

**International Program:
MA in Social Science (Development Studies)
Focus on Land Relations**



**MEKONG
LAND**
RESEARCH FORUM

RCS**SD** The Regional Center for Social Science
and Sustainable Development
Chiang Mai University

(cover photo: Quang Nguyen Vinh)

Introduction

Land governance is a concept that cuts across academic disciplines, bridging social and environmental sciences, an understanding of legal frameworks, political economy and policy studies. At national and regional levels, policy in Southeast Asia has sometimes supported the development of dynamic land markets, while at other times it has sought to curtail excessive accumulation. Governments give concessions to foreign investors on the basis that they promote economic growth, while at the same time many question the impact of land deals on rural smallholders and sustainable land use.

A focus on land relations within RCSD's MA program in development studies aims to equip students with an applied understanding of concepts such as access, rights, administration, and tenure security, and an ability to grasp regional dynamics, national policy questions and local perspectives on land.



(Photo: ML Project)

Master of Arts in Social Sciences (Development Studies)

Since 1999, Chiang Mai University has offered an MA in Sustainable Development. This was developed as a centerpiece of knowledge production for the Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD). The center was established in 1998, in response to the need for interdisciplinary approaches to sustainable development issues in Southeast Asia. Responding to social, economic and cultural transformations at local, national and regional levels, the MA program supports insightful research and analysis of the social, environmental and cultural conundrums of modernization and development.

In 2012 the degree title changed to MA in Social Science (Development Studies), reflecting faculty and student interests in contemporary social science theories. Emerging social issues include transnational migration, border studies, climate change, urban-rural interactions, non-state market driven governance, land and natural resources, and political ecology. Coursework and scholarship have been oriented to contextualize regional connectivity resulting from regional economic integration via the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and the ASEAN Community. The international program in development studies is taught in English.

A focus on land relations was introduced in 2017. This reflects a return to a founding concern for RCSD, namely that of social dimensions of resource and environmental management, and in particular forestry. Reframed under the concept of 'land-grabbing', there is revitalized interest in the development of land markets and their impact upon the rights of local users among academics, activists and researchers in the region. Through the focus on land, Chiang Mai University provides training benefitting a new generation of researchers and administrators working in the field of land governance.

Academic Program

The focus on land issues integrates into the course structure of the MA in Social Sciences (Development Studies). It comprises two principal fields of study within the following study plan:

Study Plan:	Coursework and Thesis	
Course duration :	Study for 2 academic years	
Total credits:		36 Credits
	A. Coursework (a minimum of)	21 Credits
	B. Thesis	15 Credits



(Photo: Stephen Nyein Han Tun)

1st Academic Year :

1st Semester (June-October)	9 Credits
169701 Social Science Theories (Core course)	3 Credits
166701 Development Theories (Core course)	3 Credits
Elective Course	3 Credits

2nd Semester (November-March)	12 Credit
169703 Research Methodology in Social Science (Core course)	3 Credits
166791 Seminar Special Issues on Development Studies (Core course)	3 Credits
166761 Land Relations in Southeast Asia (Elective Course compulsory for focus on land relations)	3 Credits
Elective Course	3 Credits
Develop Thesis Proposal	

2nd Academic Year :

1st Semester (June-October)	
169799 M.A .Thesis	15 Credits

2nd Semester (November-March)	
Thesis examination	

Elective courses (subject to availability)

166711 Regionalization in Development Process	3 credits
166721 Knowledge, Rights and Globalisation	3 credits
166731 Cultural economy	3 credits
166741 Ethnic Politics in Southeast Asia	3 credits
166751 Transborder Studies	3 credits
166789 Selected Topics on Development Studies	3 credits
154714 Political Ecology	3 credits
154711 Environmentalism and Public Policy	3 credits
159723 Economic Sociology and Anthropology	3 credits
159712 Resource Governance and Civil Society	3 credits

Under the current study plan, coursework is completed in the first year with the second-year devoted to field research and thesis writing. Coursework is divided into core and elective components. In developing a focus on land relations, linkages are made throughout the study program by faculty staff. The centerpiece for participating students is the module '*Land Relations in Southeast Asia*'. This will explore long-standing and current issues that surround land in the region. A cluster of staff will teach around topics such as:

- Large-scale land developments and concessions
- Policy issues including property and titling
- Access and exclusion
- Land and food security
- Agrarian transformation
- Urban land governance
- Regionalized land relations

Students will be encouraged to translate between micro- and macro-levels of analysis, gaining a strong grounding through case studies in different communities and countries of the region, but also capable of contextualizing in terms of regional dynamics (such as ASEAN).

As well as the course module, a focus on land relations also offers:

- Identified components on land within other core and elective course modules
- Graduate seminars and presentations from visiting scholars and organizations in the region
- Project work using the online facility of the Mekong Land Research Forum, and taking part in associated research, thereby increasing knowledge and case study experience in the region

- Attendance at the annual Land Research Summer School, venue for 2021 tbc in relation to coronavirus pandemic
- Tailored thesis research in land issues, including assistance with internships and regional networking
- Conceptual and practical support from the Mekong Land Research Forum
- Connection with other academic institutions in the region who are also working with land issues, with an opportunity for study and teaching exchanges

The focus is taught in English. Each year is split into two semesters, with the first semester running from June to October and the second semester running from November to March.



(The annual Land Research Summer School 2019)

The Mekong Land Research Forum:

Since July 2015, RCSD has housed the Mekong Land Research Forum, with support from the MRLG (Mekong Region Land Governance) program. Through the forum, RCSD seeks to **encourage** research on land governance, **connect** researchers looking into issues of land governance in the Mekong Region (namely Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam), and **facilitate** ready access to their work.

The Mekong Land Research Forum has been actualized in three principal ways, which support students working on land issues:

1. An online resource

Maintaining, enhancing and fostering utilization of an online resource offers access to both published and unpublished research. Different search avenues include a conceptual framework through twelve key themes on land. Annotations of specific articles are also provided, and students will be invited to participate in progressive annotation of key bibliographic items. A vital accessing point of research, the resource acts as a core educational tool for integration into Master's training on land issues.

2. A research network

This brings together those in academic institutions, NGOs and where relevant government agencies, with a research interest on current land issues, and provides a platform by which they may exchange, debate and collaborate. The network considers, through moderated online and face-to-face discussions, the latest country-specific or regional trends in land governance, alongside conceptual, technical and methodological approaches. As well as offering a useful knowledge resource to students,

it is hoped that information on their own research will be reciprocated back to the network.

3. Education outreach program

A focus on land relations within the MA in Social Science (Development Studies) represents a core activity to facilitate the training of a new generation of researchers. Support will be provided to students concerning their own thesis research, connecting them with appropriate experts around the Mekong Region, and providing suitable mentoring.

For more information on the Mekong Land Research Forum, please visit <http://www.mekonglandforum.org> or contact the project coordinator at mekonglandforum@gmail.com. For further information on the MRLG program, please visit <http://mrlg.org/>



(Photo: Doungtepro)

Our graduates

Land governance is a critical issue for the region, and there is a lack of qualified academics and professionals working in this field in the Mekong Region. The focus in land relations within the MA international program in Social Science will help fill this gap. A graduating student is expected to possess the following skills:

- Expertise in conducting research, from methodology to data collection, analysis and reporting
- Contact with a regional network of researchers on land issues
- Contact with a wide range of inter-related topics, with the ability to communicate across multiple fields, between academia, civil society, and policy-makers
- An ability to scale up and down, from a consideration of local issues to a contextualization within regional dynamics

Estimate cost for students

Tuition Fee

Student	Total Tuition Fee (4 semesters)	Number of semester for the payment	The amount of payment per semester
Non-Thai students	THB 320,000.-	4 semesters	THB 80,000.-
Thai students	THB 240,000.-	4 semesters	THB 60,000.-

Tuition fee payment: Students will be informed the dates of the tuition payment in advance.

Semester	Date of payment
1	Students must pay tuition fee during the registration for new students at the University Registration Office
2-4	- Students pay the tuition fee in the first month of each semester after completing the online course enrollment. - Students will pay through a bank or by online banking system.

Further cost will apply as follows;

Details	Approximate Amount (Baht)
Reading materials/books	5,000.- (per year)
Field Research expenses	20,000-40,000.- Budget is dependent on the research
English Editing for thesis proposal and thesis. (For non-native English Speakers)	10,000-15,000.-
Required Academic activity: International conference or Publication; -Registration fee -Transportation -Accommodation	The budget is depending on where the conference takes place that students want to attend

Visa (For non-Thai residents)	Please check the visa fee with the Thai Embassy in your home countries. For Chiang Mai Immigration, the visa extension fee is 1,900.- baht per year
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Living cost in Chiang Mai is approximately 12,000 – 15,000 Baht per month.

Housing cost, a room in apartment or condominium, is around 5,000-10,000 Baht per month.

Scholarship Information for Academic Year 2021

There are four scholarship opportunities for students from the Mekong region:

1. M.A program Scholarship by our program
2. CMU Presidential Scholarships by CMU Graduate School
3. TA/RA Scholarships by the CMU Graduate School
4. Thailand Government Scholarship 2021-2022 – TIPPP Scholarship 2021

Details on these opportunities are given below, and RCSD provides support for students wishing to apply in any case.

❖ **M.A Program Scholarship**

The M.A program grants 1-2 scholarships for qualified candidates from **Asian countries**. The scholarship full funds program costs as detailed below:

For the 1st Academic Year 2021

Details	Amount (Baht)
Tuition Fee in full covering 2 semesters	160,000 – (non-Thai students) 120,000 – (Thai students)
Monthly allowance; June 2021 - May 2022	12,000 - per month, inclusive of housing expenses
Arrival allowance	A one way air-ticket (Home country–Chiang Mai; economy class) at the minimum possible price and traveling related costs such as visa application fee, Taxi in the budget of 15,000 baht. <u>Please note:</u> Receipts need to be shown as financial evidence for all expense items; boarding passes, air-ticket receipts and visa application fee receipt. **Please note: The scholarship will not cover the cost of visa application fee for renewing visa within Thailand (1,900 baht per year).
Book and supplies	5,000 -

For the 2nd Academic Year 2022

Details	Amount (Baht)
Tuition Fee in full covering 2 semesters	160,000 -
Monthly allowance; June 2022 - May 2023	12,000 - per month, inclusive of housing expenses
Field research expenses	20,000 -
English editing for thesis	8,000 -
Thesis supplement	3,000 -

One-way air-ticket (Chiang Mai-Home Country- economy class)	Ticket will be arranged by RCSD for departure after graduation.
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(Photo: Philip Hirsch)

Qualifications:

1. Applicants from Asian countries who apply to study International program, M.A in Social Science (Development Studies), Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University.
2. Bachelor's Degree Holder with the minimum of 3.00 GPA (based on the maximum of 4.00 or equivalent)
3. Certificate of English Proficiency dated within the last 2 years; (at least one of the following)
A: TOEFL at least 550 (PBT), 183 (CBT), 79 (IBT)
B: IELTS at least 6.00

How to apply;

Complete **scholarship application** form and submit it together with all the required documents to Ann via email (Rungthiwa.hacker@cmu.ac.th or rcsd@cmu.ac.th) by **31 March 2021**

If you submit all the required documents, you will be invited to attend an entrance interview via email. This interview is for the admission including scholarship recruitment.

❖ CMU Presidential Scholarships and TA/RA Scholarships

Please visit our Graduate School website for further information and application.

Link: https://www.grad.cmu.ac.th/grad_wp2/

❖ Thailand International Postgraduate Programme (TIPP) Scholarship 2021

More information please visit TICA website: <https://tica-thaigov.mfa.go.th/en/index>

Admission Procedure

Qualifications

- All applicants who have a bachelor degree or equivalent in any discipline, as accredited by the Ministry of University Affairs, are eligible to apply for the MA in Social Science (Development Studies).
- Applicants who are non-native speakers must have a Certificate of English Proficiency at least one of the following:
 - TOEFL at least 523 (PBT), 523 (ITP), 193 (CBT), 69 (IBT)
 - IELTS at least 5.5
 - CMU-TEGS at least 65 (Chiang Mai University Test of English for Graduate)
 - CU-TEP at least 65% (Chulalongkorn University Test of English Proficiency)
 - TU-GET at least 65% (Thammasat University General English Test)
 - KU-EPT at least 65% (Kasetsart University English Test)

Interview

If an applicant submits all the required documents, he or she will be invited to attend an entrance interview held by RCSD staff. Candidates will be informed of the interview schedule via email by RCSD staff. Applicants who successfully pass the interview stage will be eligible to study in the program.

How to Apply

Step 1: Submit your documents on the list below to RCSD center via email, Rungthiwa.hacker@cmu.ac.th or rcsd@cmu.ac.th

- 1) Letter of motivation
- 2) CV
- 3) The applicant's proposed **research outline** or a **statement of tentative research project**
- 4) A copy of passport (passport must be valid)
- 5) JPG-file of your photograph (passport/ID style, white background)
- 6) An official **transcript written in English** (***highlight the date of your graduation**)
- 7) A copy of your degree certificate(s) (with English translation)
- 8) Letters of recommendation (at least 2 letters)
- 9) Certificate of **English Proficiency**; (at least one of the following)
 - A: TOEFL at least 523 (PBT), 523 (ITP), 193 (CBT), 69 (IBT)
 - B: IELTS at least 5.5
 - C: CMU-eTEGS at least 65%
 - D: CU-TEP at least 65%
 - E: TU-GET at least 65%
 - F: KU-EPT at least 65%

Note: - English Certification must be current for the application period.
- Applicants must submit an official copy of the English Certificate
- This requirement does not apply to native English speakers

Step 2: Complete online application for the Graduate School

Link: https://www.grad.cmu.ac.th/grad_wp2/

Information for completing Graduate School's online application:

Admission: for Semester 1st, Academic Year 2021 (Thai year 2564)
Program: International
Level: Master Degree
Study Type: Type 2 (Coursework and Thesis)
Faculty: Social Sciences
Name of the program: Master of Arts in Social Science Track
Development Studies
Major: Social Science
Track/Specialization: Development Studies
Admission fee: 900 baht

For further inquiries, please contact "Ann": rungthiwa.hacker@gmail.com

Mobile: +66 (0)81 951 0049 or +66 (0)53 943 595 #21



(The annual Land Research Summer School 2019. Photo: Tubtim Tubtim)

Schedule for admission

Activities	Date/2021
Last day to submit written applications and online application	25 April 2021
Interview	*All applicants will be informed the interview schedule via email. The interview session will be organized from February until the end of April 2021. Applicants who completed the application process will be invited for the interview early.
Announcement for successful candidates	Beginning of May 2020
Registration and tuition fees payment for new students	5 June 2021
Preparation course for new students	24 May -11 June 2021 (tentative)
Orientation for new Graduate students by Faculty of Social Sciences	7 June 2021 (tentative)
Online course enrollment for new students	17-27 June 2021
First day of semester/classes	21 June 2021

For further inquiries on admissions please contact: rcsd@cmu.ac.th or support staff: rungthiwa.hacker@gmail.com

Phone: +66 53 493 595 ext.21 (Ann)

RCSD

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The Learning Space for Sustainable Development

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