DevLab@Duke
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for Development (MELD)
Fall 2019 Seminar, Paid Internship Description & Application Process
(July 2019)

DevLab and MELD Overview:
The DevLab@Duke is an applied learning environment that focuses on connecting social scientists at Duke who work in international development with the community of development practitioners to create rigorous programming, collect data, and conduct impact evaluations of development projects. The lab connects faculty and graduate students across several departments and schools at Duke who have extensive experience in both international development and program evaluation, including a broad range of donor activities in the areas of education, health, governance, cross-sectoral programming, environment, labor markets and economic growth. DevLab’s Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for Development (MELD) program was established to promote graduate student engagement in the management and implementation of real-world international development research and evaluation. Participation in MELD is an excellent opportunity to develop marketable skills for a research career in international development.

Applied MELD Seminar:
A three credit MELD Seminar (PoliSci 890-6.01/Econ 890-03) will be offered in Fall 2019. This one-semester seminar targeted toward Duke master’s students across departments and programs (such as Political Science, Economics, Public Policy, Global Health, Nicholas School, etc.) is focused on the “real world” of international development monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL). MEL encompasses the set of activities whereby international development organizations do research to inform future programs and to evaluate the efficacy of their interventions. This is an applied course that covers the landscape of international development organizations (funders) as well as research organizations (implementers). In addition to the actors involved in MEL for international development, this weekly seminar will cover the solicitation and proposal/budgeting process, practicalities of conducting training and fieldwork, and selected international development MEL projects – in other words, “winning the work and doing the work”. One can think of this as a professionalization course to be taken before or during more technical courses such as PubPol 790.01 (Monitoring and Evaluation for Development Practitioners); Econ 522S (Seminar in Applied Project Evaluation); Econ 613 (Applied Econometrics in Microeconomics); PoliSci 690-5 (Advanced Topics in Political Methodology); PoliSci 732 (Research Design and Qualitative Methods); PoliSci 748 (Introduction to Causal Inference); etc.

MELD Paid Internship Program:
In coordination with the MELD Seminar, the MELD Internship Program will provide paid internships and training opportunities during the academic year for master’s students interested in a career in international development research and evaluation. In coordination with DevLab@Duke, the program will engage students in the management and implementation of real-world development research and evaluation, with the objective of strengthening both research and management skills.

MELD interns will enroll in the MELD Seminar and work up to two days per week on a designated DevLab project during Fall, Spring, and/or Summer sessions. These projects are funded research that flows through several pre-competitive funding mechanisms to which DevLab is a party. All internship work is focused on building exposure, skills, and confidence in conducting real-world research and evaluation. Typical DevLab projects available for intern assignment include projects such as impact and performance...
evaluations, evidence reviews, assessments, and support for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems. MELD projects may focus on any number of sectors, including governance, education, environment, labor markets/economic growth, and health.

MELD students will receive quality training focused on evaluation, real-world international development work experience, and multiple opportunities for professional networking. Each intern is paid $20/hour for work on projects; travel expenses related to the work will be charged to the program. Students will deepen their understanding of project cycles, improve their capacity to generate and communicate policy-relevant research findings and learn critical aspects of project management.

**Internship Application Process:**
To apply for the MELD internship, please complete the [MELD internship application form](#). You must be a graduate student to apply. (Students do not need to be in the Internship Program in order to take the Seminar, however. The Internship and the Seminar are separate and students will not be paid for participation in the Seminar only.) Please note that the application form requests that you upload your resume, as well as provide the email address for one reference, ideally your advisor. Please direct any questions to MELD Coordinator Catherine (Katie) Andrzejewski (catherine.andrzejewski@duke.edu). Applications for MELD Internships will be evaluated on a rolling basis and as project opportunities become available.