



MINUTES OF MEETING

6 NOVEMBER 2024

Forum Study Board for Global Development

Meeting date 4 November 2024, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Place Room 5.1.16

Attendees: Marta Dal Farra (Vice-chair), Erika Meilin Wu, Atreyee Sen, Christian Lund, John Rand(Chair), Anne-Mette Østergaard (Student Counsellor), Sidse G. O. Ærstrøm (Programme Coordinator)

Absentees: Pippa Rose Watson

Guests: Andreas Stokke (item 7), Jens Roesdahl Lange (item 3), Simone Thorsen (item 3).

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda / John (5 minutes, 11:00AM - 11:05AM)

***Decision:** The board must decide whether to approve the meeting agenda.*

Decision: The board approved the agenda.

2. Course evaluation – Global Politics (7.5ECTS), Applied Research Methods (7.5ECTS), block 1 and Master’s Thesis and Academic Internship, Spring 2024 / John (20 minutes, 11:05AM - 11:25AM), CLOSED DOOR ITEM

- a. ***Orientation:** Head of studies will present the results of the course evaluation for Global Politics (7.5ECTS), Applied Research Methods (7.5ECTS), block 1 (appendix 2.1), and the*

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Master's Thesis, Spring 2024 (appendix 2.2). The Study Board is welcome to contribute with their reflections.

PAGE 2 OF 7

- b. **Decision:** *The board should decide whether to approve the suggested rating for Global Politics (7.5ECTS) and Applied Research Methods (7.5ECTS), 2024 (appendix 2.3). The board should, furthermore, decide on a rating for the Master's Thesis, Spring 2024 (appendix 2.4). Lastly, the board should evaluate the Academic Internship. Unfortunately, there is no data available for these courses since only 1-3 students had signed up for the study element.*

Decision: the board unanimously agreed to give the *Global Politics* course an A-rating; the suggested rating was a B-rating, but due to the high response rate, the very positive qualitative remarks and the general improvement of the course since the last evaluation, the board evaluated the course to an A-rating.

The *Master's thesis* received a B-rating. The course was generally well evaluated, but due to the low response rate (25,93%), the board couldn't justify an A-rating.

The course *Applied Research Methods* received a B-rating by the board. *The Academic Internship* received no rating, since there was no available data to process and, hence, base the rating upon.

3. Briefing on decisions regarding exemptions and credit transfer and decision regarding a common practice for exemptions / Simone and Jens (15 minutes, 11.25AM - 11.45AM)

Orientation: *Simone will inform the board on the credit transfers made in the previous semester (appendix 3.1).*

Orientation: Simone informed the board, that not many students apply for credit transfer during the spring semester. The reason to this is, that GD students generally spend the spring doing electives to then apply for credit transfer during the fall semester. Simone furthermore noted that GD-students seem to know the rules and procedure for applying for credit transfer, and the sub-committee handle the applications with great effectiveness.

Orientation and decision, Jens will brief the board on the exemptions made in the previous semester (appendix 3.2), and the board will decide on a common practice regarding exemptions.

Orientation: Jens explained that there are only very few applications for exemption at the MSc in Global Development. The reason to this is unknown; it could be because students don't find the need to apply for an exemption, but it could also be a result of students not being aware of this option. Generally, deadlines are being met, and most applications are being processed relatively quickly.

Decision: The Exemptions Team at the Social Science Faculty at the University of Copenhagen is proposing for the board to delegate the decision-making authority and to establish a common practice. This will however only be applicable if the application is sufficiently documented and if a rejection will not have too severe consequences for the student. The board welcomed and approved the proposal.

4. News from the Students Advisors / Anne-Mette (5 minutes, 11:45AM – 11:50AM)

Orientation and discussion: Anne-Mette will inform the SB on data regarding inquiries in the study guidance (appendix 4.1). Dialogue about possible initiatives.

Orientation: Anne-Mette presented the GD-related data concerning the enquiries from students. Generally, the students of Global Development don't make use of the Student Services, this despite GD having 3 weekly designated guidance sessions. Most student enquiries are being forwarded by e-mail from Head of Studies, and Anne-Mette encouraged students to contact the Student Advisors directly. Most of the enquiries are made in May, and they are mostly related to the elective semester, and particularly the Mobility Window. John noted that students ask for opening hours outside of the working hours, maybe just once a month, and Anne-Mette will forward this request to the head of section.

5. News from the Administration / Sidse (5 minutes, 11:50AM – 11:55AM)

a. Status on hearings in the board: The following hearings have been processed since the last Study Board meeting:

1) Approval of minutes and recommended decisions (deadline 4 October 2024): The board approved the minutes of the meeting 23 August. Furthermore, the board approved

the recommended decisions in item two regarding the course ratings for block 4 and the revised additional questions for the future course evaluations. Lastly, the board approved the proposed, revised plan for the Study Board in item three.

- 2) **Hearing, Study Environment Survey and the SAMF Action Plan (deadline 7 October 2024):** The board had no comments regarding the suggested Action Plan at SAMF.
- 3) **Decision on revised plan, Interdisciplinary Field Research (deadline 30 September 2024):** The board decided to revise the planned field trip to Bolivia in 2025 according to the proposed option A, with departure from Denmark 9 February and ending the field work 26 February.
 - b. **Future revision of the Programme Curriculum:** Sidse informed the board that the next revision of the Programme Curriculum will be the September 2025-revision. All revisions to the programme curriculum will be planned and coordinated during December 2024 and January 2025, and course coordinators will be informed and included in the process. The suggested revisions will be presented to the board in February with the possibility to follow up in March. The September-revision of the Programme Curriculum will be published [here](#) 1. May 2025. The revisions will be made in accordance with the new Exam Catalogue cf. item 7 in these minutes.

6. Break and lunch (5 minutes, 11:55AM – 12:00 noon)

7. Presentation and hearing regarding the future Exam Catalogue at SAMF / Andreas Stokke (30 minutes, 12:00 noon -12:30PM)

Orientation and hearing: Andreas will present the future Exam Catalogue at SAMF (see appendices 7.1 and 7.2), and the members of the board are invited to comment on the catalogue.

Orientation and hearing: Andreas presented the future Exam Catalogue, and the process that has led to this. The format of the Exam Catalogue has been approved by the Vice Dean and has been reviewed by the Heads of Studies forum. The Catalogue is now being reviewed by the Study Boards at the Faculty, after which Vice Dean and Heads of Studies are expected to approve the catalogue, with minor revisions from the Study Boards, at the Heads of Studies forum in November.

The expected, future process

The Exam Catalogue will be implemented in the new templates for course description in December 2024. The templates will be applied for future revisions to existing courses and for new courses at the study programmes as of September 2025. At Global Development most revisions prior to the September revision of the Programme Curriculum are expected to be minor and will primarily consist of simple translations of the former exam terms. Other revisions could include a revision of the exam form or the variables of the existing exam form. The Teaching Coordinator will be responsible for the implementation of the new template and the revised course descriptions, and the Programme Coordinator will be responsible for processing the revisions in the Study Board in February 2025 and subsequently revise the Programme Curriculum accordingly.

Feedback from the Board

There were no specific remarks for the exam variables of the new Exam Catalogue. However, the board remarked the need for teachers to be informed on the new exam catalogue and the template for course revisions and new courses. Furthermore, the board pointed out that the terms for online examination is missing in the Catalogue.

8. News from the Students / Marta (10 minutes, 12:30PM – 12:40PM)

The students used the opportunity to express their gratitude for and good experiences with the work in the Study Board. Good experience.

Field trip, spring 2024: The students expressed their concern regarding the political situation in Bolivia. John informed that he and the teachers of the course are following the situation. At the moment there is no travel restrictions from the Danish Foreign Ministry, but the student's country of origin might have a different approach to the situation in Bolivia. John and the teachers of the course will discuss the situation with the 2024-cohort the upcoming week, and John expressed his gratitude for the students addressing the issue.

9. News from Head of Studies / John (15 minutes, 12:40PM - 12:55PM)

- a. **Employer Panel meeting:** *The Employer Panel for the MSc in Global Development will meet 14 November 2024. John will inform the SB on present items for the meeting (appendix 9.1) and the SB is welcome to suggest additional items for the agenda.*

The agenda for the future meetings will be in English.

Marketing of the programme: The Study International marketing of the programme is going well – especially in some countries in South America and Indonesia. The Economic Department of UCPH are funding the initiative alongside with the marketing of Economics.

Admin reform: the admin work of the future Study Administration will be more streamlined and efficient.

1-year (1 ¼) Master’s Programme in Global Development: It has now been decided that Global Development will become a 1-year MSc programme. The employer Panel will discuss this at the meeting. Hopefully, it will be possible to offer a 45 ECTS Internship based module (vocational training programme) prior to the thesis. The future circumstances of this needs to be clarified.

Head of Studies had a chat with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the possibility that Global Development take in a number of African students (30 was mentioned and GD may get a share of these). It was seen as positive that GD has the needed experience with USB students and offers a cross-disciplinary program at a high international level. Funding may be allocated based on a set of University (KU) to University (African) agreements, and then it will be an internal process of how KU allocate the responsibility of the intake process. Like to be selected educations already having experience with USBs. It was mentioned during the meeting that regardless of funding all African students need to fulfil the admission criteria for GD. CL: Maybe let students chose themselves instead of targeting towards specific educations.

- b. **Summarized Course Evaluation (SUE):** *John will present the Summarized Course Evaluation (SUE) (appendix 9.2).*

Global Development is a well-functioning programme, and especially the unemployment rate has been highlighted by the Faculty. Response rates could be improved, and John has implemented different measures in this regard. Amongst other things, John is reaching out to the board to get their input on how to improve response rates, and both students and teachers suggest having the students respond to the evaluations in class. Openness regarding the influence of the evaluations in the development of a course also serves as motivation. John

welcomed the members to send him additional suggestions by e-mail.

PAGE 7 OF 7

- c. **Summary of the study board's work during the year:** *What would the current study board pass on to the coming study board? What should be the focus of the SB for GD in the coming year, and how should these items be planned for the next year of the study board?*

The board agreed to suggest the future reform of the programme to be the focus point of the coming year. Christian added that the basic admin of the programme and the strategic work regarding the future recruitment should also be a topic for the upcoming Study Board.

10. AOB / John (5 minutes, 12:55AM - 1:00PM)

2024-elections for the Study Board: Christian Lund will run as candidate from the ING/IFRO department in the 2024 elections for the Study Board. John will run as candidate from the department of Ecnomy and Atreyee will represent Anthropology in the elections.

One-year MSc programme in Global Development: John remarked that the one-year programme might not have room for pass/fail courses. As a result, Applied Research Methods might be graded.

Yours sincerely,

Sidse Gutfeld Overbeck Ærstrøm
Programme Coordinator