



# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Information for Prospective Students

## **The Intercontinental Masters in Adult Learning & Global Change**

**(ALGC - 20 Cohort)**

### **Information about the Program**

Thank you for your interest in the Intercontinental Masters (M.Ed.) in Adult Learning and Global Change. This document provides details on the scheduling of courses, the kind of equipment and software that is required to participate in the program and some basic administrative matters that may be of interest to those wishing to apply to the program. It should contain enough information to provide a comprehensive overview the requirements of the ALGC program.

The version of the ALGC program that we offer through UBC is a coursework-only MEd degree that requires neither a thesis nor graduating paper.

The first UBC cohort began this program in August, 2002, so those accepted into the 2020 Cohort will be part of the nineteenth UBC cohort. We have worked very hard to develop a challenging, engaging and useful program but we also know that the early offerings of any new program will uncover issues and problems that need to be resolved. We hope you will feel free to tell us about issues and problems you experience so we can work on them immediately and resolve them before they become barriers to your learning. Now, for some details about the program...

### **Schedule of Required Courses**

It is probably not a surprise to you that a program such as this with instructors and students spread all around the world creates significant scheduling challenges. Our collaborating universities in the Southern Hemisphere (TBD Australian University, and University of the Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa [UWC]) are on a fundamentally different academic schedule than UBC, our partner Linköping University in Sweden [LiU] and most other universities in the Northern Hemisphere. We have negotiated the schedule of courses to avoid, whenever possible, major holiday periods, but some compromises have had to be made. One of these is that the first course in the program begins on August 17<sup>th</sup>, rather than the more conventional post-Labour Day period in September. This course is taught by the University of British Columbia (Dr. Garnet Grosjean), and provides an orientation to the program, introduces you to other students in your cohort, assists you in the development of a learning plan, and helps you learn how to use the “**Lisam**” platform and the key features of the site that will be used throughout the program. Below is a tentative schedule of when the required courses in the program are expected to begin and end for the 2020 Cohort, and how they will correspond to UBC’s academic year. There may be some slight adjustments in these. In the far-right column we have noted the UBC session and term during which students will register in each course.

The courses will be listed by course name on the “**Lisam**” web server where you will participate in all the required courses. In the table that follows, the institution responsible for teaching each course is listed directly below the course number. **Please note:** this schedule might change slightly by the time the program begins.

Course Number	Course Title	Start Date	End Date	UBC Session
EDST 540A (UBC)	Locating Oneself in Global Learning I	Aug. 17, 2020	Sept. 18, 2020 *(Oct. 23, 2020)	Winter 20/21, Term 1
EDST 541 (LiU)	Adult Learning: Contexts and Perspectives	Oct. 05, 2020	Dec. 11, 2020	Winter 20/21, Term 1
EDST 575 (UBC)	Work and Learning	Jan. 04, 2021	Mar 12, 2021	Winter 21, Term 2
EDST 542 (TBD)	Fostering Learning in Practice	Mar. 29, 2021	Jun. 04, 2021	Summer 21, Term 1
EDST 544 (UWC)	Global/Local Learning	Aug. 16, 2021	Oct. 22, 2021	Winter 21/22, Term 1
EDST 543 (rotates)	Understanding Research	Nov. 08, 2021	Jan. 28, 2022 (Break from Dec. 17 -Jan. 3)	Winter 21, Term 2
EDST 540B (UBC)	Locating Oneself in Global Learning II	Feb. 14, 2022	Mar 18, 2022 * (Apr 22, 2022)	Winter 22, Term 2

\*This date is when the formal tasks laid out by our partner universities will be completed, but UBC students will remain engaged in the course until the date in parentheses to satisfy UBC’s requirements for a 3-credit course.

Participating fully in these courses involves completing required readings, signing on to the course website frequently (several times per week), engaging in discussions and other group exercises, and completing course assignments by the deadlines provided in the course outlines. We recommend that you set aside approximately 15 hours per week to spend on the courses in the program. In face-to-face classes it is sometimes possible to be present and to receive a good mark without ever asking a question or making a comment in class. This is not the case with online learning of the kind we hope will occur in this program. So, it will be important to not only sign on to the course frequently, but also to respond to the issues being discussed, to raise questions, and to dialogue with fellow students and instructors. In other words, you can’t be a “lurker” and expect to be successful in this program. In fact, as a general rule it is important to leave some evidence of your visit to a discussion even if it is no more involved than a one sentence comment. It is important to maintain a frame of mind that any form of participation is better than lurking.

### **A Word about Elective Courses**

This ALGC program requires the completion of 30 credits of coursework, at least 24 of which are at the 500 level (graduate-level at UBC). Of the 30 credits in this program, 21 are required courses, leaving 9 credits of electives. Elective courses are designed to allow students to build on interests developed in the core courses. They can be taken online at UBC or at other universities in Canada who are part of the Western Dean’s Agreement (for universities west of Manitoba) or The Graduate Exchange Agreement at University of Toronto, McGill University and University of Montreal. If you wish—and you live near UBC—you can take face-to-face courses offered on campus as electives. If you live near another public university in Western Canada that is party to the ‘Western Dean’s Agreement’, or in Eastern Canada using ‘The graduate Exchange Agreement’ you can take face-to-face (and some online) courses there, and have the credits applied to your program at UBC.

### **Course Reading Materials**

We are working hard to put as many of the course readings—or links to the readings—as possible on the course website. Because of copyright issues, however, this is not always possible, so it may be the case that you will

be required to purchase a textbook or otherwise acquire course materials for a specific course. At this time there are no required readings to be done prior to the beginning of the first course in August. Information on the readings for subsequent courses will be provided on the “**Lisam**” website. As soon as we know that a textbook will be required for a course, we will notify you and provide information on the best ways to obtain the book.

### **Equipment and Web Access**

Reliable and regular e-mail and internet access are essential in this program. You should have ready access to a Pentium-class or equivalent computer and printer. Software required includes a word processor; an e-mail program—like Outlook Express, Outlook, Gmail, Thunderbird or Eudora, as well as Adobe Acrobat Reader (free to download from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)), and a recent version of a web browser like Internet Explorer [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com) Firefox [www.mozilla.org](http://www.mozilla.org) Google Chrome [http://download.cnet.com/Google-Chrome/3000-2356\\_4-10881381.html](http://download.cnet.com/Google-Chrome/3000-2356_4-10881381.html) or the Mac browser Safari <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT6104> Web access requires a broadband/network connection.

You should be experienced using Windows or another operating system to produce text documents; to cut, paste and save text material; and to access and download materials from the web.

We strongly recommend that you install a good virus checker and keep the virus definition files updated. You will be sending and receiving many messages and visiting many websites, so “safe computing” is important if you wish to avoid time consuming virus removal and recovery operations. It is also regarded as quite bad manners (in any culture), to pass viruses on to your fellow students and instructors!

### **Contacts at UBC**

There are several people at UBC who you may wish to contact depending on the question, problem, or issue you have. Dr. Garnet Grosjean is the UBC coordinator of the ALGC program, and the International Coordinator of the ALGC program. He will deal largely with administrative issues that come up during the program and represents UBC at meetings of the ALGC Management Committee made up of representatives from all four collaborating universities. He can be reached by email at [garnet.grosjean@ubc.ca](mailto:garnet.grosjean@ubc.ca) or by phone at (604) 822- 4553.

Once you accept our offer of admission, your program advisor will be identified and contact information provided. This is the person you should contact about academic matters including discussing your choices of electives before you register for them.

Another person you should know about is Tracy Strauch, the department’s Graduate Program Assistant. Tracy can help solve many registration and other problems related to your status as a graduate student. She can be reached by e-mail at: Graduate Secretary EDST [grad.edst@ubc.ca](mailto:grad.edst@ubc.ca) and by phone at 604-822-6647.