

Development Theories and Practices

Why do some countries and communities develop faster than others, and what can governments and international actors actually do about it? This course connects the major theories of development with the realities of policymaking and international cooperation.

Students explore competing approaches to economic and social development and examine how ideas about growth, inequality, institutions, governance, sustainability and human development translate into concrete policies. Rather than treating development as a purely economic process, the course analyses its political, social, institutional and international dimensions.

Using contemporary cases, students discuss the role of governments, international organisations, the European Union, civil society and the private sector, as well as the impact of crises, geopolitical competition, technological change and the green and digital transitions. The course encourages students to question established models and to compare theory with actual results. Its central objective is to provide them with the analytical tools needed to understand why development strategies succeed or fail and how better policies can be designed in an increasingly interconnected and uncertain world.