

Bachelor of International Development Management

Working towards a fair world

Is it really possible for everyone to profit equally from development while still respecting the environment? In our view it is. Through sustainable trade, equal rights and equal opportunities we believe that a healthy balance between people, earth and prosperity can be achieved.

The Bachelor of International Development Management gives you the knowledge and motivation to take steps towards promoting this balance. In your study programme, you can opt to focus on reconstructing society after natural disasters, empower people living in rural areas or contributing to fair economic chains from raw material to consumer. In all cases, you will learn to bring people together, defend interests of different stakeholders, and to facilitate and support developments and innovation.

You will also learn more about geography, biology and economics. You will deal with intercultural communication, international cooperation, the green economy, reconstruction after disasters, strengthening the position of farmers, fair trade, business administration, and project management. After graduating from International Development Management, you could find work in a Non-Governmental Organization, a commercial or non-commercial environment. You will have developed strong skills in working with people. Perhaps you will become a bridge-builder to increase opportunities for market access for smallholder farmers, or development of local and export markets for sustainable food. Possible jobs include sustainable certification advisor, manager of a cocoa cooperative, advisor of eco-tourism in rural areas, and advisor on reconstruction following natural disasters.

Facts

Degree

The Bachelor of International Development Management (BSc) is accredited by the NVAO, the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders.

Programme

Bachelor programme (BSc) | 4 years, English taught Velp (the Netherlands)

Professional field

In the course of the study programme, you can focus on Disaster Risk Management, Sustainable Value Chains or Rural Development and Innovation.

Professional field:

Disaster Risk Management

Bachelor programme (BSc) | 4 years | English taught | Velp

Increasing resilience for the future

Droughts, heat waves, floods and other disasters are happening more frequently and are increasing in severity. When they happen, they disrupt entire societies. In some regions, these disasters are more frequent than in others. How can you help societies get back on their feet quickly after a disaster, and in such a way that they are more resilient when the next disaster occurs? Decisions taken immediately after a disaster have long-term consequences. If you choose this specialisation, you can help to ensure that the right decisions are made. You will have the knowledge to expertly assist communities to become stronger and more resilient in the face of man-made and natural disasters. You will analyse the causes of disasters and the vulnerability of a region to those disasters. You will gain an understanding of how regions can be built up again following a disaster. You will learn where to find the required expertise and how it can be deployed. Would you like to work on both the technical and the social aspects of reconstruction? Then focusing on disaster risk management is perfect for you.

Work placements

In year two you will do a work placement. This will give you the opportunity to spend time in the actual working environment, preferably outside the Netherlands or the country from which you originate. This will help you to discover more about the area of work, about communication, cultures, teamwork, working independently and it will simultaneously challenge you personally.

Career opportunities

After graduation you can find work as a junior consultant, policy advisor, trainer or technical assistant. You can find an employer such as a local, national or international government body, a Non Governmental Organisation, business, or set up your own enterprise.

“My study programme has given me a broad foundation”



Wouter Bokdam

Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor, Care Netherlands

“As a Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor, I work on increasing the resilience of the people most vulnerable to natural disasters like cyclones, floods, earthquakes and the effects of climate change. In addition, we train development workers to set up sustainable projects, which are also able to withstand natural disasters. For example, reinforced hospital buildings in earthquake-sensitive areas, cyclone shelters that can also serve as schools, evacuation routes and warning systems for regions at risk from tsunamis, planting trees on steep slopes in order to prevent landslides. My study programme at Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences has given me a broad foundation which makes it easy for me to work with people in the field, while also being active at a strategic level to create more awareness and understanding of the importance of my professional field for achieving the United Nations millennium goals.”

“A fair price for farmers and sustainable production of food. That is what I work for.”



Wiebe Draijer

Extension Manager at Cocoa Abrabopa in Ghana

“In the cocoa sector there is a lot to be improved. For example through growing techniques that enhance biodiversity and through the development of market access for small farmers. I have worked in several countries all around the world. My experience to work in Ghana as an extension manager was very interesting and rewarding. Together with my local colleagues we have been able to improve the production of the farmers of the Abrabopa cocoa company. With that extra income, our farmers are building brick houses, sending their children to university and getting good healthcare. And it's going to get even better, because the Fair Trade label and organic cocoa are also on their way.”



Professional field:

Sustainable Value Chains

Bachelor programme (BSc) | 4 years | English taught | Velp

Building a fair and sustainable world

The world seems to be getting smaller by the day, while the differences between people are getting bigger and bigger. Opportunities are unequally distributed and the dominant economic interests damage our natural living conditions and harm our natural resources. Fortunately, people, organisations and companies increasingly see the necessity of change and are acting accordingly. Fair Trade is one of the ways of doing that: chains which truly ensure a better life for the people who produce our coffee, tea, cocoa, bananas, pineapples, palm oil, cotton, and many other tropical crops. As a chain expert, you will create a better existence for the producers and their organisations, working together with businesses, NGOs and (local) governments. In order to achieve this responsible trade, you will use your knowledge of sustainable food production as well as your people skills and, not least, your economic drive.

Making a difference through trade

No more business as usual. In this professional field you learn how to set up chains that do not harm our planet and provide a decent income for all those involved. Farmers and rural communities all around the world face environmental, economic and social challenges e.g. effects of climate change, lack of access to market, loss of biodiversity, overuse of pesticides or the struggle to earn a decent income. Sustainable Value Chains hands students tools and knowledge to address these issues. Are you all about sustainable agricultural production, fair trade and environmental protection? Then this is the study for you.

Career opportunities

Sustainable trade is something that many companies are trying to and willing to achieve. As more and more producers and consumers worldwide become conscious of the social impact of trade, the more career opportunities there are. You can become a campaign officer where you draw up plans for how a company can improve their trade methods, you can be a sustainable trade trainer, a buyer for a company or a certification analyst that determines whether a product has been bought and produced fairly.



Professional field:

Rural Development and Innovation

Bachelor programme (BSc) | 4 years | English taught | Velp

Finding answers - and communicating them

Despite impressive reductions in poverty globally, progress has been uneven. Inequality is increasing between urban and rural areas and in rural areas in the developed and developing world. Each rural area has its own dynamics, opportunities and problems. In some countries, people are moving to the cities, causing depopulation of the countryside. What will be the effect on the liveability in villages, the effect for the rural youth? For an Eastern European family farm globalization (including EU regulations) may force them to stop farming or diversify their income, e.g. to earn additional income from West-European tourists. Or can an African farming family survive when members are becoming a victim of HIV/AIDS? Students learn to analyse the reasons why inequality is so persistent and learn how to facilitate development that is pro-poor, which may lead to empowerment of vulnerable and marginalised rural communities. This intensive programme provides a practical introduction to the opportunities and threats affecting life in rural areas all over the world - a world that could soon become your own workspace!

Work placements

In the second year, you will do a 10 weeks work placement, for instance in an eco-village, a multifunctional farm or work in the rural area as a leader of a group of youngsters. Most often these internships are undertaken in the Netherlands, Europe, US or Canada, sometimes in a developing country. In the third year the 20 week work placement is often in an organisation for regional/rural development. Examples of internship in foreign countries are India, the US, Ghana, Benin, Argentina and Uganda.

Career opportunities

As a rural developer and facilitator, you will pick up new ideas and trends, and use them in policy making and concrete activities. This way you can help people in the field to make a difference. Whether you work in your own or in another country, you will be a mediator between groups within organisations for a better collaboration. Your flexibility will be as broad as your knowledge of the field. You may find yourself working in a government institution, consultancy firm, in a service centre or innovation group with rural entrepreneurs. You will be perfectly equipped for positions with development organisations such as CMC, VSO, or in companies and private organisations that carry out projects around the world.

“Translate ideas and trends into policies and activities.”



Erika Kommers

Student of International Development Management

“To get into contact with other cultures is one of the best aspects of this study programme. You go abroad and see how people get on there. Subsequently, you can help people to think differently in their situation, while at the same time you learn how to think differently yourself. More in terms of solutions, I would say. And then: get to work!”

