

MASTER'S IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

The challenges of poverty, population, health, conservation, and human rights around the world are interconnected, requiring sustained and comprehensive interventions. Recognizing the need for a new approach, MacArthur is supporting the first global initiative to provide rigorous, cross-disciplinary professional training for future leaders in sustainable development.

AT A GLANCE

- Since 2008, the MacArthur Foundation has awarded grants totaling \$16 million to 20 institutions of higher learning in 15 countries to create new, graduate Master's in Development Practice programs, with the long-term goal of establishing a new field of development practice.
- The new, two-year Master's in Development Practice programs provide graduate-level students with the core skills and knowledge required of a development practitioner to engage with specialists across multiple fields.
- The creation of these programs is an acknowledgement that addressing extreme poverty and sustainable development throughout the world requires expert knowledge and an interdisciplinary approach.



ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

Extreme poverty in much of the world is rooted in a complex set of causes, including poor agricultural productivity, the stress of climate change, the burden of tropical disease, and the absence of basic infrastructure, such as roads and telecommunications. A major obstacle to addressing these challenges is the lack of generalist professionals trained across the fields of public health, agronomy, engineering, economics, and environmental science who have the subject matter expertise and regional knowledge to address them.

In 2008, the MacArthur Foundation launched a \$16 million global initiative to support the creation of new, graduate-level training programs at universities around the world, with the long-term goal of establishing a new field of development practice. Since then, the Foundation has awarded 20 grants to 20 institutions of higher learning in 15 countries worldwide to create new Master's in Development Practice (MDP) programs. MacArthur has also helped create a Secretariat at Columbia University in New York to serve as the nexus for the Global Network of MDP programs. Three additional programs are part of the global network but did not receive support from MacArthur.

The new, two-year Master's in Development Practice programs provide graduate-level students with the core skills and knowledge required of a development practitioner to engage with specialists across multiple fields. The degree is built on rigorous, cross-disciplinary coursework in four main areas: health sciences, natural sciences, social sciences, and management, supplemented by two summers of field training, as recommended by the MacArthur-supported International Commission on Education for Sustainable Development Practice.

The creation of MDP programs is an acknowledgement that addressing extreme poverty and sustainable development throughout the world requires expert knowledge and an interdisciplinary approach. By broadening students' training they will be able to more effectively understand and address the interwoven root causes of extreme poverty and the challenges of sustainable development.

The Global MDP Secretariat at Columbia University provides assistance to universities seeking to establish MDP programs, and also helps to develop the program's curriculum, case studies, and standards; maintain an open-source, virtual library for curricula and other course-related resources for the programs; organize meetings and workshops for MDP universities; support an online "Global Classroom" on sustainable development practice; and strengthen the Global Network of MDP universities. More information about the Network is available at www.globalmdp.org.

MASTER'S IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE PROGRAMS

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* MDP Programs launched without MacArthur support.



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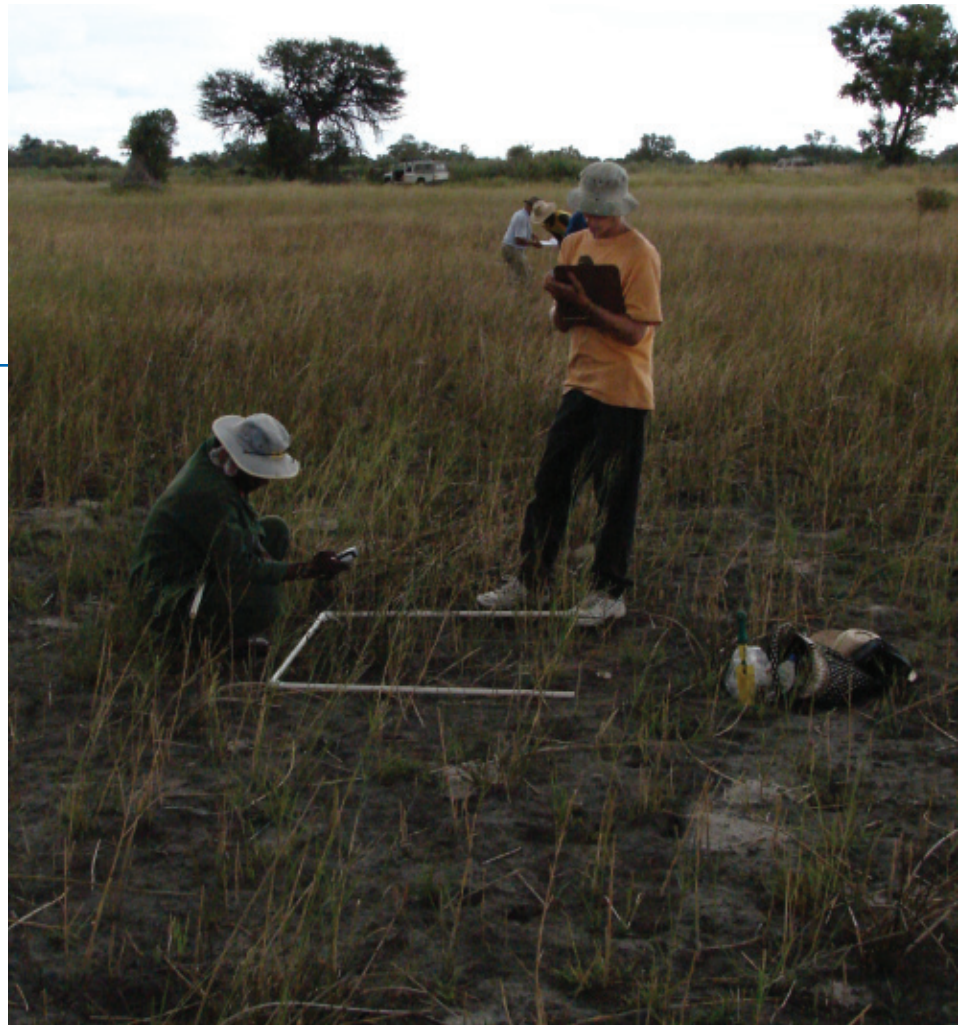
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The Foundation is no longer accepting proposals related to Master's in Development Practice programs.

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More information about the
Master's in Development
Practice programs, including an
interactive map of participating
universities and videos about
each program is available online
at www.globalmdp.org.

About The MacArthur Foundation

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the Foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places, and understand how technology is affecting children and society.

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