

S.05-28

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Senate Committee on University Priorities
Memorandum

TO: Senate

FROM: John Waterhouse
Chair, SCUP
Vice President, Academic

RE: Graduate Certificate
In Development Studies

DATE: January 21, 2005

Attached is the proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Development Studies submitted for consideration by Dr. Jon Driver, Dean of Graduate Studies.

The Senate Committee on University Priorities reviewed the proposal at its January 12, 2005 meeting. With minor edits which have now been incorporated into the document, the proposal was unanimously approved. Once approved by Senate, the proposal will be submitted to the Board of Governors.

Motion:

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the establishment of the Graduate Certificate in Development Studies.

Attach.

c: J. Driver
J. Pierce
G. Nicholls

CALENDAR ENTRY

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Development Studies is the study of societal transformation or change, particularly those changes that affect the *quality of life* of individuals and groups. The problems of societal transformation are urgent and complex, and often transcend the boundaries of conventional academic disciplines. Development Studies examines the problems in, processes involved, and the prospects for the transformation of human, natural, and material resources in various contexts and at various levels of societal interaction, from the local, national, and regional to the international/global level.

To study societal transformation, one must draw upon many disciplines in order to obtain a balanced understanding of historical and contemporary processes. These disciplines include, but are not limited to: anthropology, business, communication, economics, education, geography, history, law, political science, psychology, resource and environmental management, and sociology.

This graduate certificate in development studies links faculty teaching and research across nine units in the university, and enables students to coordinate their graduate studies so as to concentrate on development issues, using a multidisciplinary approach. Students move through their programs in their departments while also being in regular contact with those with common interests in development across the university.

Program requirements

- Students will be admitted to the university and graduate from their home units according to departmental, school and faculty regulations.
- Students enrolled in listed certificate courses are expected to meet all course requirements. Students will be advised of the scheduling of courses (listed in the certificate) early so as to enable them to plan their programs in consultation with their supervisory committees.
- The list of courses to be taught in the next semesters will be published well in advance. Students are advised to plan course sequences and choices leading toward the certificate well ahead. Completing the certificate may require students to take more courses than their degree requires and may thus prolong the time to completion of their graduate studies.
- Students will graduate with a regular graduate degree offered by their home units, plus a certificate that recognizes their concentration in the field of development studies.

1 Admission requirements:

- a) On being granted regular admission to a graduate program in any department, school, or faculty in the University (including Special Arrangements), students will be informed about the Certificate by the Steering Committee. Though working on projects, theses, and essays is not a requirement of the certificate, students who elect to complete projects, theses, essays in the unit of admission (known as the home department) in a development-related subject will be encouraged to participate.

2 Continuation requirements:

- a) Maintaining satisfactory progress as a graduate student in the University. Students will be informed of their progress toward the certificate.

3 Graduation requirements:

- a) Students will complete four courses selected from the list of courses approved by the Steering Committee of the Program, including a Core Seminar course on development. Students seeking the certificate must take listed courses from at least two different departments or schools (or non-departmentalized faculties). Any student can complete the certificate with the right combination of courses, including the Core Seminar. Students are advised to take the Core Seminar course in the first half of their graduate studies.

The Core Seminar Course is currently POL 861

A list of courses eligible for inclusion in the Certificate will be published annually.