



The Vientiane College Diploma - Module Overview

DIPWD120 What is Development?

Overview of the module

This module explores the content of development, a complex and often controversial topic with implications on both a local and international level, while helping to develop language and thinking skills. You will develop your understanding of what development is as well as a variety of perspectives on how to achieve and measure it. The strengths and limitations of international frameworks and specific Lao development initiatives will be explored. Alongside learning more about development, you will be expanding your language skills, with a special focus on reading, writing and speaking, as you read and discuss development texts, write your ideas about them, and complete a seminar-style presentation.

Key questions explored in the module

- How is development defined? What are some of the different definitions?
- How do our assumptions, values and beliefs shape our view of development?
- How is development achieved and measured? What are international development goals? Are these appropriate?
- How is development and its priorities different in urban and rural areas?
- How are poverty and disadvantage defined and measured?
- What rights and responsibilities do we have as global citizens?
- What are some development initiatives currently taking place in Laos?

Skills

This module will help you improve your English language skills with a special emphasis on:

- using background knowledge and questions to help understand what you read
- sharing ideas clearly, concisely and appropriately in discussions
- identifying and thinking from different perspectives, supporting opinions with evidence, and evaluating your own and other people's opinions
- extending the range and accuracy of your grammar and vocabulary use
- conducting research, preparing and delivering a presentation and facilitating a Q & A time

Performance Tasks

In this module you will:

- read and discuss development related texts
- write reactions to the ideas being explored
- prepare and deliver a seminar discussion on a local project run by a development organization

