

**School of Environment, Education and
Development**

Faculty of Humanities

DRAFT MINUTES

SEED Programme Committee: DEPP Cluster Global Development Institute

Date: 05 November 2025

Time: 13:00-14:00

Location: Humanities Bridgeford Street, Hanson Room

Please send any queries to seed.hub@manchester.ac.uk

MINUTES

Staff Attendees:

Yinfang Zhang (Co-Director MSc International Development: Public Policy & Management)
Ralitza Dimova (Co-Director MSc Development Finance)
Osman Ouattara (Co-Director MSc Development Economics & Policy)
Antonio Savoia (Reader in Development Economics)
Katsushi Imai (Co-Director MSc Development Economics & Policy)
Mahtab Uddin (Teaching Assistant)
Lawrence Ado-Kofie (Co-Director MSc Development Finance)
David Fielding (Programme Director MSc International Development: Public Policy and Management)
William Start (IAG, taking minutes)

Reps in attendance:

Makena O'dongo (MSc Development Finance)
Yueyang Ding (MSc Development Finance)
Medhawi Rajgaria (MSc Development Economics and Policy)
Weronika Sural (MSc International Development: Public Policy and Management)
Jasmayne Saunders (MSc International Development: Public Policy and Management)
Saba Kayani (MSc International Development: Public Policy and Management)
Gagan Maileshwar (MSc Development Economics and Policy)

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2. Introductions

Introductions around the room.

Quick introduction to Programme Committees; ensure issues addressed in advance of semester 2.

3. Rep Consultation

Communications: There were delays in providing email lists or access to listservs for some programmes that affected reps ability to communicate with students on their programmes. Informal avenues such as WhatsApp groups are being developed.

Delays in provision of Academic Advisors: There were delays in notifying students of their Academic Advisors this year. This exacerbated some issues around marking criteria eg as students didn't know where to go for advice.

Students generally satisfied with teaching and support: Students were generally satisfied with teaching quality, the level of support in sessions and outside, and felt they were being treated fairly.

Diversity in cohort: Students raised a concern around very high levels of Chinese students in cohorts, and that this was leading to a division into two groups with little communication between the two. This was felt to be affecting class discussions, with non-Chinese students feeling like they were also being called on to keep discussion going when those with poor language skills were not contributing. AS acknowledged concerns but assured students that integration and discussion contributions would improve as students' confidence improved.

Marking Criteria: Many students had difficulty finding these. Many also did not know where the handbooks were, which contain the marking criteria in most cases. This may have been related to the change to online handbooks. Students requested that marking criteria be posted on Canvas, or a clear link.

Multiplicity of platforms causing confusion: Students have to access many different platforms (timetables, Canvas, My Manchester, course unit selection) and many felt confused by these and would like a clearer guide to these during Welcome Week. OO had arranged to have alumni present following the induction to help students understand course options and career opportunities, which students had confirmed helped.

Pizza and policy night: This was successful. Lots of good discussion and inclusion. LAK provided guidance. Former student attended and shared early career opportunities.

Essay writing help: These sessions were popular with students and they requested more. Specifically requested that they also be provided in semester 2.

Quantitative research methods class: Some students do not have a background in Economics which has caused concerns. Reps have shared details about office hours and surgeries to those students. Will collect feedback on engagement.

Summary of Actions List

Action Number	Action	Lead	Deadline	Status/Notes
1	Online handbook link to be provided to all Programme Directors	WS	ASAP	WS sent link to YZ for distribution 07/11