

# Assessing the Role of Prior Experiences in Development on the Attitudes of Student Teachers

## Authors

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## Purpose

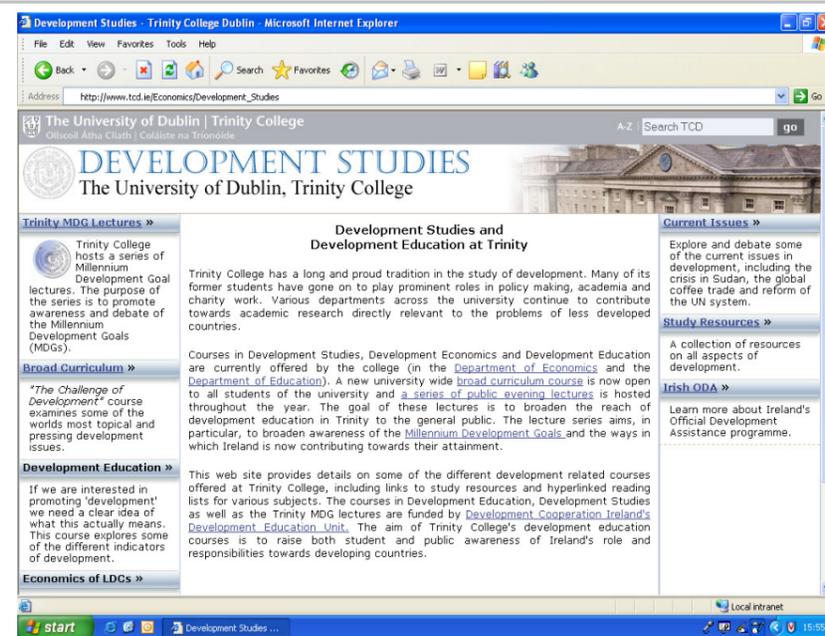
An important element in the process of integrating Development Education into teacher education programmes is to establish an understanding of the attitudes of student teachers to development and development issues. Clearly, through participation these attitudes should change, or at least evolve.

The central hypothesis of this research suggests that the nature of these attitudes, and the way in which they change, is likely to differ between those students who have prior experience of development issues and those who do not.

## Methods

To test this hypothesis, this study measures students' attitudes before and after their participation in Development Education courses within the School of Education at Trinity College Dublin. Information will be gathered via a questionnaire, containing both **quantitative** and **qualitative** elements.

The findings and implications of this research will be of interest to those involved in the ongoing integration of Development Education into teacher education programmes and the school curriculum. They also have implications for those administering overseas placement schemes for student teachers.



TCD Development Studies Website:  
[www.tcd.ie/Economics/DevelopmentStudies](http://www.tcd.ie/Economics/DevelopmentStudies)

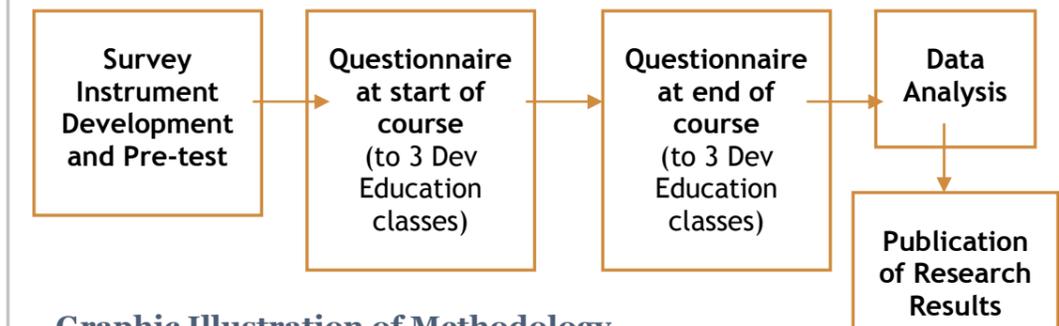


Trinity College Dublin

## Research Workplan

This research project is ongoing. Initial outcomes from the project will be available in late May 2008. The following is our research workplan:

- Sept/Oct 2007:** Design and pilot of baseline questionnaire
- Oct 2007:** Distribute questionnaire (to 2 classes)
- Nov-Dec 2007:** Initial Data collation and analysis
- Feb 2008:** Distribute questionnaire (to 1 other class)
- Mar-April 2008:** Ongoing Data collation and analysis
- Apr 2008:** Distribute questionnaire (second occasion to all 3 classes)
- May 2008:** Data collation and analysis
- July 2008:** Produce discussion paper
- Summer 08:** Further outputs



Graphic Illustration of Methodology

## Expected Research Outputs

- A discussion paper for presentation at a Ubuntu seminar/conference
- Dissemination of the research and research instrument (questionnaire) among Ubuntu members
- An article in a peer-reviewed international academic journal
- Presentation of research papers to relevant conferences and Departmental research seminars
- The research and its outcomes will be used to make a contribution to curriculum development including a contribution to the emerging National Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development



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