

NPSIA Works: Career Futures

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Description of the Field

The development field is fundamentally about addressing basic human needs, such as food, water, and shelter, and working toward an improved quality of life for peoples in the non-industrialized world. A variety of specialized sectors have been created to address each of the issues in turn, which include: health, democracy/governance, agriculture/environment, economic growth, education, and infrastructure. The democracy and governance sector, although one of the newest, is increasingly favoured by donor agencies.

The three main actors in development work are donors, implementing agencies, and advocacy groups, and jobs vary accordingly. Donors include organizations that are bilateral (e.g. International Development and Research Centre, IDRC) or multilateral (e.g. World Bank, UNDP) and typical duties for employees include monitoring and oversight, policy formation, and macrolevel project design. Many NPSIA alumni have found jobs in both GAC and IDRC. Implementing agencies are on the front line of development, providing direct assistance mostly at the community level. They can include non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or private sector firms (including development consulting firms) that receive contracts or grants from donor agencies. Staff are primarily recruited based on sectoral or regional expertise and sometimes working conditions of employees can be difficult and pay is often low. Advocacy groups are comparatively small and tend to focus on research and development to influence development policy, donors and implementing agencies.

Selected Alumni Job Titles

Coordinator, Women's Health and Empowerment Project, International Development Research Centre

Director, Branding & Organizational Development, Guidant Japan KK

Director, Standards & Collaborative Governance, AccountAbility

Director General, Social Development Partnerships, Partnerships for Development Innovation, Global Affairs Canada

International Development Consultant, Mosaic International

Institutional Development Specialist, Mexico Program, The Nature Conservancy

Program Officer, Business Development and Technical Services, CHF

Project Team Leader and Country Representative, Community-Based Economic Development Project, Canadian Centre for International Studies and Co-operation

Research and Policy Assistant, International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development

Research Officer, Canadian Partnerships, International Development Research Centre

Research Officer, Community-Based Natural Resource Management Program Initiative (Asia), Programs Branch, International Development Research Centre

Research Officer, Peacebuilding and Reconstruction PI, International Development Research Centre

Senior Education Economist, Human Development, Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office, World Bank

Senior Program Specialist, Evaluation, Corporate Strategy and Evaluation Division, International Development Research Centre

Senior Program Specialist, PAN Asia Networking and ICT4D Policy, Information and Communication Technologies for Development, International Development Research Centre

Senior Program Specialist, Program and Partnership Branch, International Development Research Centre

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