

2022 Course evaluation: THREE YEAR evaluation of GLODE 310

Name of course coordinator: Marguerite Daniel

Year and semester of most recent internships: Autumn 2021

Brief summary of the course with a focus on adjustments over time.

Students in GLODE have the option of taking a three-month full-time internship in the third semester of their programme. The proportion of each cohort choosing an internship has varied over the years from less than 20% (2018-20 cohort) to 90% of the current first years (2021-23 cohort). Students have a UiB supervisor (usually the same person who will supervise their thesis) and an organisation supervisor. There are monthly report-in sessions and at the end of the internship, the organisation supervisor delivers a short report, and the student writes a longer report reflecting on the internship.

Being **course-responsible** has its own challenges: much of the preparatory work is done during the semester prior to the internships when there is no MittUiB page for the course and no hours allocated for the tasks which now include running two workshops (1. For course information, going through the agreement and other on-line forms, presentations by some organisations and some second year students; and, 2. Procedure for applying, how to write an application letter, CV, etc.) and numerous requests to write letters to support the students' applications.

In **autumn 2019**, only two students did internships, both at research organisations, one in Norway (with travel to Nepal) and one in South Africa (see InternAbroad section below). All went as planned.

In **autumn 2020** there was a double problem of i) the then course-responsible going on long-term sick leave and ii) the COVID-19 pandemic preventing any internships being taken abroad. Places were found in Norway for all students (including those not speaking Norwegian) who wanted to do an internship. Twelve internships took place and there were some minor issues such as COVID-19 illness, on-line only internships, one organisation failing to send a report, one (international) student reaching melt-down at her organisation. As a result of this last issue, it was decided to replace the monthly written report with a brief *monthly conversation* between student and UiB supervisor to try and trouble-shoot issues before they escalate into problems.

In **autumn 2021** we had severe staff shortages and frequent changes due to sick-leave, staff bought out of teaching, several different temporary staff and this resulted in one serious problem. One of the students on internship did not perform her tasks satisfactorily – the organisation supervisor wrote a detailed report setting out all the issues clearly. The obligatory activities in the course description stated: "The student must complete the requirements of the Internship Agreement and the internship mentor at the host institution must confirm that this is done". The student had clearly NOT completed obligatory activities and was interviewed by the course leader and the programme leader. She told a different story, was challenged on her version compared to the organisation's version and revised her story. However, as she had been allowed to submit her report, this had to be assessed in the same way as other reports were assessed, and she passed. Programme staff met and discussed how this situation can be avoided in the future – and course description has been changed accordingly. The organisation report will now come in one week before the student's report is due. If obligatory activities have not been fulfilled, the student will NOT be allowed to submit the report – and will NOT pass the course.

One person had been course-responsible for many years, so when they went on in-definite sick-leave it created challenges of finding the necessary information and structure. There was also funding for internships in South Africa through a DIKU programme called InternAbroad. The funding was extended for an extra two years because of COVID-19. The procedure, process and reporting

requirements for these internships was not well documented. When they were found they appeared to benefit Norway only and not the South African partners. In 2021 there was only one digital internship, but PhD students from the partner organisation were offered places on two different PhD courses (six and five respectively).

Students have evaluated the course only twice (spring 2021 – evaluating autumn 2020; and spring 2022 – evaluating autumn 2021). Staff feel this is an important part of 'Development *Practice*' (within Global Development Theory and Practice). From autumn 2023 students will not have the option of a 60 ECT thesis, but will choose between internships; other courses at UiB; or an Erasmus exchange.