PhD in International Development Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1) What academic credentials are required for admission to the PhD in International Development?

To be considered for admission, applicants must hold a master’s degree or equivalent in International Development Studies or in a related discipline with a minimum average of 75% (B+) calculated in accordance with FGPS guidelines.

Candidates can find a « Database for the Conversion of International Degrees » on the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral website which may help determine whether your degree could be a valid basis for admission to the PhD in International Development. If you feel that you have the appropriate background to be accepted, we encourage you to submit an official application (and all supporting documents) by the given deadline.

2) Will my work experience be considered by the admissions committee?

Candidates are evaluated on their application as a whole. Prior work experience is not an admissions requirement. If you have relevant work/volunteer experience you can outline that in your letter of intent or resume.

3) What is needed by the application deadline?

All that is required by the application deadline is the online portion of the application. Supporting documents (such as transcripts) can arrive later. Please note that your file will not be evaluated for admission until all documents have been received by the Graduate Studies Office at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

4) Do I need specific courses for admission?

There are no course requirements for admission.

5) Do I need to be bilingual?

No, the PhD in International Development does not require students to have an active knowledge of their second language (either English or French). You have the opportunity to complete the program in the language of your choice.

6) Will I need to do an English proficiency examination?

Please refer to the University of Ottawa English language proficiency regulation at the following link.

7) Do I need to take the GRE or GMAT to be eligible for admission?

No tests are required.
8) How do I go about finding a potential thesis supervisor?
You should first consult the following link, to find a list of potential supervisors and their research interests. Once you have found a professor with similar research interests, you should contact them directly to discuss the possibility of working together. If your thesis subject does not line up directly with faculty members from the School of International Development and Global Studies, please contact the program supervisor at edim.phd@uottawa.ca

9) Can I have a co-supervisor from another University or do a “cotutelle”?
Yes, you can find more information on the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website at the following link.

10) What are the tuition fees for this program?
You can find more information regarding estimated tuition fees for graduate studies at the following link.

11) Do both letters of recommendation have to come from professors?
At least one letter should come from a professor. The second letter may be a professional recommendation.

12) Are there specific guidelines to write the statement of interest? How long should it be?
Your statement of interest should be no more than a page or two and should include the following information:

- Your expectations of our program in relation to your goals including eventual career aspirations;
- Your chosen field of interest and research and potential supervisors;
- How your academic, professional, and personal experiences have contributed to your decision to apply to the program and to your particular research interests;
- Any other information that you think will help the selection committee understand your motivation for applying to the program and your capacity for succeeding in the program

13) Is there funding available for incoming students?
Information regarding financial assistance for both Canadian and International students can be found here.

14) What should I do if I still have questions about my application?
You can contact the secretariat of the School of International Development and Global Studies at edim@uottawa.ca or 613-562-5680.

15) Can I contact a current PhD Student to discuss their experience in the program?
Yes, you can contact dvmphd@uottawa.ca to contact a current PhD Student.