

Academic Rep Meeting

Semester 2

In attendance:

Asuka Ohashi, Salila Crick, Yian Qi, Ellen Ahn, Aidan Harris, Shiv Ram Kotecha, Sophie van Huellen

Time:

Meetings took place in week 3 of semester 2: 19th Feb 2026, 4-5pm.

Feedback from Year 1

1. General Comments

Overall positive feedback on the assessments and feedback from semester 1, and how courses are running in semester 2. Marking was fair, and feedback was helpful and constructive. Course content is linking up, teaching is engaging, and attendance has improved since the use of the live SEAtS codes, and students are feeling motivated to attend class. Students also appreciated the year-group event (pub quiz) at the end of Semester 1.

Action points, Sophie: Glad to hear and will pass this on.

2. Timetable Issues

A one-hour seminar was rescheduled at short notice, causing confusion among students and lecturers. Opinions are mixed about whether the timetabling change was an improvement or not.

Sophie: The change was requested by me following student feedback (to move away from 5 hours of teaching on Tuesday). However, the timetabling team accidentally implemented the changes for the current week (a few hours before the seminar), instead of the subsequent week as instructed, which caused a lot of confusion and no time to communicate the change. Apologies for this!

Action points, Salila, Asuka, Caitlin, and Kornelija: run a quick survey among students to check whether they prefer the new timetable or want to move back to the previous version.

Action points, Sophie: Survey results were received and the tutorial was moved back. A note has been added to the Timetabling Data Collection exercise for 2026-27.

3. Exam and Assessments

There was a technical issue with the **History of Thought** exam, which got released with a 30-minute delay at 2:30 pm instead of 2:00 pm. Students were unable to access the exam or start the timer, and some students had to apply for mitigating circumstances as a result. It is believed that this was a technical.

The grades for the group assignments for **Current Issues** were released later than expected, and students were unsure about the expected turnaround time.

Action points, Sophie: Investigate the cause of the issue with the History of Thought exam to make sure this is fixed for future exams. Follow up on the reason for the delay in Current Issues and make sure that any delays in returning grades and feedback are communicated to students.

Response: The SEED assessments team noted that some students could not access the exam paper due to issues with the browser they were using which did not support timed exams. This will be further investigated to ensure that either timed exams are compatible with all browsers, or explicit guidance on which browser to use is being provided well in advance.

The delay in the grade release for Current Issues was due to an administrative oversight from PS colleagues linked to the move from Blackboard to Canvas. We were reassured that these were teething problems with Canvas. Grades were released after the course convenor spotted the error and followed up.

4. Internships & Employability

More development-specific internship opportunities and a collated resource list tailored to Global Development would be desirable. The career event scheduled for early March is welcome, but students noted that most events are for sustainability, business, or STEM.

Action points, Sophie: We continue to lobby for dedicated career events for our programmes, and we are in the process of implementing a placement option or placement year. We cannot guarantee a timeline, but it will be shared with students as soon as it becomes available. There will be a survey asking students about preferred modes of including work experience in the curriculum that will inform our efforts.

Feedback from Year 2

1. General Feedback

Engagement with feedback opportunities has been low. Attendance in the only mandatory unit has unfortunately also been low. GDI optional modules are running smoothly, and engagement has been positive. Students are excited about the upcoming field trip as part of **Political Economy of Globalisation**.

2. Technical Issues

There have been technical issues with the file uploading system used for **Political Economy of Globalisation**. Some students are still unable to access it and are receiving lecture slides and learning material late as a result. The tutor is also using another system. Maybe this could be made more consistent and brought to Canvas.

Action points, Sophie: Follow up and ensure that the learning materials are accessible to all students.

Response: Some students were unable to access a reading because it was in epub format (most reader apps accommodate this as standard but apparently not all) and there were also some technical issues with the way Canvas handles links. All readings are now linked in multiple ways (e.g. to the library permalink, to a copy in a shared file etc) to ensure they are accessible to all students.

Feedback from Year 3

1. General Feedback

There has been a positive response to the idea to organise a ball as an end of year event. There is also openness to share this with other societies, such as politics or geography.

Action points, Sophie: I have passed this on to our student society for consideration and we are exploring funding opportunities to support the event.

2. Dissertations

The feedback is as in semester 1. Some students feel well supported, while others say that their supervisors are not very responsive and they receive limited guidance. There is limited consistency about the quality and intensity of supervision.

Action points, Sophie: Follow up with dissertation supervisors and work towards implementing a more structured and consistent approach.