



MINUTES OF MEETING

4 NOVEMBER 2025

Forum Board of Studies for the MSc in Global Development

Meeting date 4 November 2025, 13-15 PM

Place Room 5.1.16

Campusadministration Søndre

Uddannelse

Uddannelsesudvikling og

kvalitetssikring

Attendees

Micol Sacerdoti, Freja Leonora Grangaard Erlendsson, John Rand, Christian Lund, Anne-Mette Østergaard (Study Counsellor), Susanne Stoltz (Educational Partner)

KAREN BLIXENS PLADS 16, 6A-1-41

2300 KØBENHAVN S

Absent

Atrayee Sen, Sóley Hrönn Haraldsdóttir Aspelund

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Minute taker

Susanne Stoltz

Agenda and Minutes

1. Approval of the agenda

Ad 1) Agenda was approved.

2. CLOSED DOOR ITEM

Course evaluation of the courses Applied Research Methods and Global Politics, block 1 / John

Head of Studies will inform the board on the process for and the purpose of the course evaluations.

The board should discuss the results and the response rates and decide if there are any results that call for action. Furthermore, the board should decide whether to approve the suggested ratings of the course.

Members of the Study Board can access the results via <https://evaluating.ku.dk/> from 1 November.

Ad 2) Applied Research Methods (response rate 56%)

The evaluations revealed significant concerns regarding its structure, coherence, and delivery. While the lecturers are consistently described as competent and knowledgeable, the course was experienced as fragmented, with lack of coordination between the teachers and lack of integration between course components and with the programme. The structure on Absalon was perceived as unclear, which contributed to confusion about the course's progression and expectations.

John emphasised that online teaching is not part of the programme, and physical presence is expected. Travel by lecturers is not a valid reason for remote teaching and requires prior approval from the Head of Studies and the Head of Department.

Christian noted that the course is inherently difficult to deliver successfully due to its dual structure, which feels fragmented to students. He proposed anchoring the course around a single case study in an area that is sufficiently well-covered by data (e.g., Vietnam during a specific period), with all teaching and assignments revolving around this shared reference point.

This approach was positively received by both student representatives, who agreed it would improve coherence and better prepare students for the field course. They also proposed that the course begin with joint lectures by both teachers, clearly signalling their respective qualitative and quantitative approaches, while demonstrating collaboration and integration.

Classification: The course is classified as a B course with a serious note: The curriculum requires substantial revision, including updates to the reading list and teaching materials.

The course coordinators are requested to submit a revised course description for approval by the Study Board, addressing the above concerns.

Global Politics (response rate 78%)

The course received very positive evaluations. The course is described as interesting and engaging, with a high participation rate. The student

representatives said that it provides a strong and motivating start to the programme.

SIDE 3 AF 5

One suggestion raised in the evaluation was the inclusion of a co-teacher /guest lecturer with a political science background. The student representatives acknowledged that this could be beneficial, depending on students' bachelor backgrounds.

Christian noted that previous guest lecturers with such backgrounds had worked well and emphasised that the course already integrates political science perspectives, including grand theories taught in political science bachelor programmes. He welcomed more specific input on how additional political science content could be incorporated.

John noted that the Department of Political Science has previously been invited to contribute to the Global Development programme but declined the offer. Nevertheless, the Study Board agreed that it could be valuable to include a session on international politics or international relations, even if not all students have requested it.

Christian and John agreed that the current reading load is appropriate, with an expected preparation time of 3–4 hours per session.

Classification: The course is classified as a clear A course.

3. News from John on behalf of the students

Ad 3) John reported challenges within the current cohort, particularly in relation to group dynamics. 3 out of 9 study groups are experiencing serious conflicts, primarily due to disagreements over individual contributions and a pronounced sense of unfairness.

Anne-Mette proposed organising a class meeting focused on group collaboration and mutual respect. If John contacts the Head of Student Guidance, Sara, and she can allocate resources, the Study Board supports this initiative.

Christian has talked about the thesis writing process in his teaching, which was well received.

Anne-Mette noted that information about thesis seminars on 5 November has been posted on Absalon, but no students have responded.

Students are encouraged to make their theses publicly available via the Royal Library, allowing others to access and be inspired by their work.

4. News from the Student Guidance / Anne-Mette

SIDE 4 AF 5

Ad 4) None.

5. News from Head of Studies / John

- a. **Scholarship for the Bolivia field trip:** The call for the small study grants for tuition-paying GD students is now open. A total of 5 scholarships of DKK 5,000 each will be awarded. The selection committee consists of John and Susanne.
- b. **Master's Thesis information meeting:** There will be an information meeting about the master thesis on Wednesday, 5 November, from 4 to 6 p.m. in room 5.1.16. During the first hour, Head of Studies John Rand will give a presentation, after which there will be time for questions and to go out and discuss possible thesis ideas and groups with each other.
- c. **Summarized Course Evaluation (SUE):** John presented the Summarized Course Evaluation (SUE)
[Summary course evaluation report - Global Development](#)
- d. GD has applied to the **SAMF Study Environment Fund** via student representatives. The funding is intended to be used for daily social activities in the common room and participation in the KU Festival.
- e. **Employer Panel meeting:** The Employer Panel for the MSc in Global Development will meet on 10 December 2025. The meeting will focus exclusively on the KA reform. The meeting with the employer panel is considered fundamental to shaping the new 1-year format (75 ECTS) that GD is expected to be restructured into.

An application is also being prepared for an EKA (Erhvervskandidat), which would allow students to work as trainees in a company alongside their studies.

Regarding the field trip, it is unlikely to continue in its current format due to CO₂ concerns. Alternative solutions are being considered, such as Integrating fieldwork-like elements into an existing course (e.g. the environmental course). A field trip within Denmark may also offer a meaningful experience for many students.

John is scheduled to submit an overview of the structure to the faculty by 24 November.

SIDE 5 AF 5

Further details will be shared at an upcoming Study Board meeting once more information is available.

- f.* **Summary of the study board's work during the year:** The focus of the SB for GD in the coming year will mainly be the KA-reform.

6. **Scheduling the Next Meeting**

Will there be any meeting before February 2026?

Ad 6) No.

To accommodate the upcoming KA-reform and ensure timely approval of the revised 1-year Master's programme, the Study Board agreed to schedule 3 meetings during the spring semester 2026:

- February (Week 6)
- After the students return from the Bolivia
- May - when the final version of the restructured programme must be approved

7. **AOB / John**

Ad 7) None.