Embracing the new normal: Rapid innovation in collaborative virtual learning
60-minute session in Zoom
Facilitators: Brian Leacock and Kate Donovan, Gustavson School of Business

In a normal cycle, the Gustavson School of Business (GSB) dispatches approximately 75% of its undergraduate students out on international exchange. This represents close to 180 fourth-year students studying overseas. With the onset of the global pandemic, international mobility (inbound/outbound) suddenly became uncertain for a majority of our students. With this need to pivot, a small team identified alternative formats for a substantial virtual international experience. Design principles included a careful consideration of new and emerging technologies for collaborating in an online/virtual format. Using this insight and our international network of partner schools, the team identified a strong international partner (Kozminski University), collaborated with the partner to align pedagogical design principles, selected core faculty, and launched a collaborative online virtual specialization in international business for fall 2020. The first cohort will include 20 UVic students and 12 Kozminski University students. As this format offers a cost-effective addition to the GSB’s internationalization strategy, it will remain relevant in a post Covid 19 era and increase access to global learning for all students.

This 60-minute concurrent session will explore the core dimensions of how GSB was able to pivot and create a new COIL partnership. As this session will occur prior to the launch of the specialization, we will explore, in a rich and dynamic discussion, on the process of establishing a collaborative online international learning platform. We will also invite insight from the attendees who have a diverse range of expertise on campus as to considerations looking forward.

This session will be of interest to administrative leaders, department heads, and faculty looking to explore alternative international partnerships to enhance international learning in a virtual context.
Facilitators

- Kate Donovan, Director, BCOM, Gustavson School of Business
- Brian Leacock, Associate Director, GSB International, Gustavson School of Business
Agenda

- Introduction of Team
- COIL as a Platform
- Partner Selection
- Supporting Student in International Online Learning
- Supporting Faculty with International Online Learning
- Faculty Perspective
- Questions to Consider
Special Guest

- Dr. Sudhir Nair
  Gustavson School of Business
Special Guest

- Krzysztof J. Chmielewski, PhD
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
Special Guest

- Valentyna Gumińska,
  Director of International
What is collaborative online international learning?
COIL

Different formats

- Short term project based (4 to 6 weeks)
- Full semester course (single course)
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Full semester integration (specialization)
Partner Selection

- Key questions for triangulation
- Voice of the partner
Partner Selection

- Valentyna Gumińska, Director of International, Kozminski University
Supporting Students

• Orientation programming
  – Asynchronous focused on technology readiness, what to expect and how to succeed.
  – Synchronous – Welcome, introductions, team support – bonding activities (first week), workshop on virtual collaboration tools, MS Teams set up, team charters, wellness activities.
  – Time management - Customized digital planner

• Scheduling - Time Zone adjustments
• Consistent Advisor drop in times via Zoom rooms
• New Program Guide in Bright Space: online resources, discussion forums, contact information, program information
• Extra Team support if needed
• Com 405: career portfolio class
Supporting Faculty

• GSB Teaching Guide with examples and expectations
• Teaching seminars
  – Virtual presence specialist
  – Gustavson Faculty hosted sessions
  – Tech focussed sessions: general and by demand topics
• Peer teaching pods supported by two faculty members
  – Peer feedback on course design
  – Technology practice sessions
  – In-class feedback
• In class moderators
  – Hire and train moderators for every class
  – Assist with technology: waiting rooms, attendance, polling, breakouts
  – Provide feedback at the end of the session and share lessons learned from other classes
Faculty Perspective

- Dr. Sudhir Nair
Faculty Perspective

- Dr. Krzysztof J. Chmielewski
Questions to Consider

- The unknown unknowns?
“It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it.”

Arundhati Roy – *The Pandemic is a Portal*
Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Platform

Gustavson School of Business, University of Victoria
Kozminski University