



PROGRAMME OF STUDIES IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PRODEV)

The programme

- is offered in an interdisciplinary approach
- is given on full-time basis (September to April) and on part-time basis
- leads to the Diploma in International Development and Co-operation

Admission requirements

- Honours Bachelor's degree or the equivalent
- Experience in International Development or intention to work in this field
- Working knowledge of the other official language is desirable

Brochure and Application for Admission form can be obtained from:

The Secretary of the Institute
INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
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Post-present reflections

Contrary to popular belief, the more things change, the more they change. And this fact is never more evident than when you head home for the Christmas holidays.

There was a time back in the lost innocence of childhood, when Christmas had nothing but good connotations—when Christmas meant sleepless nights, endless presents and bottomless plates of food.

But things change. University and adulthood have, for better or worse, taught us to view the world with a more critical eye, and even Christmas falls within this scope. So those once-blissful holiday activities take on a whole new character and meaning.

One of the most important parts of the holidays is getting together with all the family, the aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents you haven't seen for a year. As a child you used to marvel at how Christmas transformed these normally staid adults into laughing, joking, caroling—almost childlike—people. Now you realize these people are not simply having fun. They're also having quite a bit to drink.

The ritual of choosing and decorating a tree used to be one of the most magical of the Christmas season. Only after lengthy deliberation and debate was the right tree chosen, and even then you were never quite satisfied. If it was chopped down in a field, the tree proved too large when you got it home, and if it was bought in a city lot, it turned out to be too small. But these flaws were nothing a bit of saw-work and hours of decorating couldn't fix.

With time though, enthusiasm and patience wane. One year you come home, ready to go tree-hunting, and your parents present you with a cost-benefit analysis explaining why, in the long run, artificial trees are a wiser investment. Adding insult to injury, they tell you that those miniature flashing lights are the most energy efficient. The exhilarating trek in search of a tree is

forever replaced by the challenge of trying to fit color-coded branches into the correct holes.

As a child, Christmas Eve was spent tossing and turning, trying to imagine what might be awaiting you the next morning. Minutes seemed like hours, and the more you told yourself that if you just went to sleep it would be Christmas, the harder it was to fall asleep.

Students still face the same insomnia on Christmas Eve, but for different reasons. After a month of essay-writing and studying, you are accustomed to working the midnight to 6 a.m. study shift, and even with Christmas looming it is impossible to break the habit.

This means that in the morning, instead of bouncing out of bed and rushing to wake your parents, you slumber until they wake you up. Stumbling downstairs and wiping sleep from your eyes, your first rush is towards the coffeepot, not your stocking.

When you get around to opening the presents, it's hard to attack them as you did when younger. There just isn't the same suspense involved. There won't be any toys or games in store, and that five dollar bill doesn't find its way into your Christmas card any more. Present after present reveals more clothes, books and other practical stuff. Sometimes it gets so predictable that you actually start to worry about saving the wrapping paper.

Of course, not all the changes wrought on Christmas by adulthood are negative. Those eyes which once glimmered at the thought of a new doll or firetruck, are now lit up by the prospect of Dad's open liquor cabinet.

And there is some consolation in the knowledge that, come mealtime, you will no longer be relegated to a separate card table with your brothers and bratty cousins.

There is certainly reason to look forward to the holidays, but there's no denying... things have changed.

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