

Dual Master of Arts degrees in **Sustainable International Development & Coexistence and Conflict**

The Sustainable International Development (SID)/Coexistence and Conflict (COEX) dual degree option was created in response to the global demand for academic and professional training that addresses the overlap between development and coexistence work in societies in conflict. An increasing number of governmental, intergovernmental, international and local organizations working on development issues are establishing units within their planning structures to address the particular needs of programs in conflict areas to ensure that their development work connects rather than divides societies.

This unique program, offered jointly by the Heller School for Social Policy and Management and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, gives students the opportunity to train with expert faculty and practitioners in the fields of development and coexistence. SID courses provide a poverty and development context for understanding and responding to conflict situations, while COEX courses build an understanding of the structural and psychosocial causes of conflict and violence and allow students to effectively analyze strategies for interventions.

Students who complete this program will receive two M.A. degrees: one in Coexistence and Conflict, and the other in Sustainable International Development. The program requires four semesters in residence at Brandeis followed by a field project that integrates knowledge from both fields of study. The semesters in residence follow the schedule below:

Academic Year One (fall, spring)	Students enroll in SID classes
Academic Year Two (fall, spring)	Students enroll in COEX courses

Following the end of Academic Year Two, students spend a summer semester engaged in a field project on an issue of development and conflict followed by the fall semester producing a Masters Paper/Field Project under the guidance of their COEX advisor. During this final summer and fall semester, students will be in Continuation status at the university

Why the dual degree?

Earning a dual degree will expand professional career possibilities and add to the developing research on the combined issues of interest to both fields. In addition to the required core courses of the SID and COEX programs, the dual degree also offers elective courses that provide students with the following:

- understanding of the theory and practice of international conflict and development work
- knowledge and skills necessary to undertake and engage in development and aid work under conditions involving violent conflict
- familiarity with the theory, policy and practice debates taking place among development, aid and coexistence institutions
- understanding of best practices in developmental, conflict ridden and disaster-affected societies through case studies and lessons learned analyses
- analytical tools used in determining the effectiveness of aid and development programs while simultaneously attempting to contribute to the coexistence needs of divided societies.



Career Services

Dual degree students have access to both the Heller School Career Services Office and the GSAS Career Consultant. These offices assist students in developing and preparing for their chosen careers and work with employers to find the best talent for their organizations.

Admissions

All applications are evaluated by the Admissions Committees of both programs. If both committees recommend admission, one joint offer of admission is made.

Applications to the dual degree program should be made through the [Heller School for Social Policy and Management](#). The Admissions Office will coordinate the application and review process, and will provide all documents and credentials to the Coexistence and Conflict program.

Financial Aid

Financial aid to the dual degree program is based on application strength and is awarded assuming that the applicant will enroll in the dual degree program. If an applicant is offered admission to only one program, or if an applicant chooses to only enroll in one program, then that program alone will offer admission and financial aid. If a student currently enrolled in either program chooses to apply, and is offered admission to the dual degree, all previous offers of financial aid for subsequent semesters are voided and a new, joint offer of admission with financial aid is made. Financial aid awards are offered in terms of a partial tuition scholarship.

Contact Us

If you have questions about the dual degree program or the application process, please contact the Heller School Admissions Office at HellerAdmissions@Brandeis.edu or 781-736-3820. You may also visit us on the web at www.heller.brandeis.edu.

Application Materials

- [Completed Application Form](#)
- \$55 Application fee
- Statement of Purpose
- Three letters of Recommendation
- C.V./Resume
- Official Transcripts of all university-level studies
- Proof of English Language Proficiency (required for international students)

