

Globally Networked Learning (GNL): Call for Participation

OVERVIEW

Today's students not only need to acquire knowledge but are also expected to understand the many contexts and cultural, societal points of view that give meaning to what they know in order to apply their knowledge effectively and sensitively. As a result, internationalizing the curriculum for global engagement and opening to the world puts cross-cultural skills and global competencies as key skills in the 21st Century across a wide range of professions. Study abroad, international campuses, students' and instructors' mobility have traditionally been the primary way students gain direct exposure to other cultures and worldviews. However, the vast majority of students worldwide never get the opportunity to study or live in another country. As a response, many institutions have sought pedagogical and technology-enabled solutions to bridge the distance between their students and peers around the world. This has evolved from adding international elements to curriculum and including guest lecturers from abroad, to a new teaching and learning methodology that fosters direct and sustained exchange between faculty and students with partners across the globe.

This teaching and learning approach to internationalize the curriculum is known today by a variety of names. The SUNY Center for [Collaborative Online International Learning](#) (COIL) and others made efforts to spread the usage of Globally Networked Learning (GNL) as the primary name for this modality. More recently, institutions in Europe and many parts of the world, started using Virtual Exchanges (VE).

[York University's GNL project](#) was launched in 2015 through funding from the Academic Innovation Fund (AIF). GNL workshops and networking opportunities were convened and resources, including Open Pedagogy Resources (OER) easily embedded in a course plan, were developed during the project. These knowledge base and resources can be leveraged so that York can continue offering innovative global engagement and intercultural program opportunities for students and faculty members, both in the short-term while travel restrictions remain and moving forward, as a viable, inclusive option for students who are unable to participate in international mobility programs for various reasons.

WHY ENGAGE IN A GNL PROJECT?

Aside from addressing the immediate challenges posed by COVID19, GNL meets the first priority of York's upcoming Internationalization and Global Engagement Strategy as it focuses on building students' global outlook and fluency through curricula internationalization and offering new modalities for international mobility. Specifically, GNL will:

- Enhance ongoing and/or build partnerships with international faculty counterparts
- Provide continuity of global and intercultural engagement opportunities for faculty and students in the current global (COVID19) conditions
- Serve as an inclusive option for students unable to participate in mobility programs due to financial, professional or familial restrictions.
- Contribute to quality of teaching and learning using innovative pedagogy and information and communication technologies that foster acquisition of skills such collaboration, intercultural communication and problem solving to address global challenges

ELIGIBILITY

Proposed GNL/VE courses for 2020-21 are existing York courses in any academic discipline. The partner institution's course may be from the same or a different discipline. York faculty member and faculty member at partner institution will work together to develop a joint syllabus for the duration of their GNL/VE course collaboration.

Applicants must demonstrate commitment and capacity, and identify a three-member team to participate and collaborate in the GNL/VE training and implementation, consisting of:

- (1) Faculty course instructor at York.
 - (2) Faculty course instructor at Partner University/Institution.
 - (3) International education program administrator(s) responsible for international partnership activities, and/or virtual exchange coordinator or instructional designer who will assist the faculty course instructors who partner for the course.
- Prof. Dominique Scheffel-Dunand, Academic Lead, Globally Networked Learning Project/Lead, Bilingual Open Educational Resources dsdunand@glendon.yorku.ca
 - Helen Balderama, Associate Director, International Partnerships and Programs, York International helencb@yorku.ca

Only complete applications submitted online will be accepted for consideration.

Timelines

Launch:	July 14, 10:00 – 11:30 am
Deadline:	Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The deadline to submit a proposal is Monday, August 17, 2020
Notification:	Friday, August 21, 2020
Online Workshop:	Friday, August 7 th (AM and PM) – 10:00am ET and/or 6:00pm ET

SELECTION CRITERIA

A panel of GNL/VE experts will review submissions based on the following criteria:

- **Collaboration:** Evidence of current or potential institutional ties and an explanation of how participation in the GNL/VE will sustain collaboration between faculty and students at both institutions. This includes flexibility in accommodating partner institution's schedule, communication methods, and other criteria relevant to the collaboration.
- **Commitment:** Demonstrate the potential for expanding opportunities for greater numbers of students to gain international global knowledge, skills, and attitudes, and a desire to use remote learning technology for that purpose through GNL/VE.

- **Adaptability:** Innovative and flexible plans to utilize existing institutional resources, including administrative structures, staffing, and communication technologies to effectively carry out GNL/VE collaboration.
- **Assessment:** A plan for evaluating GNL/VE's impact on student learning, growth and development, including intercultural competency, and subsequent participation in York University and/or partner institutions' international initiatives, education abroad, internships, and/or similar opportunities including York University's global engagement goals after completion of the GNL/VE course or module.
- **Outreach and Sustainability.** Demonstrate interest in establishing or strengthening lasting GNL/VE connections with their partner institution, its students, faculty, and administration. The potential for introducing additional GNL/VE courses with their counterpart, as well as connecting GNL/VE with other collaborative opportunities in the long-term (e.g., education abroad, student or faculty exchange, joint research, joint or dual degree programs) and aligning GNL/VE goals and objectives with institutional immediate needs as well as long-term mission and internationalization goals.

GNL AWARD

With funding supports from York International, OER grant (c/o Prof. Dominique Scheffel-Dunand), and Faculties, course leaders of selected GNL courses will receive the following financial and institutional supports.

Faculty award: York faculty members (course leaders) selected will each receive an award of CAD\$1000 to co-develop resources for their GNL course and support GNL initiatives.

Faculty-matching. York International will facilitate faculty partner-matching as requested in accordance with faculty profiles and interests, previous experience with GNL/VE exchange, and other factors. York faculty will be encouraged to work with faculty at existing York University partner institution. They may also choose to work with international colleagues with whom they have existing research collaborations. Note: [List of York international partners](#).

Online Workshop: Three-member teams of selected GNL/VE courses and their partner institution will participate in a [2-hour online workshop on August 7th, 2020 \(10 AM and 6PM ET\)](#).

Professional Development for Faculty: GNL and Teaching Commons will provide support and guidance to selected GNL/VE faculty members and their counterpart at partner universities during the development of their shared course or module learning objectives and assessment plan. This will take place on Moodle (York University's learning and development system) where instructors can connect, create, and manage multi-university collaborative courses.

Additional meetings and webinars will be organized in the fall and winter terms of 2020-21 to support the co-running of the GNL/VE courses/modules and share experiences and best practices.

PROJECT TEAM

- Prof. Dominique Scheffel-Dunand, Academic Lead, Globally Networked Learning Project/Lead, Bilingual Open Educational Resources/former Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, Glendon Genevieve Maheux-Pelletier, Interim Director, Teaching Commons
- Lisa Endersby, Educational Developer, Teaching Commons
- Vinitha Gengatharan, Executive Director, York International (YI)
- Helen Balderama, Associate Director, International Partnerships and Programs, YI
- Dr. Amira El Masri, Special Projects Officer, YI

RESOURCES

- York University GNL Resources <https://www.glendon.yorku.ca/gnl/>
- SUNY COIL <http://coil.suny.edu/index.php/page/about-coil-0>
- DePaul University <https://offices.depaul.edu/global-engagement/partnerships/programs-for-partner-institutions/Pages/GLE-Projects.aspx>
- Florida International University https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=185&v=ASuCF-YRqtE&feature=emb_logo
- Erasmus Evolve Project <https://evolve-erasmus.eu/about-evolve/what-is-virtual-exchange/>
- Qatar Foundation Virtual Exchange <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzctYHu69zE>
- Stevens Initiative <http://www.stevensinitiative.org>
- European Union-sponsored Erasmus + Virtual Exchange Initiative <https://europa.eu/youth/erasmusvirtual>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JS13syKk74>