A deep understanding of the roles of science, technology and innovation, as well as skills in organizational leadership, are becoming required qualifications for employment in today’s global development workforce. The IGD program goes beyond the intellectual mastery of a discipline. It focuses on new approaches that facilitate the acquisition of 21st-century skills required for communication, creativity, independent thinking and work in multicultural contexts. With a strong global mission and a focus on student success, the IGD program addresses the mismatch between what students of global development are expected to do when they graduate and what schools usually prepare them to do. Our coursework aligns with real-world activities to allow students to understand the successes and failures of past models of development, encouraging them to reimagine future development policies and practices to bring about positive change.

Training in the IGD program includes cultivating collaborative and leadership skills, so that graduates are prepared not only to work in team settings that involve colleagues with diverse expertise and backgrounds but also to lead such teams.

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DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING AND RESEARCH SKILLS TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP FOR INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

How can we think critically about 21st-century development challenges, explore innovative approaches, and apply them appropriately? Our goal in the Innovation in Global Development (IGD) doctoral program is to prepare informed, confident and deeply motivated graduates whose research and leadership will create positive change in social, environmental and economic conditions worldwide. Cutting-edge research, reflection, and mutual learning are crucial to this endeavor.

ACADEMIC STUDY AND BEYOND

IGD faculty come from many academic disciplines and converge in the program to provide intellectual community, scholarship and mentoring. By engaging with globally recognized faculty and dynamic research centers across ASU, participating in publicly- and privately-funded grant projects and expanding their creative partnerships, our graduates gain unique experiences that expand their creative horizons. In particular, all IGD students will participate in the work of the Center for Innovation, Development and Society, contributing to its ongoing research and various intellectual forums. In line with Arizona State University’s Charter and its approach to evolving the New American University, IGD students build strong relationships with civil society, governments, private firms, donors and NGOs to realize the vision of better life for all. Together, we pursue a common goal: to take the lead on innovative and inclusive approaches to development issues that meet the needs of the present and the future.

“The Innovation in Global Development programs’ interdisciplinary focus was key in my applying. This program allows me to do research directly in line with my career interests in technology like AI and blockchain, while also working toward a brighter future for everyone.”

– Kevin Johnson, PhD candidate

The School for the Future of Innovation in Society (SFIS) is a transdisciplinary unit at the vanguard of ASU’s commitment to linking innovation to public value. We are pursuing a vision of responsible innovation that anticipates challenges and opportunities, integrates diverse knowledge and perspectives, and engages broad audiences. By examining the ways we translate imagination into innovation — and how we blend technical and social concerns along the way — we learn to build a future for everyone.

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