



The role of the International Development graduate in global progression

“No country can really develop unless its citizens are educated.” – Nelson Mandela

It's crazy to think that the headlines we're reading today could find their place in the history books of tomorrow. From the controversial movements of Trump's former government, to the strained international relations between a diverse range of cultures and religions, to the growing devastation caused by rapid climate change effects; we undoubtedly live in an era of uncertainty and political change.

Though it sometimes feels like we're in the midst of a chaotic civilisation clash, you can rest assured that we aren't the first generation to face up to issues like extreme terrorism, racism, poverty and world hunger. The old saying may well claim that history has a habit of repeating itself, but as U2 frontman turned global activist, Bono, notes in his powerful TED Talk, Three Actions for Africa, "The fact is that ours is the first generation that can look disease and extreme poverty in the eye, look across the ocean, and say this, and mean it: we do not have to stand for this."

So, who takes charge of combatting the pervasive problems that affect, not just African countries, but all four corners of the globe?

Striving to make significant contributions towards positive social change, the graduate with International Development awareness plays a major part in the recovery and progression of an unsettled and unpredictable world.

To triumph over these complex, often catastrophic issues, it's crucial that we understand the way global systems operate. It's simply not enough to wade in with a financial contribution and hope for long-term change – the problem of poverty, for example, is much more convoluted than simply being the result of widespread low income; it's an issue that involves an amalgamation of factors like overpopulation, lack of rainfall, and the inability to access basic human services like healthcare and education. While there's no quick fix to these challenges, connecting with and understanding how your research links to International Development will instil you with the skills and aptitude you need to fight for positive change.

But with so many hopeful ambitions making their way to the field, how do you ensure you can make an impact?

“Having a master's degree is crucial to advancing in international development,” says Dr Oliver Walton, Lecturer in International Development at the University of Bath.

The broad understanding of current development issues and possible solutions you might acquire gives you the knowledge to develop a better and fairer world. By appreciating the complexities and intricacies that play a part in the development of a nation and its people, your sphere of influence and reach of power extend far beyond the your research alone. Instead, you contribute towards positive social change that has the capacity to impact the daily lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people.