Teaching evaluation report for the MSc in Global Development 2014/15

Evaluations have been conducted for the programme's seven mandatory courses (first and second semester). The average response rate was 66% with a wide spread from the first semester (87%) to the second semester (40%).

Six of the evaluations used identical questionnaires while the seventh course (Field Course) used a different template. The reason for the variation is that the Field Course is very different from the other courses.

Following the evaluations, four of the courses were classified as A[1]: Global Business and Economics; Theories, Facts and Current Issues; Transnational Actors, Networks and Place Making and the Field Course (all with an overall score above 3.8 on a 5-point scale) with the remaining three courses – Global Politics; Economic Growth and Inequality; and Advanced Research Methods - defined as B (scoring from 2.9 to 3.7).

Overall, the teaching and courses at Global Development received satisfactory evaluations. The evaluations of the individual lecturers were in most cases also very satisfactory.

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[1] The category A is based on evaluations that, in relation to the definition of the category, show that the teaching/subject element functions particularly well and serves as an inspiration to others. The category B courses have evaluations which, in relation to the definition of the category, show that the teaching/subject element functions satisfactorily. Finally, category C courses have evaluations which, in relation to the definition of the category, show that the teaching/subject element requires multiple changes.

Table 1: Summary statistics (average rankings on a 5-point scale and percentiles) for the course evaluations 2014/15

Course Question	ARM[1]	GLOBE[2]	TFC[3]	TANP[4]	EGI[5]	GP[6]	Field Course
How would you rate the course overall	2.98	3.86	3.91	4.28	2.92	3.69	3,9
How would you rate the coordination of this course with other courses?	2.95	3.57	3.97	3.9	2.3	2.76	
These are the learning goals listed in the course description: Do you find the course covers these goals?	3.22	4.00	3.87	4.28	3.3	3.53	
How would you rate the overall level of the course?	3.02	3.82	3.42	3.52	3.3	3.38	
How would you rate your own effort in the course in relation to your effort in other courses?	3.3	3.75	3.93	3.66	3.69	3.46	
How big a proportion of the lectures have you participated in so far?	80%	87%	88%	88%	78%	76%	
How much of the course syllabus have you read?	62%	65%	72%	76%	54%	52%	
What do you think about the amount of required reading?	Too much: 24 The right amount: 25 Too little: 0	Too much: 35 The right amount: 10 Too little: 0	Too much: 14 The right amount: 32 Too little: 1	Too much: 3 The right amount: 39 Too little: 0	Too much: 7 The right amount: 6 Too little: 0	Too much: 6 The right amount: 7 Too little: 0	
How would you rate the balance between group work and individual work?	3.79	3.77	3.74	3.92	3.92	3.07	
Has the course met your expectations?	2.67	3.64	3.87	4.16	2.53	3.00	

[1]Advanced Research Methods; [2]Global Business and Economics; [3]Theories, Facts and Current Issues; [4]Transnational Actors, Networks and Place Making; [5]Economic Growth and Inequality; [6]Global Politics.

Courses rated A:
- A clear definition of purpose and expected outcome of each lecture, in relation to the overall learning goals of the course, was rated very well by the students.
- The continuity from lectures to seminars works well.
- The actual field trip gave excellent insights on how to design a research project.
- The group work in general works well as students learn a lot from working together.

Courses rated B:
- General satisfaction with the courses was expressed (see suggested improvements).

Suggested improvements by students:
- Prioritized reading lists (due to the vast amount of literature in some courses)
- More basic introduction to software used in the quantitative research
- A stronger coordination between the courses (as well as the reading), especially between Advanced Research Methods and Global Business & Economics as well as between Advanced Research Methods and the Field Course.

Due to the interdisciplinary structure of Global Development it is an overarching concern that there is a good coordination among the courses. Several courses (Global Business and Economics; Theories, Facts and Current Issues; Transnational Actors, Networks and Placemaking) scored well on their coordination with other courses (scoring from 3,5 to 3,9) whereas other courses (Advanced Research Methods, Global Politics and Economic Growth and Inequality) scored less well (scoring from 2,3 to 3,0). The Field Course did not include this question in their evaluation.

The low scores for Global Politics and Economic Growth & Inequality on this topic can partly be seen as a result of the fact that the two courses are the only two courses running in that block (second semester at GD uses block structure) and that the students therefore might have thought about the actual coordination between the two of which there is not necessarily supposed to be any. However, the study board will be aware of this for the next evaluation and make sure that further information is obtained on how the two courses are coordinated with all the other courses at GD. This being more a matter of content than of timetables and logistics (although this is obviously also of some importance).