Board of Studies for MSc in Global Development

SEPTEMBER 2026

Campusadministration Søndre
Uddannelse
Uddannelsesudvikling og kvalitetssikring

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Minutes of meeting

Forum	Board of Studies for the MSc in Global Development
Meeting date	2 September 2026, 14.15-16 PM
Place	Room 5.1.22

Meeting taker Susanne Stoltz

Attendees Christian Lund, John Rand, Atreyee Sen, Anna Isabella Kastberg Andersen, Chatarina Quinn Etoll, Katherine Andrea Betts (alternate for Hannah Sofia Braren Lindgren), Anne Villumsen (educational advisor), Anne- Mette Østergaard (Student guidance), Susanne Stoltz (Educational Partner)

Absent Hannah Sofia Braren Lindgren

Agenda and minutes

1. **Approval of the agenda**
   The board approved the agenda.

2. **Course evaluation**
   The Head of Studies presented the results of the course evaluations from the two block 4 courses and the master's theses for spring 2026. The Board discussed the evaluation outcomes and response rates and considered whether any results required follow-up action. The Board also rated the courses.

   Social Science Perspectives on Climate Change and Development (CLIMATE)

The response rate: 27.6%

The Board noted that the evaluation results were more positive than previous year.

The respondent in the evaluation generally highlighted the relevance and interest of the course content, the quality of the teaching, and the overall structure of the course. Some respondents called for clearer communication regarding changes to the reading plan and a more consolidated overview of course readings. A few respondents felt that parts of the course were somewhat basic compared to other courses in the programme.

The Board noted that one of the lecturers had recently begun observing a colleague's teaching and emphasised the value of new lecturers observing more experienced colleagues as a source of inspiration.

The relatively low response rate was discussed. Although time had been allocated during seminars for students to complete the evaluation, it was suggested that some students may primarily attend lectures rather than seminars. The Board discussed whether allocating time during lectures instead might lead to higher response rates. It was noted that, while seminar participation is mandatory, it is important that seminars provide clear value to students.

Student representatives noted that some students may have been reluctant to participate actively in class, particularly where they could be asked to present without prior notice. The Board discussed the importance of communicating that such participation is intended as a learning exercise and does not affect students' grades.

The Board decided on a **B rating**.
The Head of Studies will follow up with the course coordinator regarding the comments raised in the evaluation.

Global Business and Economics (GloBe)
The response rate: 30.2%

The respondent in the evaluation generally found the course well-structured and appreciated the breadth and relevance of the content. However, several comments highlighted challenges related to STATA, particularly for students without prior experience, as well as concerns about workload and the amount of required reading. Some students also suggested that greater interactivity in lectures could enhance engagement.

The Board noted that the evaluation results were somewhat unusual. Some of respondents described the course as "too easy", despite several comments highlighting challenges related to STATA. This did not correspond with the student representative's general impression, as

many students had experienced difficulties with STATA and reported feeling stressed before the examination.

The Board discussed whether students' expectations may have been influenced by being informed in advance that the course was considered challenging. It was also noted that the quantitative component of the course regularly receives criticism in evaluations and that students are often less positive towards quantitative methods more generally. Board members discussed whether the purpose and value of the quant and STATA could be communicated more clearly to students.

A respondent has noted that, although they had no prior coding experience had found the course challenging, some nevertheless recognised the value of developing an understanding of the underlying theory rather than relying solely on AI-based tools.

The Head of Studies will discuss with the course lecturer how the purpose of programming and quant can be communicated more effectively to students. The possibility of offering additional programming support was mentioned, although previous initiatives of this kind had not resulted in increased student engagement.

The Board also expressed concern about the low response rate and discussed the importance of communicating to students how course evaluations are used to improve future teaching and learning activities.

The Board decided on a B rating.

Master's Theses
The response rate: 29.6%

The evaluations of master's thesis supervision were generally very positive. However, due to the low response rate, the Board decided on a B rating.

3. **Curriculum**
Anne from the Section for Educational Development and Curriculum presented the new process for curriculum revision. As new curricula are expected to take effect for 2028, the process was considered of limited relevance to the programme at present.

However, Anne noted that any changes to course descriptions for the 2027/28 academic year must be approved and published before 1 November 2026, as this coincides with the opening of the application period for non-EU applicants. Anne also informed the Board that, ideally, the names of course coordinators and teaching staff for 2027/28 should be available by 1 November 2026.

The Board discussed the proposed inclusion of a language requirement in the curriculum. The proposal would require all programme components to be teched and assessed in English.

There was agreement that all compulsory programme components should continue to be taught and assessed in English.

However, members expressed differing views regarding electives and internships. Several members argued that students should retain the possibility of undertaking electives or internships in languages other than English, including during exchange stays. Examples mentioned included courses taught in German at German universities, courses taught in Danish at CBS, and internships at Danish embassies abroad where Danish is used as the working language.

The Board noted that, when students apply for pre-approval or credit transfer for courses not described in English, it is their responsibility to provide an approved English translation of the course description.

The proposal to require all programme components to be completed and assessed in English did not receive support from the Board. In the subsequent vote, five of the six members present voted in favour of allowing elective components (30 ECTS) to be completed in languages other than English.

New exam format from spring 27 in Social Science Perspectives on Climate Change and Development (CLIMATE)

John informed the board about a new exam format in CLIMATE from spring 2027. The current assessment, a 72-hour individual take-home exam, is becoming increasingly problematic due to the rapid development and widespread use of generative AI. It is increasingly difficult to determine whether submitted work reflects students' own understanding, analytical skills, and application of course theories and methods. More broadly, AI tools can now support many of the tasks the exam is designed to assess, raising concerns about both the validity of the assessment and ensuring equal conditions for all students.

The teaching team has been asked to submit a concrete proposal for an alternative assessment by Friday. Any new format should remain aligned with the course learning objectives.

Anne noted that it was important for her to be involved in the process.

4. **News from the Students**

The student representatives reported considerable challenges in connection with course registration and academic planning for the 3. semester. Based on a survey among their fellow students, they highlighted several recurring concerns, including limited access to elective courses in the registration system, lengthy processing times for course pre-approvals outside the Faculty of Social Sciences, and difficulties obtaining timely and consistent guidance from the Study Guidance. Students reported waiting up to 10-12 weeks for responses to applications and enquiries, which had caused significant frustration and

uncertainty regarding their study plans.

The student representatives further noted a lack of clear information about elective opportunities and 3. semester options. They requested an overview of courses available to Global Development students and improved communication prior to the course registration period.

Concerns were also raised regarding information on the English KUnet pages, as several forms, confirmations, and web pages are available only in Danish.

Finally, the student representatives reminded the committee of the importance of ensuring that USB students requiring residence permits (SIRI) are registered for 30 ECTS and have approved internships or pre-approved courses in place by 1 August.

The Head of Studies acknowledges that it has never been this bad. We understand the frustration and we are sorry. He informed the Board that the relevant section heads had been made aware of the issues. All affected students should by now have received course registrations, pre-approvals, or other necessary clarifications.
The Board agreed on the need for improved coordination and knowledge-sharing across the administration.

Follow-up: Anne-Mette and Susanne will compile an overview of relevant pre-approved elective courses at the Faculty of Social Sciences and prepare guidance on how students can find courses open to Global Development students on kurser.ku.dk
Anne-Mette and Susanne will also take forward the need to review whether the information available on KUnet can be improved, and Anne-Mette will raise the concerns that have been highlighted regarding students receiving differing advice from different student advisers.

5. **News from the Head of Studies**

September intake
The Head of Studies informed the Board that 47 new students had been admitted to the programme. The intake is lower than the programme capacity due to a range of factors affecting admissions. The cohort includes a relatively high number of EU students but only six tuition fee-paying international students. The initial impression is that the new cohort is highly engaged and promising.

Teachers' meeting
The Head of Studies briefed the Board on the teachers' meeting held on 31 August, where there was focus on improving coordination across the programme. The teaching team are committed and highly engaged in

supporting students. The value of continuity within the teaching team was emphasized, also I order to follow up more systematically on issues raised in course evaluations.

Master's reform
The programme is currently preparing proposals for both a 75 ECTS Master's programme and a master's degree Programme for Working Professionals. Admission of USB-students is unlikely to be possible on the master's degree Programme for Working Professionals. Work is underway to develop a platform that can help match students with relevant employers.
John expressed some concerns regarding the overall workload (approximately 23 hours of employment per week after the first semester) associated with this model.

Scholarship for the Bolivia field trip
A call for applications will be launched in Week 43 for four study grants (for USB-students) of DKK 5,000 to support self-funded participation in the Bolivia field trip.

Election to the Study Board
The Election for new student representatives to the Study Board will take place in October-November 2026, with terms commencing on 1 February 2027.
Current student representatives were encouraged to inform first-year students about the opportunity to stand for election.

Follow-up: Anne-Mette and Susanne will share information about the elections in the Absalon cohort room.

Employer Panel meeting
The Head of Studies informed the Board about the upcoming Employer Panel meeting in October 2026.
Earlier feedback from employers indicated a lower level of concern regarding current programme developments than that expressed by students.
It was noted that external funding opportunities within the field are declining, which may have implications for future priorities and programme development.

6. **News from the Student Counsellor**
The Student Counselling is currently having fewer employees than usual. Students are therefore encouraged to contact the Student Counselling Service by telephone in urgent cases.

7. Plan for the work of the study board in the coming semester + Scheduling the Next Meeting

Together with the minutes, Susanne will circulate a few proposed dates for the meeting scheduled for early November.

8. AOB / John

None.