Established in 1971, the Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR) is one of Asia’s premier population research and training hubs.

The Institute conducts research and provides training in population and development and explores their relationship to the social, economic, reproductive health, medical and public health fields. This allows the Institute to help address emerging issues for Thailand and neighboring countries in south-east Asia and beyond, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life for all.

The demographic transition throughout Asia has emerged at different stages in recent decades as political and economic change has swept the region, and the Institute is uniquely positioned to keep abreast with these changes through our timely research. This knowledge and technical support is widely disseminated to scholars and policy-makers internationally, regionally, and at the country and local levels.

IPSR’s eight strategies:

- Excellence in population and social research
- Transformative education
- Excellence in population and social academics services
- Internationalization
- Social responsibility
- ICT based Institute
- Management for sustainability
- Human resource excellence
Our staff

The Institute has an internationally distinguished faculty of social scientists, demographers, reproductive health researchers, and program evaluation specialists. Our multi-disciplinary team holds doctoral degrees from universities in Thailand, Australia, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Several faculty members hold distinguished positions as members of major research and policy committees for national and international bodies including WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Our research clusters

The Institute’s major areas of expertise are:

- Thai Society and Changes in the Population and the Family
- Population Aging
- Sexuality, Gender, Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS
- Population, Environment and Health
- Migration Urbanization and Labor
- Emerging Issues

National and international training is conducted about these areas of knowledge. Our website is regularly updated with information about upcoming courses and ongoing research.
Degree and non-degree programs

The Institute conducts postgraduate training for national and international programs.

The Institute offers a Master of Arts in Population and Social Research (Thai program), along with the following international programs:

- Master of Arts in Population and Reproductive Health Research
- Master of Arts in Population and Social Gerontology offered jointly with Miami University
- Doctor of Philosophy in Demography

All these degrees are geared towards academic excellence. Upon graduation, our high-calibre students are able to plan, analyze, and conduct research on socioeconomic, demographic and reproductive health problems. Advanced degree students are encouraged to participate in project development with the many international agencies that contact and collaborate with the Institute on a regular basis.

Student financial support is offered in the form of Master and Ph.D. scholarships generously funded by a range of bodies including United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Thailand Government, UNFPA, the Wellcome Trust and WHO, along with the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Mahidol University.

Non-degree programs are also offered, including a Monitoring and Evaluation of Population and Health course concentrating on HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, and qualitative research and analysis.

Other short-courses and training are available upon request.
INTERNATIONAL MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAM IN POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH

The program

This program is designed to provide training in the art and science of collecting, evaluating, and analyzing population and reproductive health data. It is designed for individuals working in population, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention programs and other related areas in academic institutions.

Students are exposed to a wide range of theoretical and applied research with special emphasis on socio-cultural issues related to reproductive health.

The program also includes monitoring and evaluation components in a number of courses, with one course devoted entirely to techniques of program evaluation.

Rationale and objectives

Reproductive health and related issues are a crucial aspect of development because the need for planned population growth and the emergence of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. However, in many developing countries, where improvement in reproductive health is most needed, development is often constrained by the lack of trained personnel with high-level research skills and adequate theoretical understanding of reproductive health issues. In response to the needs of developing countries, the Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University drawing on its research and teaching experience, established a graduate training program in Population and Reproductive Health Research.
Courses offered

IPSR provides both the 12-month Master’s Degree program and non-degree program. The program consists of 5 following modules:

Module 1: Population Studies (August to October)
- Substantive Demography
- Analytical Techniques in Demography

Module 2: Reproductive Health and AIDS (October to December)
- Reproductive Health: Perspectives and Important Issues
- Behavioral and Social Dimensions of AIDS

Module 3: Research Methodology (January to March)
- Social Research Methodology
- Statistics for Social Analysis
- Seminar on Reproductive Health

Special module (February to March)
- Qualitative Data Analysis

Module 4: Monitoring and Evaluation (March to May)
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Population and Reproductive Health Programs
- Applied Social Research
- Statistical Techniques for Multivariate Analysis

Module 5: Gender & Health (May to July)
- Gender Roles and Health Development
- Global Health Policy
- Communication Bridging: Population and Health Research to Policymakers

Opportunity for non-degree training

The Program provides an opportunity for selected participants to undertake short-term training in one or more modules. Participants will participate in the same classes as Master Degree students.

Application and admission

Applicants should normally have at least a Bachelor’s degree in the social sciences, or health and life sciences. Some exposure to population and social science research or evaluation related to population, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS is an asset.

Applicants from non-English speaking countries are required to submit a document indicating the level of their English proficiency.

A TOEFL score of no less than 500, or its equivalent.

Along with a completed application form and two references, applicants must also include transcripts of their undergraduate or graduate course work and a pre-proposal for their Master’s thesis. Admitted applicants are strongly recommended to come with the data set they intend to use in their thesis research.
Completed application forms and accompanying documents must reach IPSR by May. The final selection of the most qualified applicants will be announced by June. The first semester begins in August.

**Visa and health requirements**

It is the responsibility of the admitted applicants to acquire a non-immigrant visa to enter Thailand for study. Upon admission, IPSR will provide assistance in obtaining a visa at the nearest Thai Embassy or Consulate.

All applicants are required to submit a certificate of good health from a licensed physician based on a medical examination performed during the year of the application.

**Tuition, fees and other expenses**

The tuition and fees for the entire program (12 months) is US$ 8,000. These are to be paid upon registration at the beginning of the first semester. In addition, each student will need US$ 300 for health insurance, US$ 400 for thesis preparation, and US$ 600 for books for the entire program. Living costs are approximately US$ 600 per month.

Applicants are advised to seek their own financial support. Some potential sources of funding include bilateral and multilateral agencies such as the Ford Foundation, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Population Council, UNFPA, UNICEF, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank’s Graduate Scholarship Program, and the Wellcome Trust, UK.
The population around the world is rapidly aging and many countries around the world are becoming an aging society. People are living much longer, and the number of elders is continuously rising. This substantial change in demography affects individuals, families, societies, and policy makers in all aspects. Professionals with knowledge and expertise in the field of social gerontology will increasingly be in greater demand in the upcoming years.

The International Joint Master’s Degree in Population and Social Gerontology is the collaboration between Mahidol University and Miami University, Ohio, USA. The Program is structured that students spend their first year at Miami University and their second year at Mahidol University, and the degree is granted jointly by both Universities. The Joint Master’s Degree in Population and Social Gerontology is the first of its kind in the world and offers unprecedented opportunities for cross-cultural exchange and collaboration, as students move through the program as a cohort. Administrative support and valuable research experience for students are provided by the Scripps Gerontology Center (Miami) and the Institute for Population and Social Research (Mahidol).

This two-year Program combines specialties in population and social research and gerontology studies of the two universities. It is specially developed to respond to the future’s aging society and has a distinctive role to produce graduates equipped with expertise in research relating to the elderly in economic, social, cultural and health areas. Graduates of the Program can succeed as researchers, lecturers, policy analysts, marketing planners and social workers in this emerging field of aging.

**After graduation, students will have**

- Both substantive and applied knowledge in population and social gerontology, leadership in public policy on aging population on the basis of ethics and morality
- Ability to synthesize and combine multidisciplinary approaches/concepts in the areas of population, sociology in line with gerontology
- Ability to combine community interaction related to aging policy in order to anchor pro and con paradox of aging population
- Ability to effectively single out appropriate data and sources relating to population and social gerontology to be applied for public policy including skills of applying IT in the forms of publications and seminars/meeting.
Qualification of applicants

- Hold a Bachelor’s degree in any field and have a minimum GPA of 2.75
- Test of English command is required: TOEFL (PBT of 500 or CBT of 173 or IBT 61) or IELTS (6.0)

Important deadlines

March: Closing application
August: Beginning of first year study at Miami University, USA
August: Beginning of second year study at Mahidol University, Thailand

*Please visit our website to see the date of deadlines.*
**Study plan**

**Total minimum 45 credit hours**

### Year I at Miami University, USA

#### August-December

All required courses (11 credit hours)

- GTY 602 Perspectives in Gerontology (3)
- GTY 605 Proseminar (1)
- GTY 608 Logic of Inquiry (4)
- GTY 667 Policy and Politics in Aging (3)

#### January-May

Required courses (10 credit hours)

- GTY 611 Linking Research and Practice (3)
- GTY 708 Quantitative Methods and Statistics (4)

Choose one of the following electives (3 credit hours each):

- GTY 563 Gender and Aging (3)
- GTY 572 Race, Ethnicity and Aging (3)
- GTY 576 Aging and Environment
- GTY 585 Long Term Care in an Aging Society (3)
- GTY 684 Global Aging (3)
- GTY 686 Global Health and Health Care System (3)
- GTY 745 Sociology of Aging (3)

#### May-July or August

Required course (Audit)

Summer Field Placement- in US or in Thailand

(5 to 10 credit hours; minimum of 5 credit hours)

### Year II at Mahidol University, Thailand

#### August – October

All required courses (6 credit hours)

- PRRH 550 Substantive Demography (3)
- PRRH 555 Analytical Techniques in Demography (3)

#### October– December

Required courses (6 credit hours)

- PRPG 550 Aging Programs in Cross Cultural Contexts (3)
- PRPG 552 Economics of Aging (3)

#### January – August

Thesis (12) Either in US or in Thailand

Students can choose from the following electives:

- PRPG 551 Monitoring and Evaluating Social and Health Programs in Gerontology (3)
- PRPG 553 Seminar in Population and Social Gerontology (3)
- PRRH 565 Statistics for Social Analysis (3)
- PRRH 566 Social Research Methodology (3)
- PRRH 630 Applied Social Research (3)
International Ph.D. Program in Demography

The program

Initiated in 1993, IPSR's Ph. D. Program is designed to meet the needs for advanced training in demography. During its first decade, the program focused on training Thai researchers. Since 2002, it has been open to interested applicants from other countries. All classes are conducted, and the dissertation is written, in English. It is the first international program in Thailand that provides doctoral–level training in this field.

Current population trends interact with dynamic global changes in the economy, technology, society and health, heightening the importance of demographic sciences such as formal demography, social demography, business demography, medical demography, population and the environment, and epidemiological demography. The Ph.D. Program in Demography provides opportunities for professional careers in universities and international organizations, as well as a path to career advancement and collaboration both in Thailand and internationally.

Study plans

Plan 1 Research: Suitable for students with backgrounds in demography who already have earned a master’s degree. No coursework is required. Students prepare for and pass the qualifying examination and then undertake their dissertation research. For students of the Ph.D. by Publication plan, besides the qualifying examination and dissertation research, they are required to take at least one course and have at least three articles included in thesis.

Plan 2 Coursework & Research: Suitable for students with no background in demography who have a bachelor’s degree with honors or a master’s degree, or for those with a master’s degree with a demographic background who wish to take additional coursework. Students take prerequisite courses in demography and research methods as appropriate to their background. All students take three core courses in demography and three elective courses, pass the qualifying examination and then undertake their dissertation research.

For students graduating over five years with background in demography/population studies in their Master’s degree, the enrollment for prerequisite courses will be required.
## Summary of admission requirements

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<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Plan 1 (Research)</th>
<th>Plan 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Previous degrees</strong></td>
<td>Master’s degree in any field with minimum GPA of 3.5</td>
<td>Master’s degree in any field with minimum GPA of 3.5 or bachelor’s degree (Honors) in any field</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Background in demography/population studies</strong></td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Desirable, but not required</td>
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| **Publications**                         | At least 1 research article published in peer-reviewed journal as first author  | - Experience as principal investigator or co-investigator for at least 5 years  
|                                           |                                                                                 | - A minimum of 3 articles (not for graduation) published in peer-reviewed journal within 5 years |
| **English proficiency and computer skills** | TOEFL (PBT of 500 or CBT of 173 or IBT of 61) or IELTS (5.5) and basic computer literacy is required | TOEFL (PBT of 500 or CBT of 173 or IBT of 61) or IELTS (5.5) and basic computer literacy is required |

## Courses offered

### Prerequisite courses

Students with no background in demography or research methods are required to take prerequisite courses as appropriate:
- Substantive Demography
- Analytical Techniques of Demography
- Social Research Methodology
- Statistics for Social Science Research
- Statistics for Social Analysis

### Core courses

- Indirect Techniques for Demographic Estimation
- Advanced Analysis of Fertility
- Advanced Analysis of Mortality
- Advanced Analysis of Migration
- Multivariate Analysis
-Qualitative Research Methodology
- Seminar in Demography
- Research Practicum

### Elective courses

- Special Topics in Demography
- Demographic Epidemiology
- Human Development Studies in Southeast Asia
- Family Demography
- Social Research on the Elderly
- Advanced Demographic Projections
- Gender Perspectives in Demography and Social Development
- Geographical Information System and Social Science Research
- Regional Integration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region
- Development Project Management
**Scholarship**

Outstanding applicants may be selected for full scholarships under the Royal Golden Jubilee Scholarship Program (for Thai students only), for partial scholarships from IPSR, or for Research Assistantships and Thesis Scholarships from the Faculty of Graduate Studies. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to seek funding support from other sources, as only a limited number of scholarships are available.

**Academic calendar**

The program’s academic schedule follows the two – semester system of Mahidol University. The first semester runs from August to December, and the second from January to May.

**Qualifying examination**

All students must successfully pass the qualifying examination before proceeding to dissertation research. The qualifying examinations are held twice a year, in August (first semester) and in January (second semester).

**Application**

Application for admission to the Program may be made through either of these two channels:

- Mahidol University Selection Process (for Thai applicants): Applications are obtained from, and must be submitted to, the Faculty of Graduate Studies. There are two rounds of application opened between September and April. The selection process involves a written examination and an interview. Final selection is announced at the beginning of the following year before the first semester starts in August.

- Institute for Population and Social Research Selection Process (for Thai and international applicants): Applications are obtained from, and must be submitted to, the Ph. D. Program at IPSR. Applications are accepted year – round, with a deadline of April 30 for the first semester and September 30 for the second semester. The selection process involves review of the application materials with an optional interview. Final selection is announced about two months before the start of each semester. Only complete applications with all required documents will be considered.
MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS

Background

Policymakers, program staff and researchers face many questions related to the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of HIV/AIDS programs in developing countries. M&E skills are crucial to the successful implementation, design, and tracking of program progress and output of HIV/AIDS programs. In order to build the capacity of professionals in the Asia region and other, a two-week non-degree course will provide training in the design and implementation of M&E systems. A plan for effectively communicating the information will be integral to discussions.

Workshop content

The workshop offers intensive training that will cover the fundamental concepts and tools for monitoring and evaluating HIV/AIDS programs.

The workshop will include sessions on: M&E Framework; Indicators; Information Systems; Evaluation Designs; Developing M&E Plans; Selecting, Calculating and Interpreting Indicators; and Use of Recently Developed Tools. In addition, modules on program areas and crosscutting issues appropriate for the Asian region and other will also be included.

Hands-on experience in designing M&E plans will be gained by doing exercises, and working in small groups throughout the workshop. The participant groups will present the results of their projects during the final day of the workshop.

Faculty

The course will be taught by experts from faculty members of the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University; and other experts from government, and non-governmental and international agencies working in HIV/AIDS M&E in Thailand.
Workshop objectives

At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Identify decisions related to HIV/AIDS programs that can be informed by M&E information;
- Formulate questions that need to be answered in order to make informed decisions;
- Understand and construct frameworks for conceptualizing the factors that influence the success of programs in reaching their goals and logically explaining how program activities contribute to its objectives;
- Develop realistic and targeted goals and objectives;
- Understand and be able to select indicators appropriate for a given country;
- Understand information systems and the flow of data;
- Disseminate and use M&E information strategically;
- Understand how to develop/operationalize/implement M&E Plans;
- Understand current M&E tools designed to improve HIV M&E systems.

Eligibility

The course is designed for national and sub-national level M&E professionals and their counterparts, assistants and advisors who are involved with the implementation of HIV/AIDS programs.

Applicants should be proficient in English, have some analytical skills, and have current responsibilities for developing program monitoring plans and/or evaluation programs. Computer literacy and experience with data systems would be an advantage.

Application procedures and deadlines

Persons who wish to take part in the workshop should send the completed application forms and other application documents as soon as possible.

Cost of the workshop

The course fees including health and accident insurance will be US$ 1,800. Accommodation and living expenses for the workshop period will be about US$ 800. The workshop venue will be held in the hotel, conveniently located in the central area of Bangkok.
Prospective applicants are advised to seek funding from their home organizations or from national or international agencies. Application forms to meet the deadline, and copies of application materials should be submitted directly to those agencies. When funding is confirmed, the applicant should contact us as soon as possible.

**Duration**

5 days, July annually
Monitoring and Evaluation of Population, Health and Nutrition Programs

Background

Policymakers, program staff and researchers face many questions related to the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of population, health and nutrition programs in developing countries. M&E skills are crucial to the successful implementation, design, and tracking of program progress and output of population, health and nutrition programs. In order to build the capacity of professionals in the Asia region and other, this course will provide training in the design and implementation of M&E systems. A plan for effectively communicating the information will be integral to discussions.

Workshop content

The workshop offers intensive training that will cover the fundamental concepts and tools for monitoring and evaluating population, health and nutrition programs. The workshop will include sessions on: M&E Framework; Indicators; Information Systems; Evaluation Designs; Developing M&E Plans; Selecting, Calculating and Interpreting Indicators; and Use of Recently Developed Tools. In addition, modules on program areas and crosscutting issues appropriate for the Asian region and other will also be included.

Hands-on experience in designing M&E plans will be gained by doing exercises, and working in small groups throughout the workshop. The participant groups will present the results of their projects during the final day of the workshop.

Faculty

The course will be taught by experts from faculty members of the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University; and other experts from government, and non-governmental and international agencies working population, health and nutrition programs M&E in Thailand.
Workshop objectives

At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Identify decisions related to population, health and nutrition programs that can be informed by M&E information;
- Formulate questions that need to be answered in order to make informed decisions;
- Understand and construct frameworks for conceptualizing the factors that influence the success of programs in reaching their goals and logically explaining how program activities contribute to its objectives;
- Develop realistic and targeted goals and objectives;
- Understand and be able to select indicators appropriate for a given country;
- Understand information systems and the flow of data;
- Disseminate and use M&E information strategically;
- Understand how to develop/ operationalize/ implement M&E Plans;
- Understand current M&E tools designed to improve population, health and nutrition M&E systems.

Eligibility

The course is designed for entry-level to mid-level health and population officers, program managers and other professionals involved with the implementation of population, health and nutrition programs, and who are seeking an introduction to the fundamentals of monitoring and evaluation. Applicants should be proficient in English, have some analytic skills and have current responsibilities for developing monitoring and evaluation plans for health programs. Computer literacy and experience with data systems would be an advantage.

Faculty

The course will be taught by faculty members of the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University; and other experts from other government, non-governmental and international agencies working on monitoring and evaluation of population, health and nutrition programs in Thailand or the Region.

Application procedures and deadlines

Persons who wish to take part in the workshop should send the completed application forms and other application documents as soon as possible.
Cost of the workshop

The course fee including health and accident insurance will be US$1,800. Accommodation and living expenses for the workshop will be approximately US$800.

Prospective applicants are advised to seek funding from their home organizations or from national or international agencies. Applicants who have requested funding should submit their application forms to meet the deadline, and copies of application materials should be submitted directly to those agencies. When funding is confirmed, the applicant should contact the Institute for Population and Social Research as soon as possible.

Accommodations

Accommodations will be in the same hotel where the workshop will be held. The hotel is in Bangkok, conveniently located on bus lines, sky train lines and near a variety of restaurants, shopping malls, and movie theaters.

Duration

5 days, November annually
Innovative Social Science Research Methodologies

Background

For over ten decades of knowledge development, human and social research or “social science research” had been in evolutionary stages through application of natural sciences and physical sciences. Such development, however, has been proved not able to reflect social realities in which complexities, dynamics and uncertainties exist. Besides this, researchers’ perspectives without profound understanding in target groups unintentionally create myths in research findings. All these mentioned draw in social science researches that carry results representing factual, in-depth and holistic approach in various dimensions and contexts that, at the end, would greatly contribute to human’s knowledge construction.

The Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University, as an academic setting with knowledge-based mission, is gearing towards innovative social science research and related training for researchers so as to produce knowledge for the more benefits to the society as well as for enhanced capacity of people and problems to be solved at the root cause level.

Objectives

- To provide the trainee with research skills, and new perspectives and knowledge that reflect social realities
- To stimulate new concepts and philosophy-based thinking
- To build research personnel and strengthen their capacity to conduct research using different perspectives and methods and to be able to select research approaches that benefit the society.

Course content

The content includes narrative research or narratology, phenomenology, Grounded Theory, ethnography/ethnomethodology, Critical Theory, case studies and interpretivism/Hermeneutics. Each methodology and concept involves principles, data collection methods, research process, data analysis, comparison, new recommendations and research challenges.
Qualification of trainees

Have background in social science research and/or qualitative and quantitative research, and applied or academic research or have at least 2-3 years of experience in research or be a doctorate student that requires knowledge content mentioned for dissertation research and such content is unavailable in his/her university.

Cost of the workshop

The course fee including health and accident insurance will be US$2,200 (including resource persons, documents, lunch and refreshments and excluding accommodation and travel to research/training site).

Accommodation and living expenses for the workshop will be approximately US$800.

Duration

10 days, December annually
Contact

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