



31 August – 11 December 2026

An online training course for people working in international development and foreign policy

The Policy Practice and ODI are running another Political Economy Analysis in Action training course in February 2026. The training is based on the flagship course we have provided over 80 times both online and face-to-face since 2008 for multilateral and bilateral organisations, ministries, international think-tanks, foundations and NGOs.

The course is delivered by [Alex Duncan](#) (The Policy Practice), [Alina Rocha Menocal](#) (The Policy Practice), [Bev Jones](#) (The Policy Practice), [Ed Laws](#) (ODI), [Gareth Williams](#) (The Policy Practice), [Laure-Helene Piron](#) (The Policy Practice), [Neil McCulloch](#) (The Policy Practice) and [Tim Kelsall](#) (ODI). It is facilitated by [Samantha Wade](#) (The Policy Practice).

In a recent survey of alumni participants, over 90% of respondents said that the course had changed the way they thought about their work in development, humanitarian support or foreign policy and a majority of respondents reported that they had changed the design or implementation of policies, programmes or projects as a result of applying ideas learned on the course.

By the end of the course, participants will understand:

- What political economy analysis (PEA) is, and the different operational contexts in which it has a role
- How it can be used to improve foreign and development policies and engagements
- What tools and frameworks are available for PEA and how they can be applied

**Apply
here**

"it was really good to see such a rich exchange of perspectives in such a respectful, kind and professional space. Very fruitful!"

" Fantastic course which prompted many discussions within my current team based on their country office experience and with colleagues. Very high quality tutors, materials and support!"

"This course is excellent value for money. The staff and its tutors' commitment to the topic and to our learning really shone through."

"This is one of the best courses I have taken in my current role. It was relevant and well delivered!"

What is the course and who is it for?

Political economy analysis (PEA) is about understanding the contexts - global, national, sectoral and local - in which development happens and that foreign policy aims to influence, and the incentives that determine how the relevant actors behave and interact with each other.

The course is designed to equip participants to identify the challenges arising from political economy features of the contexts in which they work, and to draw well-grounded conclusions for policy, strategy, or programme design and implementation.

What are the participant requirements?

The online training comprises 8 interactive sessions spread over 14 weeks. We estimate that 40+ hours are needed to complete the course, or about 4+ hours per week.

You are given access to an online teaching platform. This provides you with a combination of study guides, video lectures, an online library, webinars and several stimulating case studies.

You will be working in a small Study Group, either with colleagues from your own organisation or a mixed Study Group with participants from across the globe.

You will be expected to work through session materials each week, do essential reading, meet weekly in your online Study Group and complete a group task linked to each session. There are also five webinars during the course.

When and how much?

When: 31 August – 11 December 2026.

Cost: £850 (+ VAT if applicable). Early bird offer of £780 (+ VAT if applicable) if you apply before 13 June 2026. We can offer groups of 5+ who apply on a single application from the same team or organisation a discounted price of £780 (+ VAT if applicable) per person.