International & Overseas Development Work
Working in International Development

Why International Development?
Individuals involved in international development work alongside people in the developing world in many fields. But whatever their role and expertise, their work is underpinned by core principles stated, for example in the UN ‘Rio Declaration on Environment and Development’: ‘Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature’

Why do you want to be involved? Is it a feeling of wanting to change the world, or are you keen to use specific skills you have developed in work experience and want to put them into practice in the developing world? There are many reasons for wanting to get into international development work and you need to be sure about why you want to.

If you are not sure if it’s for you, or what area of work you would like to do in this sector, have a look at the International Development worker job description on the Prospects website www.prospects.ac.uk/international_aid_development_worker_job_description.htm You could also look at University of Manchester alumni on LinkedIn and see what jobs past graduates are doing now and contact them to find out more.

What role within International Development?
International Development is a vast area to work in, and work is diverse, including across these areas:
- healthcare
- education
- engineering
- human rights
- disaster preparedness
- environment
- agriculture
- conflict resolution
Roles within these fields are varied too covering finance, administration, counselling, advocacy, legal work etc. Many different organisations are involved in International Development from the UN and the World Bank to small non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in countries all around the world.

Humanitarian and emergency relief work may call for highly specific skills and experience and usually involves short-term assignments. This area of International Development is covered specifically in the Starting Point Series booklet: Working in Humanitarian Aid/ Emergency Relief Work: www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/startingpoints

How do you get into International Development?
This area of work is very competitive and it is essential that you have a good mix of qualifications and work experience. In many cases overseas experience is critically important. Try to get as much work experience as you can while you are at University, both in this country and overseas. Many students gain experience of other cultures and issues facing people in the developing world by travelling in vacations and after their degree. If you do this try to gain as much valuable experience as you can. Get immersed in another culture, find out what influences people’s lives, try to do some work (usually voluntarily) which ties in with the work you want to do in the future – be it water engineering or human rights campaigning.

Volunteering is a valuable way of gaining work experience. There are many opportunities for working with vulnerable people in Manchester while you are studying, for example with refugees via the Manchester Refugee Support Network www.mrsn.org.uk/ There are other small organisations in the Manchester area supporting refugees, and the Refugee Council supporting refugees across the UK www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/ This organisation also has a priority in campaigning work and lobbying. If you are interested in policy making, campaigning and lobbying you could contact your local MP for some work
experience, or some of the larger international charities (see list further in this guide).

The University runs a volunteering scheme called the Manchester Leadership Programme (MLP) [www.mlp.manchester.ac.uk/](http://www.mlp.manchester.ac.uk/) where you can give back to the community, learn about working in your chosen field and earn credits towards your degree at the same time.

Other volunteering opportunities are available through the Students’ Union [http://manchesterstudentsunion.com/studentaction](http://manchesterstudentsunion.com/studentaction), through Careerslink, our online database which includes Volunteering and other vacancies [www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink) and from the volunteering resource library [www.mlp.manchester.ac.uk/volunteering/volunteeringresourcelibrary](http://www.mlp.manchester.ac.uk/volunteering/volunteeringresourcelibrary/).

You may also find some of the reference books on Volunteering and International Development in the Careers Library helpful including The Voluntary Agencies Directory. The subject index in the back could help you to find charities working in a specific area needed in international development as already mentioned, including healthcare, education, environment, human rights etc.).

For information on volunteering see: [www.volunteers.manchester.ac.uk/](http://www.volunteers.manchester.ac.uk/).

**Internships** are offered by many of the larger international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) such as Oxfam, Christian Aid, Cafod, Save the Children, Plan International etc (See below in ‘Other Organisations’ section). Again these are very competitive but can offer a chance to gain valuable experience, sometimes overseas, and to get to know the sector better.

**Further qualifications** are available in many universities in this country and globally, offering a wide range of courses covering general and specific subjects within International Development. There are a number of UK University programmes on offer including Masters in a range of subjects/disciplines related to the sector, including those offered by The University of Manchester:
▪ The Global Development Institute (GDI) is the largest dedicated development research and teaching institute in Europe. GDI is committed to addressing global poverty and inequality, by uniting the strengths of the Institute for Development Policy and Management and the Brooks World Poverty Institute. 
www.gdi.manchester.ac.uk/

▪ The Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI) www.hcri.manchester.ac.uk/ offers a range of study and research opportunities in the fields of humanitarianism, conflict responses, global health, international disaster management and peacebuilding.


**Getting connected**
Look out for events and activities which will give you a better understanding of working in International Development, talk to people and build up your contacts. For example, the Careers Service runs a ‘Getting into International Development’ day in March each year where experts working in the field talk about their experiences of working in International Development and routes into the sector. There is an opportunity to ask questions and talk to members of the panel. Careerslink, our online database at www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink will keep you up-to-date with events, activities and job opportunities. Also look out for information on closing dates for applications, particularly for graduate training schemes.

**Research**
In the remaining pages of this booklet there are links to websites for many organisations working in International Development. They are grouped into sections (although there is some overlap) and it is well worth taking time to explore and research these.
Sources of information

Reference Books
A full listing of all titles available through the Careers Library catalogue at [www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/library](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/library) examples include:

**International Development**
- Working in Development
- The No-Nonsense Guide to International Development

**Volunteering**

**Charity sector**
- Charities Digest
- Working for a Better World – Your Guide to Careers in the Charity Sector

**Working Abroad**
- Looking for work in International Organisations
- The No –Nonsense Guide to the United Nations

**Starting Point series booklets**
These are available to collect from the Careers Service or to download from [www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/startingpoints](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/startingpoints)

Titles include:
- Environmental Work
- Human Rights Work
- Working in Humanitarian Aid & Emergency Relief Work
- Working for a Charity or Community Organisation
- Working as an Economist

**Periodicals**
Reference copies of these journals are in the Careers Service.
- Third Sector [www.thirdsector.co.uk](http://www.thirdsector.co.uk)

**Working Abroad**
Information on working abroad can be found on our website [www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/findjobs/where/overseas/](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/findjobs/where/overseas/)

**Industry insights**
Available online at [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/industries](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/industries)
- Charity and Voluntary Work
- Public Sector

**Occupational profiles**
Available online at [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)
- International Aid/Development Worker

**Newspapers including**
- The Guardian [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk) (particularly Wednesday)
- The Independent [www.independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk)

**Careers Service Events**
The Careers Service organises a range of careers information events. Representatives from some voluntary organisations/charities have participated in the past. For further details see CareersLink [www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink)

**Websites**

**Please note: This is not a fully comprehensive list of websites**
The following is a selection of websites which provide background information which may be of interest. However, they may not all include...
specific careers/job information. We cannot be held responsible for the recruitment practices and the ethos of the organisations listed.

**Vacancy Sources**
These websites are sites which advertise current vacancies in areas right across the International Development sector. Job vacancies and internships may also be posted on the web sites of various agencies, charities, voluntary sector organisations, consultancies etc. See the links below.

Sources of vacancies include:
- Development Aid
  [www.developmentaid.org](http://www.developmentaid.org)
- Devnet Jobs
  [www.devnetjobs.org](http://www.devnetjobs.org)
- Devex
  [www.devex.com](http://www.devex.com)
- ELDIS
  [www.eldis.org/go/jobs](http://www.eldis.org/go/jobs)
- Ethical Jobs – Careers Service online subscription. Access passwords for this site via CareersLink. Login - go to resources and links in the sidebar -subscriptions and "Access to specialist websites for Students and Alumni"
  [www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink)
- Jobs in International Development
  [www.bond.org.uk/jobs-all](http://www.bond.org.uk/jobs-all)
- Prospects International Graduate Jobs
  [www.prospects.ac.uk/international_graduate_jobs.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/international_graduate_jobs.htm)
- New Internationalist
  [www.newint.org](http://www.newint.org)
- Stopdodo – Global Portal for Environmental Jobs
  [www.stopdodo.com](http://www.stopdodo.com)
- Third Sector
  [www.thirdsector.co.uk](http://www.thirdsector.co.uk)
- Yellow Monday (includes job vacancies)
www.ids.ac.uk/go/our-media/yellow-monday

- WSE – International Development Jobs
  www.wse.org.uk/work/job.htm

Research Centres & Institutes/Think Tanks
If you are interested in research into development studies or campaigning and lobbying, have a look through these sites and see what are the headline issues.

- Centre for Global Development
  www.cgdev.org
- Global Development Institute (GDI)
  www.gdi.manchester.ac.uk/
- Global Development Network (GDN) – network of research and policy institutes
  www.gdnet.org
- International Development Research Centre
  www.idrc.ca
- International Centre for Trade & Sustainable Development (ICTSD)
  http://ictsd.net
- International Food Policy Research Institute
  www.ifpri.org
- Institute of Development Studies (IDS) based at the University of Sussex
  www.ids.ac.uk/ids
- INTRAC (International NGO Training & Research Centre)
  www.intrac.org
- International Institute for Communication & Development (IICD)
  www.iicd.org
- International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED)
  www.iied.org
- International Institute for Sustainable Development
  www.iisd.org
• London International Development Centre  
  www.lidc.org.uk
• Overseas Development Institute (ODI)  
  www.odi.org.uk
• Panos London – part of the Panos Network of Institutes (archive website)  
  www.panos.org.uk
• South Centre – Intergovernmental Organisation of Developing Countries  
  www.southcentre.org
• World Press.org – index of international think tanks and research organisations  
  www.worldpress.org/library/ngo.cfm

UK Government and International Organisations
This section includes websites of organisations working at government level, nationally and internationally.

• Department for International Development (DFID) UK Government Department working to promote sustainable development and eliminate world poverty. Website includes information on the DFID graduate scheme.  
  www.dfid.gov.uk
• European Commission including the Directorate General for Development and European Aid Co-operation Office  
  http://ec.europa.eu
• ECHO – European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department  
  http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm
• The European Union External Action (EEAS)  
  http://eeas.europa.eu
• Social Platform – The Platform of European Social NGOs  
  www.socialplatform.org
• The Commonwealth – an association of over 50 independent states  
  www.thecommonwealth.org
• United Nations (UN) Home Page  
  www.un.org
• UN Careers Portal

• UN Agencies, including UNDP and UNICEF, have their own websites and this can be found via the main UN site. The individual sites provide details of recruitment including internships. The Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme is administered by the JPO Service Centre for a number of UN agencies including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
www.jposc.org

• United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme
www.unvolunteers.org

Development Economics/Finance and related
These websites include international organisations which major on working on development issues from a financial and economic perspective.

• African Development Bank Group
www.afdb.org

• Asian Development Bank
www.adb.org

• Crown Agents
www.crownagents.com

• European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
www.ebrd.com

• European Investment Bank (EIB)
www.eib.org

• Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
www.fao.org

• OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development)
www.oecd.org

• Inter-American Development Bank
www.iadb.org

• International Finance Corporation (part of the World Bank Group)
www.ifc.org
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)  
  www.ifad.org  
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)  
  www.imf.org  
- The Islamic Development Bank Group  
  www.isdb.org  
- MANGO – Management Accounting for NGOs  
  www.mango.org.uk  
- The Microfinance Gateway  
  www.microfinancegateway.org  
- SEED Initiative (Supporting Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Development)  
  www.seedinit.org  
- UN Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC)  
  www.un.org/en/ecosoc  
- UN Economic Commission for Africa  
  www.uneca.org  
- World Bank Group (including a link to PovertyNet)  
  www.worldbank.org  
- World Economic Forum  
  www.weforum.org

**Development Informatics/Communications/Media**

If your area of expertise is in communications, the media, and informatics these websites should provide you with a good source of information and contacts. They are concerned with using communication to address development issues, and offer a wide range of perspectives on these issues.

- Austrian Network for Information and Communication Technologies for Development  
  http://ict4d.at/  
- BBC World Service Trust – aiming to use the media to reduce poverty and promote human rights, an independent charity with the
BBC World Service  
www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/trust

- Centre for Development Informatics  
  www.cdi.manchester.ac.uk/

- Charity Technology Trust  
  www.ctt.org

- The Communication Initiative Network  
  www.comminit.com

- Computer Aid International  
  www.computeraid.org

- Digital Links International  
  www.digital-links.org/

- infoDev – Information for Development Program  
  www.infodev.org

- Knowledge for Development (KM4D)  
  www.km4Dev.org

- Media for Development International  
  www.mfdi.org

- Zunia – Development Gateway Knowledge Exchange programme which includes a Science and Technology section  
  www.zunia.org

Environment/Conservation

These websites tackle different issues relating to conservation and the environment offering information and discussion.

- Conservation International  
  www.conservation.org

- CropLife International  
  www.croplife.org

- Environmental Data Services (ENDS) includes links to the ENDS Directory of Consultants and ENDS Jobsearch  
  www.ends.co.uk

- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)  
  http://cms.iucn.org
- Rainforest Alliance
  www.rainforest-alliance.org
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
  www.panda.org

**Human Rights/Conflict Resolution/Peace Building**

These websites cover a wide range of human rights issues from women’s rights to conflict resolution and living with the consequences of conflict. They provide information and contact details for becoming involved.

- ACT – Alliance for Conflict Transformation
  www.conflicttransformation.org
- Advocates for International Development (A4ID)
  www.a4id.org
- Amnesty International – campaigning organisation working to protect human rights worldwide
  www.amnesty.org.uk
- ASF – Avocats Sans Frontières (Lawyers without Borders)
  www.asf.be
- Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID)
  www.awid.org
- Conflict Resolution Information Source
  www.crinfo.org
- Human Rights Internet
  www.hri.ca
- Human Rights Watch
  http://hrw.org
- Human Rights Web
  www.hrweb.org
- International Alert - Peace building organisation
  www.international-alert.org
- International Crisis Group – NGO working to prevent and resolve conflict
  www.crisisgroup.org
- MADRE – International Women’s Human Rights organisation
  www.madre.org
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
  www.maginternational.org
- Saferworld – NGO working to prevent armed violence and create safer communities
  www.saferworld.co.uk

**Medicine/Health/Disability/Well-being**

If your speciality is medical these websites will provide you with a rich source of information and ideas from organisations which will inspire you.

- ADD International (Action on Disability and Development)
  www.add.org.uk
- Bill & Melissa Gates Foundation
  www.gatesfoundation.org
- GAIN – Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
  www.gainhealth.org
- HelpAge International
  www.helpage.org
- Healthright International (formerly Doctors of the World)
  www.healthright.org
- International HIV/AIDS Alliance
  www.aidsalliance.org
- International Medical Corps (IMC)
  www.imcworldwide.org
- IPPF – International Planned Parenthood Federation
  www.ippf.org
- LEPRA Health in Action
  www.leprahealthinaction.org
- Malaria Consortium
  www.malariaconsortium.org
- Management Sciences for Health
  www.msh.org
- Merlin (Health Care & Medical Relief)
  www.merlin.org.uk
- MSF - Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders)
  www.doctorswithoutborders.org
- Sightsavers – International charity
  www.sightsavers.org
- WHO – World Health Organisation
  www.who.int
- Womankind Worldwide – helping women in developing countries
  www.womankind.org.uk

**Technology**

Use these websites to find out how you can use your engineering and technical expertise to work alongside people in the developing world.

- ACTED (Agency for Technical Cooperation & Development)
  www.acted.org
- Build Africa
  www.build-africa.org
- Engineers Without Borders
  www.ewb-uk.org
- Farm-Africa
  www.farmafrica.org.uk
- GRAIN – International NGO
  www.grain.org
- Practical Action-Technology
  www.practicalaction.org
- RedR – Engineers and other professionals wishing to work on humanitarian programmes
  www.redr.org.uk
Trade
Find out more about ethical and fair trading from these websites.

- Consumers International – World Federation of Consumer Groups
  [www.consumersinternational.org](http://www.consumersinternational.org)
- Ethical Trading Initiative
  [www.ethicaltrade.org](http://www.ethicaltrade.org)
- Fair Trade Federation (FTF)
  [www.fairtradefederation.org](http://www.fairtradefederation.org)
- Fairtrade Foundation
  [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)
- Fairtrade International (FLO – Fair trade Labelling Organisation)
  [www.fairtrade.net](http://www.fairtrade.net)
- Federation of International Trade Associations (FITA) – Global Trade Portal
  [www.fita.org](http://www.fita.org)
- World Fair Trade Organisation
  [www.wfto.com](http://www.wfto.com)
- International Trade Centre
  [www.intracen.org](http://www.intracen.org)
- Traidcraft
  [www.traidcraft.co.uk](http://www.traidcraft.co.uk)
- World Trade Organisation (WTO)
  [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)

Other Organisations
These websites are for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), voluntary organisations and charities, and include some organisations involved in Emergency Relief and Humanitarian Aid work.
- ActionAid International – an international development agency
  www.actionaid.org
- Action Against Hunger
  www.actionagainsthunger.org
- Asia Foundation
  www.asiafoundation.org
- BOND (British Overseas NGOs for Development)
  www.bond.org.uk
- British Red Cross
  www.redcross.org.uk
- CAFOD
  www.cafod.org.uk
- CARE International UK
  www.careinternational.org.uk
- Christian Aid
  www.christianaid.org.uk
- Concern Worldwide
  www.concern.net
- Development in Action
  www.developmentinaction.org
- Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)
  www.dec.org.uk
- Global Justice Now (previously called World Development Movement)
  www.globaljustice.org.uk/
- Global Volunteer Network
  www.volunteer.org.nz
- Global Humanitarian Assistance
  www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org
- GOAL – International humanitarian organisation
  www.goal.ie
- InterAction (American Council for Voluntary International Action)
  www.interaction.org
- International Citizen Service (ICS) – UK global volunteering programme for voluntary development work abroad.
www.ics-uk.org.uk
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
  www.ifrc.org
- IRC – UK (International Rescue Committee UK)
  www.rescue.org
- International Service – an international development organisation
  www.internationalservice.org.uk
- Islamic Relief
  www.islamic-relief.com
- OXFAM
  www.oxfam.org.uk
- Plan – international child-centred community development agency
  www.plan-uk.org
- Progressio
  www.progressio.org.uk
- Salvation Army – international development (UK)
  www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id
- Save the Children
  www.savethechildren.org.uk
- Skillshare International – working for sustainable development
  www.skillshare.org
- SOS Sahel International UK
  www.sahel.org.uk/
- Tearfund
  www.tearfund.org
- Tourism Concern
  www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)
  www.umcor.org/UMCOR/About-Us
- VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) – international development
  charity
  www.vso.org.uk
- World Jewish Relief
  www.wjr.org.uk
- World Vision UK
  www.worldvision.org.uk
- Worldwide Volunteering
  www.wwv.org.uk/

**General**

Further websites of a more general nature:

- Development Studies Association (DSA)
  includes an on-line directory for courses in the UK and Ireland
  www.devstud.org.uk
- Forum for the Future – action for a sustainable world
  www.forumforthefuture.org includes information on their Masters in Leadership for Sustainable Development
  www.forumforthefuture.org/masters-course
- Society for International Development
  www.sidint.net
- The Ethical Careers Guide includes a Development and Overseas section www.ethicalcareers.org
- World Service Enquiry (WSE) – Information and advice about working in development including their annual ‘Guide to Volunteer for Development’ and their publications ‘Working in Development’ and ‘Opportunities Abroad – Jobs for development’
  www.wse.org.uk
- Getting into Development Blog from the University of London Careers Group
  www.careers.lon.ac.uk/blog/development

**Information Gateways/Resource Centres/Online Directories**

- Idealist - Action Without Borders – information resources, includes links to non-profit and community organisations in over 160 countries
  www.idealista.org
- AlertNet Reuters Foundation – a humanitarian news network
  www.AlertNet.org
- Development Gateway includes a Country Gateway Network [www.developmentgateway.org](http://www.developmentgateway.org)
- Global Focus Aotearoa – a non-profit organisation with core funding by NZAid. The Information Services was formerly Dev-Zone. [www.globalfocus.org.nz/](http://www.globalfocus.org.nz/)
- DOCON (Directory of Consulting Firms Active in International Development Co-operation) [www.docon.info](http://www.docon.info)
- Directory of Development Organisations [www.devdir.org](http://www.devdir.org)
- ELDIS – Development Information. This site has sections and links covering different development sectors including online communities, country profiles and development resource guides [www.eldis.org](http://www.eldis.org)
- One World UK – information on Human Rights and sustainable development, part of One World Network [www.uk.oneworld.net](http://www.uk.oneworld.net)
- Rural Poverty Portal – powered by IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) [www.ruralpovertyportal.org](http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org)
- ReliefWeb – a project of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs providing humanitarian information on complex emergencies and natural disasters [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)
- SciDevNet (Science & Development Network). This site has a links section including Government Agencies, International Bodies and NGOs [www.scidev.net](http://www.scidev.net) reference
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