

Concept Note

IDA Global Development Class 2016

Background

With the endorsement by the international community of the 17 sustainable development goals in September 2015¹ there would seem enough reasons and opportunities to work with global development.

However, following the massive cuts and the shifts towards dealing with refugees in development assistance by the Danish Government, some of the traditional entry-points being more or less closed, there is a serious need for clarifying what career options do exist in the field, which sectors are hiring and, not least, how to take advantage of the new opportunities and new jobs.

IDA Global Development Class was formed in 2015, after realising a considerable demand for clarification, individual career-oriented mentoring, recruitment exercises, and career training in the field of global development. It was a great success with 55 enrolled and around 35 persons graduating after a year with vivid activity.

Purpose

The IDA-Global Development Class 2016 is intended as an opportunity for young people who are at the beginning of their careers to build networks, learn about and shape a career in the field of global development.

A maximum of 30 young people from different professional and educational backgrounds will enrol in this one-year programme which is carried forward by participant-organised activities.

Specific objectives

- To get to know and understand the main generic and some specific operators in the field of global development, their driving forces, approaches, and recruitment needs and processes.
- To provide personal clarification about one's own wishes, qualifications, and opportunities with respect to a career in global development, allowing for a production of a marketable professional profile.
- To establish a professional network in global development and understand how to use and further expand this by bringing together peers around a set of development-oriented activities.
- To actively engage the participants to take responsibility for key parts of the Class' events and processes.

¹ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Events to be held

- **Kick-off meeting**

Introduction to the Global Development Class and its activities.
Formation of the project groups and their working modes.
Lectures on development careers, from a personal and a profession perspective

- **Bi- and multilateral sector meeting**

To be held at the UN city or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this meeting will work with the question of the traditional development career entry points of the UN, Danida, and the EU. It will investigate to what extent such options still exist and display what typical career paths and required profiles.

- **Private business sector meeting**

This meeting will be held at one of the major actors and involve several private firms. It will touch upon the role of the private sector in global development, display various entry points and barriers, estimating the career possibilities.

- **Mid-way meeting**

At the mid-way meeting, interim reports from the project-groups will be presented.
A mentor scheme will be introduced
Mock recruitment exercises and personal career advice will be offered.
Evaluations will be held, and we will fine-tune the way forward, adjust personal expectations and define limitations.

- **NGO sector meeting**

This will involve several NGOs, varying in size and area.
It will be discussed how it is to work for the sector, and we will look at entry-points, barriers and the profiles required.

- **Meeting on global entrepreneurship for development**

At this session, we will look at what it takes for starting your own development related initiative.
Through various exercises and talks, we will look at the practical, personal, and financial challenges, showing different business models and approaches.

- **Close-out meeting**

At the close-out meeting, the final reports will be presented and discussed.
The participants will work with a personal career plan.
An alumni network will be encouraged, in order to maintain contact and interaction within the group.
Certificates will be granted.

Work format

The class participants will work in small groups during the year on various themes and will form cross-groups for organizing the above events. Depending on the number of participants and where they live, a hub might be formed in Aalborg.

Certificate requirement

Participation in at least four out of the seven events and active contribution to project-groups, including event planning, research and contributions to the interim and final report.

Total number of participants

Minimum 20, maximum 30

Target audience

- Young current and to become members of IDA Global Development (< 39 years of age) aiming for a career with focus on global development, specifically:
- University students within last two years of their study
- University graduates within first five years after graduation
- Multidisciplinary mix of humanities, natural sciences, business and economics, technical sciences, etc. (40 – 60 % IDA or potential IDA members)

We can offer some travel compensation for *up to ten* of participants from Jutland and Funen.

Participation in IDA Global Development Class 2016 is free. However, it requires that you are a personal member of IDA Global Development for which an annual membership costs:

Personal member – DKK 400

Students – DKK 200

Members of the Danish Society of Engineers - Free

For more details please see our website: <http://ida-globaldevelopment.dk/>

Application

If you are interested in participating in IDA Global Development Class 2016, please fill out the application form and send it to Head of Programme Troels Stru Schmidt at troelsstru@gmail.com

The deadline for applications is February 15th, 2016.