

**International Program:
MA in Social Science (Development Studies)
Specialization in Land Issues**



**MEKONG
LAND**
RESEARCH FORUM

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

(cover photo: Jimmy Su)

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 state and regional levels, policy in Southeast Asia has often mirrored the development of dynamic land markets, encouraging improvements in agricultural productivity and the use of land as collateral. Concessions to foreign investors are seen as an opportunity for growth in emerging economies. However, the effect on rural smallholders and sustainable land use has been questioned, with farmers suffering livelihood loss under minimal compensation packages. A specialisation in land issues within a Master's level program aims to equip students with an applied understanding of concepts such as access, rights, administration, and tenure security, and an ability to grasp both local perspectives and regional dynamics on land.



(Photo: Raewyn Porter)

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 centrepiece of knowledge production for the Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD). The centre was established in 1998 in response to the need for interdisciplinary approaches to sustainable development issues in Southeast Asia. Responding to dynamic social, economic and cultural transformations at local, national and regional levels, the MA program aims to support 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 trade and cooperation, climate change, urban-rural interactions, non-state market driven governance, land and natural resources, and political ecology. The international program in development studies, which is taught in English, represents one track of the MA in Social Science. Three other tracks are available through the Thai program, namely in Ethnicity and Development, Women's Studies, and Health Social Sciences.

A specialization in land issues is to be introduced for the 2017 intake. 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 revitalised 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 specialization, Chiang Mai University will be a centre for training benefitting a new generation of researchers and administrators working in the field of land governance.

Academic Program

A specialization in 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, (Class: Monday – Friday)
Total credits:	36 credits
	A. Coursework (a minimum of) 21 Credits
	B. Thesis 15 Credits



(Photo: Phil Hirsch)

1st Academic Year:

1st Semester (August-December)	9 Credits
169701 Social Science Theories (Core course)	3 Credits
166701 Development Theories (Core course)	3 Credits
Elective Course	3 Credits
2nd Semester (January-May)	12 Credit
169703 Research Methodology in Social Science (Core course)	3 Credits
166791 Seminar Special Issues on Development Studies (Core course)	3 Credits
Elective Course	3 Credits
Elective Course	3 Credits

2nd Academic Year:

1st Semester (August-December)	
169799 M.A. Thesis	15 Credits
2nd Semester (January-May)	
Enrollment for University services	0 Credits

Elective courses

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
NEW Land Relations in Southeast Asia	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 specialization in land issues, linkages are made throughout the study program by faculty staff. The centrepiece 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
- Regionalised 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 contextualising in terms of regional dynamics (such as ASEAN).

As well as the course module, a specialisation in land issues also offers:

- Identified components on land within other core and elective course modules
- Graduate seminars and presentations from visiting scholars and organisations 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, held at Chiang Mai University
- 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 specialization is taught in English. Each year is split into two semesters, with the first semester running from August to November and the second semester running from January to May.



(The annual Land Research Summer School 2016. Photo: Tubtim Tubtim)

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) programme. 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 utilisation 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 programme

A specialisation on land issues on impact and policy 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 programme, please visit <http://mrlg.org/>



(Photo: SDC – Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation)

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 specialization in land issues 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 contextualisation within regional dynamics

Tuition Fee

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

Further cost will apply as follows;

Details	Approximately Amount (Baht)
Reading materials (photocopy)	5,000 -
Field Research expenses	20,000-40,000 - Budget is depending on the researches.
English Editing (For non-native English Speakers)	15,000-20,000 -
Required Academic activity, International conference or Publication; -Registration Fee -Transport -Accommodation	The budget is depending on where the conferences students want to attend.
Thesis book printing	2,500-3,000 -

Living cost in Chiang Mai is approximately 10,000 – 12,000 Baht per month. Housing cost, a room in apartment or condominium, is around 5,000 Baht per month.



(Photo: Phil Hirsch)

Scholarships

Applicants are urged to seek their own financial support from private, as well as government sources, in their own countries. A limited number of scholarships from the Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development and MRLG are available for students following a specialization in land issues, who demonstrate excellent academic performance. More details can be obtained from RCSD.

Shortlisted applicants for the scholarship will be invited for an interview, which will be held either in the applicant's home country or online.

Visa

Chiang Mai University and our program will provide documents for students such as a certify letter or acceptance letter. It is student responsibility to find out the requirements, rules and regulations including fee from Thai Embassy or Thai Immigration.

Contact: rcsd@cmu.ac.th, Support staff: rungthiwa.hacker@gmail.com

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 must also have passed TOEFL with a score of at least 500 (paper-based), 173 (computer-based) or 61 (internet-based), or have passed IELTS with a score of 5.5, or have passed TEGS with a score of at least 65, or CU-TEP 75, or TU-GET 550.

Interview

If an applicant's written application is successful, he or she will be invited to attend an entrance interview held by RCSD staff. Candidates will be informed of the time and place of the interview via e-mail. Candidates who successfully pass the interview stage will be eligible for admission to the program.

How to Apply

Step 1: Submit written application:

- 1) A completed application form
- 2) A copy of passport
- 3) Two of most recent passport photos (color)
- 4) An official transcript written in English
- 5) A copy of your degree certificate(s) (with English translation)
- 6) Three letters of recommendation
- 7) Certificate of English Proficiency; (optional)

A: TOEFL at least 500 (PBT)/ 173 (CB)/ 61(iBT)

B: IELTS at least 5.5

C: CMUe-TEGS at least 65 (<http://www.li.cmu.ac.th>)

D: CU-TEP at least 75 (<http://www.atc.chula.ac.th>)

E: TU-GET at least 550 (<http://litu.tu.ac.th>)

Note: - This requirement is only applying for non-English native Speaker.

- English Certification must be current for the application period.

- 8) The applicant's proposed research outline or a statement of tentative project.
- 9) The receipt of admission fee payment (see admission fee payment)

Address to submit your written application;

RCSD Center (M.A program)
Faculty of Social Sciences
Chiang Mai University
239 Huykeaw Rd, T. Suthep, A. Muang
Chiang Mai 50200

Step 2: Complete Graduate School online application:

<http://www.grad.cmu.ac.th/admissions/indexeng.php?p=104&tab=1>

Information for completing Graduate School's online application:

Admission for Semester 1st, Academic Year 2017 (Thai year 2560)

Level: Master Degree

Name of the program: Master of Arts in Social Science (Development Studies)

Study plan: Type 2 (Coursework and Thesis)



(The annual Land Research Summer School 2016. Photo: Tubtim Tubtim)

Payment for the admission fee:

The international program costs **900.-THB** per program but this does not include:

Bank's fees and taxes (fees, and taxes, applicants will be responsible for these cost)

- Domestic payment via the counter of the Siam Commercial Bank Public Company Limited (SCB), Chiang Mai University Branch, A/C No. **667-3-00622-9**, A/C name, "The Graduate School, Chiang Mai University",
- Oversea transfer payment to :
Account Name : Graduate School
Account No : 667-3-00622-9 **Account Type :** Current
Account Bank : Siam Commercial Bank
Branch : Chiang Mai University
SWIFT : SICOTHBK (www.scb.co.th)
Name : Siam Commercial Bank Public Company Limited (SCB)
Bank Address: 9 Ratchadaphisek Road Ladyao, Jatujak, Bangkok 10900
Tel: 2544-1111 **Fax:** 2544-5000
- Transfer with **Western union (recommended!)**, (http://www.westernunion.co.th/en/how_to_send.php) the receiver name,

Mr. SARUNYOO BUA-ON, who is a cashier of the Graduate School, Chiang Mai University. Then, please send us MTCN code (Money Transfer Control No.) to this email: finance@grad.cmu.ac.th

Note: The receipt of payment should be sent with the written application.

Schedule for admission

Activities	Date/2017
Last day to submit written applications and online application	30 April
Interview	May *All applicants will be informed the date for the interview through email.
Announcement for successful candidates	* All applicants will be informed the result of the interview through email.
Registration and tuition fees payment for new students	To be announced later
Preparation course for new students	July
Orientation for new Graduate students by RCSD center	To be announced later
Online course enrollment for new students	To be announced later
First day of semester/classes	7 August

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

RCSD

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The Learning Space for Sustainable Development

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www.mekonglandforum.org (Mekong Land Research Forum)