Course 6: Knowing international cooperation

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Syllabus

Overview

One of the aims of the GDEE project is to develop and sustain links between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in technical development work and universities, in order to better inform education practices on development topics in technical curriculums.

This course will focus on the importance of understanding contextual environments in development research and identifying within this context relevant actors and partnerships. By providing several possible models of interaction between universities and actors in development, these sessions will enable participants to enhance the effectiveness of research projects and the experience of student researchers.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the course the participant will be able to:

At the end of this course module we expect that participants will:

1.   Explain the importance of participatory approaches to research, and how these could be implemented to involve stakeholders at all phases of project cycle management.

2.   Summarize and explain the basic principles of the logical framework approach applied to development research projects.

3.   Be able to begin an independent search of relevant grants and financial support for international cooperation projects, namely including support to engineering students' thesis.

The course at a glance:

Session	Week	Topic covered
1	1	Financial support & Grants: Existing examples from different countries
2	1	Examples of successful projects and analysis of non-successful ones
3	2	Project design and description
4	2	Logical framework
5	3	Problems and goal trees, Gantt diagram and budget design
0	3	Final Exam

Estimated time commitment

This course will run for 3 weeks beginning on May 5th, 2014. In total, the course should take approximately 20-25 hours to complete, including readings, assignments and activities. Each session is equivalent to two hours in the classroom plus 3 hours of personal study, broken down as follows.

N.	Activity	Estimated time commitment
1	Reading & Coursework	100 minutes
2	Explore Further Materials	60 minutes
3	Review Quizzes	20 minutes
4	Academic Activity	90 minutes
5	Participation in Discussion Forums	(Minimum of) 30 minutes

Course structure:

New lecture materials will be posted every Monday. Once posted, materials will be up for the duration of the course.

Each week, lecture material for two sessions will be posted. The lecture materials for each session will be comprised of one assigned reading, an Academic Activity, and a set of web resources, carefully selected to help participants deepen their understanding of the topics covered.

Session Review Quizzes will be posted online twice per week. They will be graded and passing the Review Quizzes is a requirement for passing the course. (For more information on course grading, please read the section entitled "Passing the Course").

The Academic Activity, included with each session, is designed to test your ability to put into practice what you have learnt during the sessions. **Only 2 of the 5 available Academic Activities will be graded. The course coordinator will announce the Academic Activities to be graded at the beginning of the course**. You will only be required to complete the 2 graded activities.

The Final Exam will take place in the last week of the course. It will be comprised of 30 questions covering all of the course material. Passing the Final Exam is a requirement of the course.

In addition to the graded activities, a discussion forum will run throughout the duration of the course. Each week, the course coordinator will post a discussion question related to the session topics. Participation in the discussion forum is not required to pass the course, and participants' discussion contributions will not be graded. However, students are **strongly encouraged** to participate in the discussion forum as the discussion and debate which will take place in the forums will greatly enhance student learning and topic engagement.

Quizzes/Assignments/Final exam:

Review Quizzes

There are 5 quizzes in total, each comprised of 10 questions and worth 10 possible points. 2 review quizzes will be posted each week, evaluating participants understanding of the weekly session topics. All quizzes count towards the final grade and can be attempted twice. The quiz format is a mixture of True/False and Multiple Choice questions.

Academic activities

Each session includes an academic activity for practicing key concepts learnt. Only 2 academic activities will be evaluated for grading. The course coordinator will indicate at

the beginning of the course which activity will be evaluated, as well as provide detailed instructions and evaluation criteria. The completed activity must be uploaded on the platform upon completion. Activities can be attempted only once; they worth a maximum of 10 points each, for a total of 20 points.

Final exam

The final exam consists of a mix of 30 True/False and Multiple Choice questions covering all the course topics. It worth a maximum of 30 points. It can be attempted twice.

Passing the Course

To pass the course you should:

- Have submitted all review quizzes before the due date

- Have submitted the academic activities before the due date

- Have submitted the final exam before the due date

- Obtain a grade of at least 70 points in total

Grading Policy

Students who successfully complete the course will be offered a Statement of Accomplishment according to the following grading policy.

Grading Policy	
Statement of accomplishment	at least 70 points
Statement of accomplishment with distinction	at least 90 points

Course 6: Knowing international cooperation – COURSE TIMELINE			
Course Start: July 7th			
Sessions	**Learning Outcomes** By the end of the course you will be able to:		**Due** **GA** (Graded Activity)
Orientation	• Navigate the course • Know the other participants	**WEEK 0**	• Read carefully the Syllabus • Complete the orientation questionnaire • Introduce yourself to others participants (Forum)
1. Financial support & Grants: Existing examples from different countries	• Identify on-line tools for finding calls and related documents. • Identify financial support opportunities at European level and international public/private sector.	**WEEK 1**	• Reading & Coursework 1 (Release 07.07) • Quiz 1 (Release 08.07 – Due 15.07) GA • Discussion Forum (Release 08.07) • Reading & Coursework 2 (Release 07.07) • Quiz 2 (Release 11.07 – Due 18.07) GA • Academic Activity 1 (Release 10.07 – Due 20.07) GA
2. Examples of successful projects and analysis of non-successful ones	• Recognize and explain critical success factor for International Cooperation Projects. • Identify Project success criteria for International Cooperation Projects. • Describe possible reasons why International Cooperation Projects fail or are a success.		

3. Project design and description	• Distinguish a project and other tools of the Development Cooperation. • Describe in orderly manner the Project Cycle's Phases. • Identify key concepts of successful processes of project identification and project design. • Understand the concept of Results Based Management and relate it correctly with Project Cycle Management.	**WWEEK 2**	• Reading & Coursework 3 (Release 14.07) • Quiz 3 (Release 15.07 – Due 22.07) GA • Discussion Forum (Release 15.07) • Reading & Coursework 4 (Release 14.07) • Quiz 4 (Release 17.07 – Due 23.07) GA • Academic Activity 2 (Release 17.07 – Due 24.07) GA
4. Logical framework	• Describe the structure and the main concepts of a logical framework. • Identify strong and weaks points in the project design phase.		
5. Problems and goal trees, Gantt diagram and budget design	• To understand the use of the problems and objectives trees and be able to construct them. • Use Gantt diagrams on planning project implementation • Be able to manage a project budget and be accountable in front of the donors.	**WEEK 3**	• Reading & Coursework 5 (Release 21.07) • Quiz 5 (Release 22.07 – Due 27.07) GA
Final exam			• Exam (Release 23.07 – Due 27.07) GA • Post-course evaluation survey (Release 27.07)