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|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Module code | SEL620 | Level | 6 |
| Module title | How to Deal with Uncertainty | Credit value | 10 |
| Common/Core/ Elective | Elective | ECTS Credits | 5 |
| | | Notional learning hours | 100 |
| Courses on which the module is taught | All | Teaching Period | Autumn/ Spring |

1. Module description

In this module, you will be introduced to theories and practical methods to predict futures, such as scenario planning, horizon scanning, foresight, trend analysis, and forecasts and backcasts. Futures studies is an interdisciplinary, systematic process for imagining possible outcomes and planning for the future. Using a pattern-based understanding of past and present, it looks for insights into social, cultural, technological, environmental, economic and political drivers.

Gaining foresight is an important tool in many fields, including strategic thinking, urban planning, trend forecasting, economic predictions, fashion design and speculative fiction. It is a way to gain new perspectives for enhancing decision-making, and to identify how to act in the medium and long term. Ultimately, it aims to give us the tools to explore how people will live and work in the future, opening windows into the demands and needs of tomorrow.

You will emerge with the skills to apply this way of thinking to your own discipline, and with the skills to read trends and identify potential innovations.

2. Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module you will be able to:

Professional Development (MLO 03)

articulate a futures approach which encompasses opportunities for your professional development

Decision Making (MLO 04)

formulate informed decisions using systemic and reflexive thinking to manage uncertainty and predict futures.

Interdisciplinary Perspective (MLO 09)

integrate perspectives using different methods and tools into multifaceted futures scenarios.

3. Learning and teaching methods

This module takes an active learning approach which places you at the centre of your own learning journey. Each week you will engage in interactive workshops and seminars to gain insights to a variety of methods and tools to predict futures applied in a range of different sectors. Using cases and collaborating and sharing ideas with your peers you will learn multi-disciplinary perspectives. Through this approach to learning you'll develop new knowledge and skills and practice applying a systemic and pattern-based understanding to real world situations, and to your chosen discipline. These activities along with formative assessment and feedback will culminate in the summative assessment which will showcase you have you have met the learning outcomes of the module.

| Learning hours | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Directed learning | 36 hours |
| Workshops/classes | 36 |
| Guided/Self-guided learning | 64 hours |
| Total | 100 |

4. Assessment, formative feedback and relative weightings

Assessment 1: Case study

Weight (%): 100

Word Count or Equivalent: 1500 words

Analyse a specific trend looking at 360 drivers (social, cultural, technological, environmental, economic and political drivers) and apply relevant methods to predict futures in a specific/ chosen context, either within your own discipline or another discipline.

Each summative assessment will be preceded by an opportunity of formative assessment accompanied by formative feedback

| Mapping of assessment tasks for the module | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Assessment tasks | LO3 | LO4 | LO9 | | | | | | | |
| Assessment 1 | X | X | X | | | | | | | |

5. Indicative resources

Books:

Bregman, B. (2017). Utopia for Realists: How We Can Build the Ideal World. Little, Brown and Company/Hachette Book Group USA.

Clark, A. (2016). Surfing Uncertainty: Prediction, Action, and the Embodied Mind. Oxford University Press.

Heimans, J. and Timms, H., (2018). New Power: Why outsiders are winning, institutions are failing, and how the rest of us can keep up in the age of mass participation. Pan Macmillan.

Lindgren, M. & Bandhold, H. (2009) Scenario Planning – The Link Between Future and Strategy. Palgrave Macmillan, Hampshire: UK.

Lindstrom, M., (2016). Small data: the tiny clues that uncover huge trends. St. Martin's Press.

Raymond, M. (2019). The Trend Forecaster's Handbook. Second Edition. Laurence King
Rumelt, R.P., (2012). Good strategy/bad strategy: The difference and why it matters. Strategic direction, 28(8).

Websites:

Arup Foresight:

<https://www.arup.com/perspectives/publications/research/section/drivers-of-change>

Forum for the future: www.forumforthefuture.org/

Futures Centre: <https://www.thefuturescentre.org/fos2021/>

Future Human: www.futurehuman.io

Lab of Misfits: <https://www.labofmisfits.com>

The CYNEFIN CO.: <https://thecynefin.co>

The Futures Laboratory: <https://www.thefuturelaboratory.com>

WGSN - <https://www.wgsn.com/accounts/edu>

Podcasts:

The future is beautiful

The long-time academy

Future Human visionaries

Films/ Documentaries:

The Uncertainty Experts: <https://www.uncertaintyexperts.com>