

Mission Statement

(25.10.2006)

Introduction

The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies was created from the merger of two institutes, the Graduate Institute of International Studies established in 1927 and the Graduate Institute of Development Studies established in 1961. The combination of the expertise of these two institutions, within the setting of International Geneva, makes the Institute a unique institution of higher education in the European landscape with global outreach. The Institute is able to take full advantage of the expertise offered by International Geneva with its long history and tradition devoted to promoting world peace.

Mission

The Graduate Institute is an institution of further education that offers study programmes, executive education and expertise in international relations and development studies. It seeks to offer independent and rigorous analysis of major contemporary global issues as part of efforts to promote international cooperation and make an academic contribution to the progress of less-developed societies.

The Institute offers students from all over the world an opportunity to undertake advanced bilingual (English-French) disciplinary and interdisciplinary (Masters and PhDs) studies intended to give them the high-level skills necessary to enable them to make an important contribution towards peace and development.

The Institute combines teaching and academic research with expertise and executive education as part of efforts to respond in a flexible manner to the needs of public and private international actors. Thanks to its position in Geneva, it is able to take advantage of contributions from the many international governmental and non-governmental organisations in Geneva as well as of the city's diplomatic missions. It offers the international community and the Swiss diplomatic community a forum for meetings and a platform for forward-looking reflection.

The Institute is the focal point for the Swiss Network of International Studies, a network which includes the the University of Geneva and other Swiss academic partners, intended to strengthen the field of international studies in Switzerland and to encourage, following in the tradition of its predecessor the RUIG, cooperation between academic institutions and international organisations. The Institute also maintains and develops partnerships and participates in international exchange networks.

The Institute is governed independently according to a clearly defined set of responsibilities for all its entities and a management system based on the principles of efficiency and flexibility. The Institute encourages widespread participation in its activities.

The Institute offers a public service and is supported in its mission by financial contributions from the Swiss Confederation and the Canton of Geneva. As part of efforts to fulfill the objectives it has set for itself the Institute is seeking to diversify its sources of funding to increase the number of scholarships it can offer and create employment opportunities.