

Phase 1 of GEFIL Independent Research Project - Outline

The main aim of Phase 1 is to provide students with *interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary* research skills, communication and presentation skills in English as well as team-working competencies. Students will need a good grasp of these skills, when embarking on their own research projects in Phase 2.

To this end, PHASE 1 employs a project-based, single focus, “scaffolded” learning approach: Based on the ‘global issue’ interests that students mentioned in their GEFIL application forms, a large-scale scenario (case study) has been prepared, which will form the framework for students’ research projects.

Since the complexity of global issues usually demands collaboration between experts of diverse knowledge- and value-backgrounds, the research projects of PHASE 1 will be carried out in interdisciplinary teams of students with similar interests but from different disciplines. Both as a team and individually, students will experience what it means to conduct ‘real’ research from the planning stages to the presentation of their findings. Each team will research, and propose solutions for, certain aspects of the set scenario, debate their ideas with other teams, explore meaningful collaborations, and consider the interests (and comments) of various experts and ‘stakeholders.’ Through this process, students will gain knowledge and experience in agenda setting, design and implementation of action and research plans, effective interdisciplinary teamwork, discussion and presentation skills.

The course is organized along two entwined strands:

1. a series of basic questions found frequently in transdisciplinary research projects and
2. a *sequence* of research skills students will acquire through structured tasks.

Assessment:

PHASE 1 is assessed by a combination of

- 40% Final Individual Report of maximum 2000 words to be submitted in mid June. The report should take the form of a research paper on the student’s own contribution to the team’s efforts.
- 40% Final Team Presentation in late May
- 10% Peer assessment of teamwork in early January
- 10% Peer and self-assessment of teamwork in early February

***Learning Outcomes of the GEfIL Independent Research Project course
(Phase 1 and 2)***

Students will learn to

- set an agenda for tackling issues of global significance,
- find solutions for 'real' problems,
- define areas of self-study,
- design a research (and action) plan,
- efficiently organize their research time,
- critically analyze sources and research material,
- conduct feasibility and applicability assessments,
- communicate and work effectively in interdisciplinary and international teams,
- debate on research issues with peers and critics,
- present their findings convincingly in English in front of a large audience.

Phase 1 Schedule for December 2017 to May 2018

Please note: While the dates for Phase 1 workshops on the following Saturday afternoons are fixed, the detailed schedule on each date might change depending on availability of guest speakers as well as research needs of student teams.

Workshop 1: 9 December 13:00 – c. 17:00 (KOMABA change to HONGO)

13:00-14:00 (ALL) Introduction to Phase 1: Explanation of schedule, objectives, research flow, attendance requirement, assessments, SLACK and LPS. Followed by introduction to the *scenario* and its subtopics.

14:00-16:00 (3 Classes) Team-building exercises. Teams begin to familiarize themselves with the overall scenario and their specific topic and start on setting goal(s) for their topic.

16:00-17:00 (ALL) Dai-1-ki and Dai-2-ki students will give talks about their experiences with the Phase 1 research topic and offer advice to their peers.

Workshop 2: 16 December 13:00 – 18:00 (~~KOMABA~~ change to HONGO)

13:00-14:00 (ALL) Lecture on ‘How to design a research plan’

14:00-15:30 (ALL) Guest Lecture

16:00-18:00 (3 Classes) With guidance of GLP-GEfIL Mentor and TAs, teams start working on their topics by formulating research questions, discussing possible approaches to their research, identifying knowledge they need to gather/acquire for their project, and conducting first background information and data searches.

Over the following three weeks (no class), students should start on their team’s data collection and literature review. The SLACK platform should be fully utilized to receive feedback and advice from GLP-GEfIL Mentors and/or TA. If required, face-to-face meetings with Mentors and/or TAs may be arranged.

Workshop 3 (6 January) 13:00 – c. 17:30 (KOMABA)

13:00-13:40 (ALL) Lecture on how to conduct interviews and related research ethics

13:45-15:00 (ALL) Guest Lecture or Lecture on ‘skim reading’ and how to organize research findings (e.g. data, literature review table/rubric)

15:00-15:45 (ALL) Team peer assessment 1 – and consultations with GLP-GEfIL Mentors and TAs

16:00-17:30 (3 Classes): Teams share and discuss their findings to-date and with guidance from GLP-GEfIL Mentor & TAs, decide on the focus of their team-project and develop their research plan.

Over the following four weeks (no class), students should continue with their team’s research, i.e. data collection and analyses, and prepare eventually an interim presentation to be held on 6, 7, and/or 8 February. The SLACK platform should be fully utilized to receive feedback and advice from GLP-GEfIL Mentors and/or TA. If required, face-to-face meetings with Mentors and/or TAs may be arranged.

Workshops 4a-c (6-8 February=3 afternoons) 13:00 - 17:00 (KOMABA)

13:00-14:00 (3 Classes) Teams discuss and finalize the interim presentation of their team's research plan and findings to date.

14:00-17:00 On each of these 3 afternoons, the teams of one class will give their interim presentations with the teams of the other two classes marking their presentation. This will be followed by discussion of, and feedback for, each team's presentation by GLP Mentors, TAs and peers. Students should also discuss with which other team(s) they wish to collaborate more closely and make arrangements for meetings and/or joint study sessions.

During the 2 months between Workshop 4c (8 Feb) and Workshop 5 (7 April), students are expected to continue their research and to communicate their findings regularly to their team-members. The SLACK platform should be fully utilized to receive feedback and advice from GLP-GEFIL Mentors and/or TA. If required, face-to-face meetings with Mentors and/or TAs may be arranged.

Workshop 5 (7 April) 13:00 - 17:00 (HONGO)

13:00-14:30 (ALL) Guest Lecture

15:00-17:00 Teamwork and intensive feedback session: teams should debate their findings to-date thoroughly and reflect on the process by exploring/discussing alternative solutions, as well. This session is crucial for receiving advice on specific problems encountered in a team's research, from peers and GLP-GEFIL Mentors and/or TA. In particular, teams may wish to consult about additional fieldwork/interviews to be conducted or data to be collected and analyzed as well as on methodological questions.

Over the following two weeks (no class), students should continue with their research and revise, where necessary, their research taking into account the feedback they received at the previous workshops. Furthermore, teams should prepare abstracts of their research and submit these via Slack.

Workshop 6 (21 April) 13:00 – 17:00 (HONGO)

13:00-14:30 (ALL) Guest Lecture

14:45-15:30 (ALL) Short lecture on how to evaluate research findings and create a synthesizing framework for your team project that will help teams in the process of writing a good abstract and eventually, preparing their presentations.

15:45-17:00 (3 Classes) With guidance from GLP-GEfIL Mentors & TAs, teams analyze, evaluate and organize their research findings, and work on synthesizing the research contributions of their team members. This process is crucial, in order to define and communicate your new ideas and/or recommendations.

Over the following five weeks (no classes), students should finalize their research and prepare their presentations. GLP-GEfIL Mentors and TA will meet with each team individually to discuss and, eventually, rehearse their presentations.

Workshop 7 (26 May) FINAL PRESENTATIONS TBC:10:00-18:00 (HONGO)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH REPORTS: 15 June 2018