These trips are organized each quarter and are focused on the central theme of the trip. Students must register for these each quarter and even though they have no academic credit, they can be counted as practical course work.

Each trip is linked to a preparation process with the students and the preparation of reports according to the subject and practice conducted is required. Each trip can include group and/or individual work. The trips can be for the entire integrated group or for sub-groups who will go to different sites. The assignment of roles for students will increase beginning in the second quarter.

Graduation project

The graduation project or work is the final requirement to obtain the Master's degree in Development Practice. It is a professional work with an estimated average duration of three months and which must be completed within 24 months of having begun the master's program. It is worth 14 academic credits and complements the minimum of 60 credits required for the MDP.

Its nature is clearly professional. Frequent options are project design, facilitation of local strategies, systematization of experiences, analysis of social enterprises, basic studies for plans or strategies, among others. Scientific research is not part of this work. An important requirement of this work is that it be needed by some type of organization (local, NGO, governmental) that is active in rural development processes.

The graduation work or project can be conducted in any country or organization in Latin America, including the student's own institution. Since students take the candidacy examination for the MDP before beginning the graduation work, students are not required to return to CATIE to present their work. Procedures stipulate that once they complete their work, students must send the corresponding report to the Graduate School, where it is reviewed. Once approved, the diploma will be issued.

CATIE holds its graduation ceremony for graduate students each year in December. Students in the MDP are not only invited to this ceremony, but are also encouraged to attend. However, participation in this event is not mandatory.

Admission

Admission is open all year. Classes begin in January of each year. Admission requirements are:

- Possess a university bachelor's degree or the equivalent issued by a public or private university recognized officially in its country
- Pass an at-home admission exam
- Submit the documents required by CATIE's Graduate School
- Demonstrate that he/she has the required funding to complete his/her studies

If you are interested in this program, we recommend that you complete the Admission process as early as possible in order to have sufficient time to seek scholarships, loans and other financial aid needed.

Additional information and contacts

Information about CATIE: <http://www.catie.ac.cr>

Information about the Master's in Development Practice:

www.catie.ac.cr/practicadesarrollo

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