The School of Social Service Administration (SSA) offers a range of opportunities for students to learn about social welfare policy and practice internationally. SSA’s orientation to international social work is designed to provide students with the opportunity to think about social problems, social policy, and social work practice in a comparative cross-national perspective. Courses are integrated into the broader curriculum, providing all students with an opportunity to incorporate some international perspectives into their work locally. For students with an interest in working abroad or with immigrant and refugee populations at home, the Program of Study and Certificate Programs provide an opportunity to dig deeper and establish a foundation of knowledge and skills to pursue these interests.

CERTIFICATE IN GLOBAL SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE (GSDP)

The Certificate in Global Social Development Practice (GSDP) trains well qualified candidates who are committed to assume leadership in the development and provision of policies, programs, and practices that address problems in the international social development arena. These include careers in international, national, state, and local social welfare and human service agencies and social development organizations; government; international policy, research, and advocacy organizations; and firms and non-profit organizations that engage in global social development initiatives.

Applications for the GSDP Certificate Program will be considered on an ongoing basis until April 1st, with priority consideration given to earlier applicants.

GLOBAL SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE PROGRAM OF STUDY

SSA also offers the Global Social Development Practice Program of Study as an elective sequence for master’s students interested in understanding social welfare challenges of a globalizing world. This program provides students with the opportunity to think about social problems, social policy, and social work practice in a comparative cross-national perspective, grounded in scholarship and practice around a set of concrete issues, including work with people affected by global processes (e.g., refugees, immigrants, victims of trauma or disaster or human rights violations), the role of state welfare policies and non-governmental organizations, approaches to community economic and social development, and political organizing and social movements within and across borders.

Please contact Jessica Darrow, PhD, with any questions about the GSDP Certificate or Program of Study at jdartrow@uchicago.edu.

Study Abroad Requirement

Note: Given the COVID-19 pandemic, study abroad requirements will depend on whether travel is safe and possible.

Please check our website for updates to the information in this brochure: ssa.uchicago.edu/global-focus
GLOBAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The global burden of disease poses a significant barrier to the well-being of people around the world. Students today are interested in addressing issues that cross national borders, including global health. To address this need, SSA’s Graduate Program in Health Administration and Policy (GPHAP), the Center for Global Health, and the Pritzker School of Medicine (PSOM) have collaborated to develop the Global Health Certificate Program. This program addresses issues in global health from the perspective of a variety of disciplines, including biomedicine, business, law, economics, public policy, social work and socio-cultural studies.

Please contact Laura Botwinick with any questions about the Global Health Certificate Program at lbotwinick@uchicago.edu.

COURSES AT SSA AND THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Search the SSA course catalog: ssa.uchicago.edu/course-catalog to see all of our current global course offerings.

Additional courses are available at other units of the University including the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, the Harris School of Public Policy, Pritzker School of Medicine, Law School, and Booth School of Business. Check individual school schedules for courses and times.

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

International scholars and professionals with expertise from a variety of international perspectives are invited to speak at SSA throughout the academic year. These scholars are in addition to the numerous speakers that are invited to the University and other units. Recent speakers have included:

- Ta-Nehisi Coates
- Alex Kotlowitz
- Anne C. Richard, Former Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration in the Obama Administration

STUDY ABROAD

SSA offers two intensive, multi-week study-abroad programs. The first is focused on urban poverty and community practice in India in collaboration with the Tata Institute of the Social Sciences Centre for Community Organization and Development Practice in Mumbai. The second program is focused on urbanization, migration, and poverty and is in collaboration with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University’s Department of Applied Social Sciences in Hong Kong and Peking University’s Department of Sociology.

Applications for both programs are accepted in the Winter quarter. Learn more: ssa.uchicago.edu/study-abroad.

INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS

Students in SSA’s Global Social Development Practice programs participate in substantive internships and field placements abroad that inform their social work education. GSDP Program of Study students engage in meaningful summer internships doing both clinical and administrative projects before returning to Chicago for their second-year placements. GSDP Certificate students, on the other hand, complete a 6-month second-year field placement abroad, generally during the Summer and Autumn quarters of their second year. In both programs, students take courses at SSA before and after their time abroad to integrate international experiences into their social work practice. View maps of where past students have completed their internships at: ssa.uchicago.edu/international-internships.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students completing these programs will be prepared to assume leadership in the development and provision of policies, programs, and practices that address problems in the international social work or global health arenas. These include careers in international social work, social development, or global health social welfare and human services agencies; international advocacy organizations; and firms and non-profit organizations that engage in global social work initiatives.