

U21 CERTIFICATE IN GLOBAL ISSUES

1. Background

The U21 Certificate in Global Issues is a shared, multi-disciplinary program. It will be offered in conjunction with four other member institutions of the Universitas 21 Network - the University of Auckland, the University of British Columbia, the University of Hong Kong and the University of Nottingham. Students will be required to undertake the Certificate concurrently with a standard undergraduate degree by extending the degree by one semester or by overloading. They will be expected to complete fifty per cent of the Certificate through at least one other partner university, whether online or as study abroad. The Certificate will be offered initially for a two year trial period from Semester 2, 2005 with a planned 100-point Diploma being offered from 2007.

Demand

The Certificate in Global Issues will address the particular demands of undergraduate students who have an interest in global studies and who are seeking quality higher education within a global learning environment. A transcript annotation indicating that students have successfully completed a program in global studies at more than one U21 institution will appeal to students considering future careers with overseas and multinational employers. Employers value sensitivity to different cultures, different language competencies, and an understanding of global issues. The U21 Certificate in Global Issues will equip graduates with globally relevant knowledge and skills which will enable them to work across cultures, and will provide them with an understanding of global issues in order to work successfully within the societies they will help lead.

The flexible program will allow students to undertake a portion (or all) of the U21 Global Issues curriculum as part of a formal exchange program, and through online or intensive delivery courses at one or more host U21 institutions. Mobility programs provide students with truly international experiences, but formal student exchanges continue to be available to only a minority of students. Internet-based components of the Certificate involving students from the participating U21 institutions will allow an increased number of undergraduate students to access the international learning experience by offering them a second means through which to undertake the Certificate.

The University of Melbourne has undertaken a small 'focus group' survey of some of its undergraduate students. In October 2004, forty-two undergraduate (second or third-year Arts or combined Arts degree) students were surveyed on the factors influencing their decisions to consider the U21 Certificate. Most students agreed that online subjects were an appealing option, given the financial difficulties often inhibiting students' access to exchange programs. The survey revealed that, despite the challenges associated with online learning and overseas exchange programs, students are looking for flexible study experiences. They would be willing to participate in a global program that offers quality online facilities as well as the option of overseas study. The participating universities seek to ensure that this flexibility is available to students.

As well as providing quality learning the U21 Certificate in Global Issues directly addresses another of the University's key strategic aims, internationalisation. The Certificate will promote the increased participation of international students at the University of Melbourne, and create more exchange opportunities for Australian-based students. It will also encourage a more complex delivery of the University's international agenda by offering an international curricula and ensuring that our students may benefit from global programs and learning environments.

Benchmarking

One of the key objectives of the Universitas 21 Network is to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between member universities to create learning opportunities for their students on a scale that none of

them would be able to achieve independently or through traditional bilateral alliances. With the Certificate in Global Issues, the University of Melbourne and the participating U21 institutions aim to offer quality global programs and, for the first time, will extend its offerings to undergraduate students. Through standard credit unit transfer, the Certificate will enable undergraduate students to enrich their degree with components taken from other research-led universities with international reputations, guaranteeing benchmarking against national and international best practice.

The participating universities are confident that their proven performance in offering first-rate online and campus-based education within an excellent quality assurance framework has provided them with the requisite knowledge to cater for the needs of undergraduate students in the current global context. Students participating in the program can feel assured that they are participating in effective collaborative learning, with high-level, campus-based and technology rich facilities from the top end of the market.

Course objectives

The Certificate in Global Issues is designed to meet the needs of students undertaking undergraduate degrees who are interested in developing vital cross-cultural communication skills and intellectual competencies in global issues, preparing them at undergraduate level for future careers (whether at home or abroad) in an increasingly global context. This program of study is intended to provide students with:

- knowledge of the current theoretical principles relating to globalisation;
- an ability to evaluate and synthesise the literature relating to the globalisation, and its relationship to environmental, economic, political and social change; and
- an understanding of the interconnectedness between individuals, societies, and countries by encouraging students to consider the cultural, environmental, economic and political dimensions of globalisation.

The award aims to enrich the academic development of graduates. It is highly relevant for students considering careers which require an international perspective, as well as developing ‘world-mindedness’.

Graduates of the proposed Certificate in Global Issues should develop the following generic skills:

- Skills for problem solving-techniques and an ability to communicate these techniques in verbal and written form;
- A sensitivity to the impact of globalisation on the world from a variety of theoretical, individual and international perspectives;
- A sound attitude towards undertaking life-long learning in this field;
- A well-developed capacity to understand and participate as an individual and in collaborative, multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural teams, as a leader or as a team member;
- Working skills in the use of simulations, interactive material and technologies designed to enhance collaborative and team work;
- An understanding of students’ own choices and responsibilities within their political, social, cultural and professional contexts; and
- An ability to participate as active global citizens.

2. Entry Requirements

Eligibility

1. The Selection Committee will evaluate the applicant's ability to manage independent, unsupervised study and to pursue successfully the course using the following criteria:

- enrolment at the University of Melbourne or at one of the participating U21 universities; and
 - a weighted grade point average of at least H2B (70%) or equivalent across at least 100 points of undergraduate study at the University of Melbourne or at one of the participating U21 universities.
2. The Selection Committee may conduct interviews and tests and call for referee reports and employer references to elucidate any of the matters referred to above.

Note. Students who have not completed the required 100 points at the due date of applications but who have completed at least 50 points at a weighted grade point average of at least H2B (70 per cent) and are scheduled to reach 100 points before the proposed date of commencement of the Certificate may apply, but for such students a place may only be offered subject to successful completion of the required 100 points at a weighted grade point average of at least H2B (70 per cent) before commencing the Certificate.

English Language Requirements

As applicants wishing to enrol in the U21 Certificate in Global Issues will have completed at least the first year of a tertiary program at one of the participating universities, where English is the official language of instruction and assessment, English language requirements are not applicable to this course proposal.

3. Course Requirements/Structure

Course Requirements

Graduates will exit the program with a Certificate after completing 50 points. The program will only be offered as a Certificate during the two-year pilot period, although graduates will eventually have the option of completing another 50 points (total 100 points) towards a Diploma. The four-unit or one-semester Certificate will be introduced first, with a view to developing the Certificate into an eight-unit or full-year Diploma.

To receive the Certificate a candidate must undertake the prescribed compulsory subject plus three elective units (four units in total), achieving a grade of more than 50 per cent in all subjects. Students will be required to complete fifty per cent of the Certificate (two out of four possible units) through at least one other partner university, whether online or as study abroad. Eventually, a student enrolled in the Diploma who does not pass all eight subjects required for the Diploma may graduate with a Certificate if the requirements for that award are met.

The Certificate will only be awarded on the completion of the principal degree.

Program features

The Certificate can be undertaken concurrently with a standard undergraduate degree by extending the degree by one full-time semester. Students can opt to take Global Issues subjects alongside their principal degree by completing a mixture of 'Global Issues' units and degree units each semester, ultimately extending the degree by a semester. They may alternatively choose to undertake all the 'Global Issues' units during the 'add-on' semester. Completion of the certificate will normally add an additional semester to the student's overall program of study.

The Certificate will be offered from a mixture of internet-based learning and on-campus subjects, which will be available to local and study abroad/exchange students through online subjects, student exchange programs, and intensive course delivery.

Whether taken locally or through distance mode, some subjects will require active collaborative learning amongst students who are signed up for the course from the participating universities.

In some partner universities – not the University of Melbourne – the Global Issues program may be offered as minor component of an existing degree.

Compulsory Subject: A compulsory subject, with a high level of technical sophistication and student interactions, will be available online to all students enrolled in the Certificate. The subject will be taken through distance learning and has a common curriculum agreed by all universities, serving as an introductory prerequisite for all other subjects within the curriculum. The subject is envisioned as a ‘semester-long for-credit’ fully online subject for upper level undergraduate students at partner universities within the *Universitas 21* consortium. It has been developed as an introductory subject that could lead into a series of more specialised subjects forming the Certificate or Diploma in Global Issues. The subject, *Global Citizenship-Global Issues*, is an interdisciplinary and interactive subject which will encourage students to: consider their choices and responsibilities within their political, social, cultural and professional contexts; and participate as active global citizens. The subject will comprise weekly thematic modules on a WebCT course management platform, and will make use of WebCT communication and collaboration tools to promote instructor-led student discussions, case-based learning and teamwork. Students will be required to participate in weekly discussions, complete weekly assignments, and collaborate on a major team project with peers from different disciplines and institutions. The University of British Columbia’s (UBC) Centre for Intercultural Communication (CIC), a unit located within the UBC’s Continuing Studies office, is coordinating the development and delivery of this subject and is excellently equipped to do so. It is the only new subject to be offered as part of the Certificate and will be approved by UBC’s Academic Senate.

A second compulsory subject is intended for the future Diploma program. This subject will involve a supervised project on an area of the student’s choice and will entail collaboration with one or more students from a different part of the world.

Stream Structure

The curriculum will involve themes relevant to contemporary global issues, such as the nature of globalisation, global business, international law and environmental sustainability. Subjects will be predominantly global in perspective rather than area studies, and a number of identifiable course streams have been established to complement specific undergraduate qualifications. Subjects will eventually be divided into the following streams:

- Understanding Globalisation;
- Global Business and International Finance;
- Sustainability and Environmentalism;
- Human Rights and International Law;
- Peace and Security;
- Poverty; and
- Global Health.

During the first two years of the Certificate (2005-2007), the number of streams will be limited in order to allow for problems to be identified and addressed. Viable subjects will be organised into two main streams: Global Issues (Understanding Globalisation); and Global Issues (Global Business and International Finance). The streams will contain subjects loosely grouped into ‘packages’ with comparable themes. Eventually, the program will be developed to the point that it is sufficiently flexible to accommodate multiple variations in course structure and multiple streams. A University of Melbourne student undertaking the Diploma, for example, will be able to travel to Canada to complete an intensive unit of study during a summer school program, or less intensively, complete several units of study during a semester at the University of British Columbia, and later complete the remaining

international component of the award (in total, at least fifty per cent of the total 100 credit points) online, through the University of Hong Kong. The other half of the award could be taken at the University of Melbourne via online or on-campus subjects. Below is an example of a basic course plan for the Certificate.

SEMESTER 2, 2005 (Southern Hemisphere) – University of Melbourne student based in Melbourne
HIST150 World History Since 1500 (online, University of British Columbia)
316-213 Globalisation and the World Economy (on-campus, Melbourne)
<i>Global Citizenship-Global Issues, (Compulsory subject, online, British Columbia)</i>
325-324 Cross Cultural Management (on-campus, Melbourne)

Available subjects and curriculum streams during the pilot period are set out in Attachment 1.

Attachment 1**AVAILABLE SUBJECTS AND CURRICULUM STREAMS DURING PILOT PERIOD:
2005-2006 & 2006-2007****Curriculum Stream 1: Global Issues (Understanding Globalisation)**

U21 Partners	Subject Code	Subject Name
Hong Kong University	POLI0021	Understanding Global Issues
	SOCI0064	Globalisation & Information Society
	SOCI0009	Economic Development and Social Change
	CLIT2050	Globalisation and Culture
	HIST2027	The Foundations of International Trade and Finance in the Modern World
	POLI0058	Managing the Global Economy
	FOSS0005	Globalisation and Crime
	BUSI0044A BUSI0094A	International Business Managing e-Business Transformation (Global e-Commerce)
The University of Melbourne	131-214 Arts	Asia, the Pacific & the West (online)
	121-015 Arts	Development & the Third World
	121-026 Arts	The Mobile World: Migration and Tourism
	131-225 Arts	Terrorism in Modern Conflict
	166-021 Arts	International Relations and its Others
	166-029 Arts	World Politics in Transition
	166-216 Arts	Terrorism: Shifting Paradigms
	730-446 Law	Globalisation and Law (online) – offered not before 2006
University of British Columbia	HIST150	World History Since 1500 (online)
	xxxxxx	Module offered through the Faculty of Education (online)
University of Nottingham	M11001	Understanding Global Politics
	V11114	Peace, Imperialism and War: Europe and The World, 1814-1918
	V12153	The Contemporary World Since 1945
	M12015	Evolution of the International System
	M12065	International Security and World Order
	M13013	The Vigilant State
	M13025	The Impact of Globalisation: European National and Regional Responses to Global Structural Change
	M13051	Foreign Policy Analysis
	M11006	Problems in Global Politics
	M12027 M12067	New Developments in International Relations Theory International Political Economy
University of Auckland	Anthro 103	Music of the World
	Anthro 206	Origins of Civilisation
	Anthro 242	Cross-Cultural Economics
	Anthro 319	World-View and Religion
	Anthro 343	Global Interactions in Popular Music
	FTVMS 312	Media and the Information Society
	History 103	Global History
	History 125	War, Peace and Society Since 1800
	Politics 106	International Relations
	Politics 237	Security Studies
	Politics 240	The Politics of Cyberspace
	Politics 312	Green Politics
	Politics 318	International Relations: Theories and New Issues

U21 Partners	Subject Code	Subject Name
	Politics 341	International Political Economy
	Politics 344	Comparative Foreign Policies
	Sociol 103	Social Policy, Social Justice
	Sociol 210	Colonization, Globalization and Development

Curriculum Stream 2: Global Issues (Global Business and International Finance)

U21 Partners	Subject Code	Subject Name
Hong Kong University	BUSI 0012	Comparative and International Management
	BUSI 0022	International Marketing
	BUSI 0032	Multinational Corporations
	BUSI 0044	International Business
	ECON 0301	Theory of International Trade
	ECON 0302	International Finance
	FINA 0103	International Banking
	FINA 0105/ BUSI 0080	International Financial Management
The University of Melbourne	316-213 EcoC	Globalisation and the World Economy
	316-301 EcoC	International Trade Policy
	333-303 EcoC	International Finance
	325-303 EcoC	International Management
	325-309 EcoC	Global Marketing
	325-324 EcoC	Cross Cultural Management
	325-331 EcoC	International Industrial Relations
The University of Nottingham	N1A119	The Evolution of International Tourism: From Grand Tour to Package Tour
	N1B203	International Business and the International Economy Since 1850
	N1B447	Global Marketing
	N1B208	International Firms
The University of Auckland	Busadmin 704	International Economics
	Busadmin 731	International Business Management
	Comlaw 307	International Trade Law
	Econ 232	Development of the International Economy
	Econ 241	International Economics
	Econ 341	International Trade
	Econ 342	International Economic Policy Studies
	Econ 352	International Finance
	Intbus 210	Global perspectives on International Business
	Intbus 211	International Business: Operations and Management
	Intbus 30	Strategy and Management in the Transnational Organization
	Law 353	Law of International Business Transactions
	Law 372	United Nations Law and Problems of World Order
	Law 408	Advanced International Law
	Law 434	International Institutions
	Law 435	International Law
	Law 436	International Trade
	Mktg 395	International Marketing