GLOBAL CHALLENGE PROJECT

Transform your students learning experience through integration of real-world, meaningful, and project-based international challenges.

What is Global Challenge?

Global Challenges are problem-based course-integrated experiences that are developed through partnerships between UFV and international organizations. Through information sharing, collaboration, funding, and finding shared space or opportunities, relationships are formed in an impactful and meaningful way with the external business/organization. The model is intended to keep students more informed of potential implicit bias and assist them in becoming more intentional and aware in their analysis. It aims to shift the learners' experiences away from a solely western viewpoint.
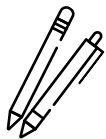
Methods & pedagogy

All Global Challenge (GC) courses and remote practicums are designed to meet the course learning outcomes, and the remote practicums are facilitated by the UFV's practicum coordinators in close collaboration with the model's coordinators.

Integrate Global Challenge projects into a variety of experiential learning opportunities:
- Regular courses
- Directed studies
- Virtual practicums

Give your students a chance to learn first-hand about topics such as...

- Corporate social responsibility
- Decolonization and Indigenization practices
- Cultural mindsets
- Interpersonal communication in international settings
- Business culture in other countries
- Impact and role of NGO's
- Industry environmental footprints
- Trade and supply chains
- Sustainable agricultural practices
- Societal role of visual and literary art

Delivery model options:

PROJECT

The same topic is assessed from various industries' standpoints.
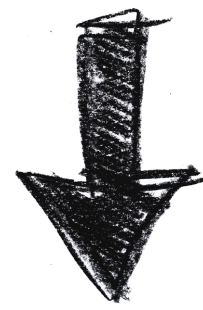
CASE STUDY

A topic is divided into sub-topics, and the deliverables are compiled into a single report.

DIRECT ENGAGEMENT

Students engage directly (individually or in teams) with the organizations to complete projects.

"Thanks for providing such an amazing learning experience! This was potentially life changing for me."
~ Feras H.

Impact

These models aim to identify similarities and differences between Canada and the partner country in specific topic areas; creating awareness of cultural perspectives from both view points.

The deliverables may be published on the web and distributed through the appropriate networks in Canada and the partnering country / business / organization, with the student(s) permission.

These challenge-based projects can serve as a springboard for various Work-Integrated Learning opportunities, whether virtual or face-to-face (such as a practicum experience to satisfy degree/diploma requirements, or a paid not-for-credit internship).

How to implement a GC project

1. A stakeholder delivers an introductory presentation on the country's/business'/organization's culture and society and explains a challenge for the student(s) to explore.
2. Either individually or in several groups, the student(s) explore the challenge in relation to a different industry/sector of economy or societal life experience.
3. The external stakeholder follows the project's progress and attends and critiques the final presentation(s).

How to implement a GC case study

1. Engage 3-5 external stakeholders/speakers to discuss specific topics related to a global challenge.
2. Offer a variety of formats for the guest speaker presentations, and pursue more interactive and candid modes of stakeholder information sharing (e.g. dialogue, interview, etc.).
3. Students (individually or in teams) synthesize and collate important information from different sources and contexts.
4. Each student or team is assigned to one of the specific topics of a given global challenge.
5. Each student or team builds a comparative study on their topic(s) as a subset of the larger project.

Phase II of a case-study project: A student (or team) could use the case study from a previous GC course as a working document to be refined for publishing within the framework or a Directed Studies or a Special Topics course.

How to implement a GC direct engagement

1. Identify the student(s)' interest in working with the Global Challenge partners.
2. Facilitate the introduction of the student(s) to business and community organizations.
3. Student(s) collaborate with external stakeholders throughout the semester on the real-life issues the partners face.

This model of delivery focuses on challenges facing businesses and non-governmental agencies abroad. The students' interactions with the external partners present an opportunity to learn about their organizational culture as a microcosm of a fast-changing society.

GC educational goals

- **Internationalize at home**
- **Increase access to outbound mobility**
- **Advance experiential learning**
- **Build intercultural competencies**
- **Cultivate civic awareness, locally and globally**

Integrating GC throughout UFV

The intake of projects is ongoing. Experiences are planned for the Winter, Summer, and Fall semesters, with planning time for each class-based experience being approximately three (3) months. This includes the Ethics Board's approval which is typically required. Below is a list of academic areas in which the Global Challenge opportunities could be integrated with existing project ideas.

Social Work:
- Leadership and supervision
- Social justice
- Anti-oppressive Social Work
- Mental health
- Anti-racism and cross-cultural social work
- Aboriginal social work
- Community development
- Social policy analysis
- An individual and society
- Human behavior and social environment

Children and Youth Care:
- Wellness
- Mindfulness

Criminology
- Crime, and social justice
- Threat, risk, and human security
- Diversity and crime in Canada and Vietnam
- Human rights

English:
- Comparative studies in literature

Communications:
- Public speaking

Global Development:
- Globalization and development

Visual Arts
- Figure painting
- Image
- Sound
- Performance art
- Introduction to photography

Business:
- Organizational behavior
- Essentials of marketing
- Consumer behavior
- Business and society
- Workplace health and safety

Library Information Technology:
- Information and society

Graphic Design:
- Digital design media
- Illustration
- Fundamentals of design

At this time, Global Challenge is a collaboration between UFV and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and its affiliate and partner organizations.
Podcast: https://open.spotify.com/show/3lF1MnZWClfvBz0cgpmU5V?si=0c9913bb82e14fd6

The future goal is to expand Global Challenge to include new countries and community partners.

Questions? Email Larissa Horne, Experiential Education Coordinator at Larissa.Horne@ufv.ca.
Email international@ufv.ca to explore possible funding opportunities.