



NOTICE OF MEETING

7 OCTOBER 2025

Forum Board of Studies for the MSc in Global Development

Meeting date 7 October 2025, 10.00AM - 12.00AM

Place Room 5.1.16

Campusadministration Søndre

Uddannelse

Uddannelsesudvikling og

kvalitetssikring

Attendees

Micol Sacerdoti, Sóley Hrönn Haraldsdóttir Aspelund, Freja Leonora Grangaard Erlendsson, John Rand, Christian Lund, Anne-Mette Østergaard (Study Counsellor), Stephan Reinemer (Educational Advisor), Susanne Stoltz (Educational Partner), Jens Roesdahl Lange (item 1-2)

KAREN BLIXENS PLADS 16, 6A-1-41

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Absent

Atreyee Sen

Minute taker

Susanne Stoltz

Agenda and Minutes

1. Approval of the agenda

The board must decide if they can approve the agenda.

Ad 1) Agenda was approved.

Extra item added:

CLOSED DOOR ITEM: Exemption case /Jens

2. **Briefing on decisions regarding exemptions and decision regarding a common practice for exemptions / Jens**

SIDE 2 AF 6

Orientation and decision: Jens will brief the board on the exemptions made in the previous semesters. The board may consider whether this warrants a change in practice.

Ad 2)

12 exemption cases was processed in autumn 2024, and 7 in spring 2025. Rejections have been issued in only one case, and only a few cases have been closed without a formal resolution. Cases are typically closed when students fail to provide sufficient documentation. If a student reapplies, the case is treated as a new application.

The briefing did not result in any changes to the current practice.

3. **CLOSED DOOR ITEM**

Course evaluation of the course Global Business and Economics, and Social Science Perspectives on Climate Change and Development block 4 and master's theses in spring 2025 / John

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

Discussion: the board should discuss the results and the response rates.

Decision: the members of the board should decide if there are any results that call for action. Furthermore, the board should decide whether to approve the suggested ratings of the course (appendix 8).

Ad 3)

Global Business and Economics (response rate 54,7%)

The course received very positive evaluations, showing clear improvement compared to previous semesters, particularly since new teachers took over. Earlier critiques have diminished, and student representatives confirmed that the curriculum has not been reduced, nor has the academic level been compromised. The course has an appropriate level of difficulty and breadth, with a clear focus.

John expressed satisfaction with the improvements and noted that the overall level is increasing. However, some overlap with other courses remains, and it was suggested that teachers coordinate and compare notes to avoid redundancy. The course is considered to have sufficient focus and scope.

It was highlighted that the economic terminology used can be challenging and that it is the most challenging course in the programme.

There was a suggestion to incorporate more labour market-oriented content, like what CBS offers.

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The ChatTutor feature did not contribute to the learning experience and was not utilised by students.

Overall, the course is assessed as a clear B-level course.

Social Science Perspectives on Climate Change and Development

(response rate 54,6%)

Clearly a new course. The evaluations reflect typical challenges associated with a new course.

The evaluation raises issues regarding overlaps with previously learned material, repetition, and a lack of coordination and alignment across the four teachers.

Students were required to quickly familiarise themselves with multiple tools (R, QGIS, Stata), which proved overwhelming and poorly structured. The course felt fragmented, with limited alignment between groups and confusion surrounding the exam format. The tools are good, but their integration into the course was not optimal. Suggestions included introducing some elements in Block 2, though current teaching resources may not support this.

The course attempted to cover too much, resulting in a superficial approach. A more focused structure—such as spending two weeks on QGIS—was recommended to ensure depth and solid learning outcomes.

QGIS was considered to be taught at too low a level, and it was suggested that Xaquín's classes should be the primary setting for introducing QGIS. The introduction should aim to spark interest, enabling students to apply these tools in their thesis work or electives.

A more modular approach was recommended, with clearly defined learning blocks to avoid the current feeling of multiple disconnected introductions.

Despite critical feedback, there was agreement to retain the course's B classification, although it was considered borderline C.

Master's theses (response rate 28,2%)

There is a clear demand for more information prior to the thesis process.

Due to understaffing in student guidance services, no information meeting will be held in autumn 2025.

The Study Board is significantly concerned about this cancellation, emphasising the importance of a physical information meeting. The Study Board considers this a legitimate need. The meeting should be physical as students retain information better and benefit from group discussions that are lost in online formats.

To compensate for the missing seminar, the Study Board agreed to facilitate alternative support:

- John offers to meet with student groups in person.
- Christian will address the upcoming thesis process in his course.
- Anne-Mette will in the 2024-cohort Absalon room, encouraging students to share project ideas if they wish to collaborate.
- The student representatives will take initiative to encourage students to meet and support each other in the thesis process, possibly as a social event on a Friday.

No students reported having learned "to a great extent" in relation to thesis writing.

The course received a B rating, primarily due to a low number of responses.

4. Study Board Questions for the Coming Year

Decision point: Are the current evaluation questions used by the Study Board still appropriate? Should any changes be made for the upcoming year? (appendix 9)

Ad 4) We keep the current questions.

News from the students / Sóley

Ad 5) Everyone is doing well. The flexibility of 3rd semester is great, allowing the students to specialise in topics of personal interest. All students who applied for internships, exchange programmes, or CBS courses have gotten what they applied for. The credit transfer process was smooth.

John reminded students to familiarise themselves with the ECTS credit system to ensure they return with the correct number of credits.

students expressed missing the daily connection with each other. A joint event has already been held, and there is interest in organising a semester-end gathering.

Christian praised the high number of students pursuing internships and their initiative in finding internship placements.

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There were questions about the Bolivia scholarship. Although this cohort received the most information, they still ask frequently. The cohort space lacks updated information on scholarships and recommended copying content from the previous year's space.

Student representatives reported that many co-students approach them for guidance, which is not their role. It is appropriate to refer students to the official guidance services. While KUnet is not very user-friendly, it contains valuable information.

It was suggested that internship-related topics are introduced during the intro days, as applications must be submitted well in advance, and that the intro programme includes student experiences with internships and credit transfer.

5. News from the Student Guidance / Anne-Mette (5 minutes)

Ad 6) No events this autumn due to understaffing in student guidance services.

6. News from Head of Studies / John (20 minutes)

a. **September intake:** *briefing regarding the September intake.*

At the start of the semester, 59 students had accepted their offers. As of 1 October, the number has decreased to 53. John is currently in dialogue with Admissions regarding the situation. The intake of 59 students is below the expected capacity and has financial implications, as the full capacity is 69. This issue does not appear to be related to the EU quota this time.

b. **Scholarship for the Bolivia field trip:** *In week 43 we will open a call with small study grants of 5,000 DKK earmarked for self-paying (tuition-paying) GD students.*

5 scholarships are available, but only for students who are not eligible for SU.

John has applied for a major grant aimed at increasing the number of students admitted from Africa.

c. **Election to the Study Board – November 2025:** *New student representatives are to be elected to the study boards, with their term beginning on 1 February 2026. Please speak with first-year students and encourage them to nominate candidates.*

Anne-Mette will post an announcement in the orientation rooms
<https://kUNET.ku.dk/about-ucph/election/Pages/default.aspx>

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- d. **Employer Panel meeting:** *briefing regarding upcoming meeting in the Employer Panel for the MSc in Global Development in December 2025. The SB is welcome to suggest items for the agenda.*

Main message from John: It has been decided that the GD programme can no longer remain a two-year programme. As a result, a new EKA must be developed, likely as a one-year programme. If a shorter programme is introduced, it is essential to ensure that students cannot do a 30 ECTS internship at the two-year master's programmes.

Employers must take responsibility and indicate how many places they can offer for the new EKA. The Master reform will be a key topic at an important upcoming meeting.

More information at the meeting in March.

7. Scheduling the Next Meeting (10 minutes)

The next meeting should take place in start November. Students are encouraged to discuss and agree on times that fit with everyone's timetables. Please bring at least three suggested time slots that all student representatives are available for.

Ad 8) Next Study Board meeting: Tuesday, 4 November at 13:00-15.00.

8. AOB / John (5 minutes)

Ad 9) None.