

Industry-linked Modules for Practice, Advancement, Capacity-building, and Training (IMPACT) Workshops

This note provides a broad overview of the nature and scope of skill development workshops for better industry engagements in the development sector, with specific reference to the M.Sc Development Practice programme run by the IDEAS Office at JGU.

What is ‘Industry’ in the context of Development Sector?

The term "industry" in development studies must be understood more broadly than the conventional corporate associations, linked to profit-driven enterprises. In the context of development practice, "industry" refers to the comprehensive ecosystem of professional fields, organizational practices, and knowledge systems that collectively shape development work and create employment opportunities. It encompasses diverse institutional actors operating across multiple scales—from grassroots community organizations to international advisory firms, policy think-tanks and do-tanks and multilateral agencies. These actors influence policy formulation, generate research and evidence, deliver social interventions, and build local capacities. Each occupies a distinct role within the larger architecture of social, political, and economic transformation.

For students, practitioners, and scholars, recognizing this institutional spectrum is crucial for mapping career pathways and understanding how development knowledge is both produced within academic and policy circles and translated into practice on the ground.

The IDEAS Office at JGU runs its flagship M.Sc Development Practice programme (with an online counterpart, M.Sc Development Studies), focused on building effective pedagogies for grassroots engagement with contemporary development challenges. Both programmes emphasize developing cutting-edge skills to maximize student employment and effective participation in this expanding sector. Therefore, specific action-based and capacity building workshops, synchronized to the diverse stakeholder base of this sector is required for the better management of the programme.

Before getting into the detailed modalities of these workshops, or as we call it IMPACT, it's necessary to get an idea on the variety of stakeholders who are associated in the ‘development industry’ in India and the world. The knowledge partners required to run these kinds of workshops, which will be certifiable in nature, can be of four types: (i) Civil society organizations or CSOs like the Ajeevika Bureau, which work at the grassroots level and with direct engagement with the communities; (ii) Policy think tanks like Centre for Policy Research or PRS Legislative Research which critically engages with Government policymaking and helps shaping the capacity of the state; (iii) Impact evaluation firms and Do-tanks like IndusAction, which are engaged with large scale impact evaluation program in the public and the private sectors and the (iv) Specialized knowledge organizations and media houses like the Economist Intelligence Unit which provides highly specialized knowledge products like macroeconomic analysis or survey research and data-stories. Together, these organizations can provide a comprehensive ecosystem of skills and capacity building to prepare students for the multifaceted possibilities offered by the development sector.

Modalities of the IMPACT workshops

The IMPACT workshops are intentionally designed to function as **value-added, skill-based learning modules** that go beyond conventional classroom instruction. Unlike standard academic courses, these modules are practice-oriented, curated, and delivered by **domain experts** with extensive experience in the field, policy spaces, and academic research.

Each module engages students in hands-on learning, and are structured to prepare students for **academic, policy, and professional practice pathways**, aligning capacity-building directly with real-world expectations. The key elements of the various modules of the workshop are (not limited to): Applied courses on research methodologies, Applied data analytics, Academic writing and policy analysis, Public Administration, State capacity and Public Finance, International Political economy and its impact on local labour markets, Field Immersion, Project design, and Professional communication and advocacies in development. All these workshops are specifically oriented to maximize the potentials for students in the job market.

Academic Hours, Credits, and Certification

We are aligning the IMPACT workshops with **academic credit requirements** so that the certification is verifiable and recognised.

Each workshop series will involve **15 to 30 contact hours (1 credit for every 15 hours of teaching)**, with some time allocated to **self-directed learning**. These credits are optional engagements on top of the scheduled course modules. The certification will therefore be both **industry-recognised** (by virtue of engagement with established organisations and experts) and **academically credit-bearing** under our institutional framework.

Importantly, these certifications will not require any external facilities; the modalities will remain consistent with standard academic teaching, evaluation, and credit allotment mechanisms.

Immersion Program for MSc Development Studies

Beyond classroom-based instruction, it was proposed by the OAG to hold **immersion programs** for our online course on Development Studies that place students directly in the contexts where development work unfolds. The office has been decided to conduct a **9-day residential module, budgeted at ₹50,000**, designed to function as an intensive **bootcamp experience** for students of development studies. These programs are not supplementary add-ons but integral pedagogical spaces that **simulate the “practice” component of professional work**, offering students exposure to the complexities, challenges, and lived realities of the field. The key features of the immersion programs are specific workshops on methods, field based learning exposure, direct supervision by the faculties on themed research interests, and enabling a more dynamic environment of peer and practice based learning.

Finally, the primary aim of these IMPACT workshops and the immersion programmes are not merely to issue students a certificate of participation, but to ensure that such certification carries **tangible and lasting value**, academic, professional, and practical. Their distinctiveness lies in the way they are anchored in a **broader understanding of “industry” within the**

development sector, one that goes beyond corporate frameworks to include think tanks, civil society organisations, policy institutions, and research bodies. This framing guarantees that the competencies students acquire are relevant to the diverse career trajectories available in the field. These workshops will also provide scope of network building with many potential employers in the sector. We are dedicated to upholding the highest standards of **academic integrity, professional relevance, and ethical practice**. With this assurance, we are confident that these initiatives not only meet the criteria outlined but also set a benchmark for innovative pedagogy in development studies. We seek to learn more from this experiences to scale this up for the other entities within the universities in the future.