

Leading International Teams

Course Structure 2026

Course overview

This course prepares students to work effectively in international, multicultural and digitally connected teams.

The course begins with a local preparation phase at Universidad del Desarrollo. During this stage, students will explore international teamwork, cultural self-awareness and intercultural communication.

From 8 September, students will join the Global Creative School international collaboration with students and faculty from partner universities. The international component will focus on cross-cultural collaboration, co-creation, audience research, adaptation, prototyping, launch planning and presentation.

The course concludes with an international showcase on 1 December.

Course learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- identify key opportunities and challenges in international teamwork;
- explain how culture, language and personal experience influence collaboration;
- communicate more effectively across cultural and linguistic differences;
- participate constructively in international online teams;
- develop trust, shared expectations and clear working practices;
- contribute to an international creative project;
- give and receive feedback in a respectful and useful way;
- reflect on their own development as an international team member and emerging leader.

Course schedule

Phase 1: Preparation for international collaboration

Week 1

Date: 4 August

Format: online

Topic: Introduction to international teamwork

Students will explore what makes international teams different from other teams. The session will introduce the benefits and challenges of multicultural collaboration, including language differences, communication styles, expectations, trust, time zones and decision-making.

Students will also consider the meaning of leadership in a team, including leadership without formal authority.

Week 2

Date: 11 August

Format: online

Topic: Cultural self-awareness

Students will examine how culture, identity, education and personal experience influence the way they communicate, collaborate and interpret the behaviour of others.

The session will introduce cultural differences as tendencies rather than fixed rules. Students will reflect on their own working preferences and consider how these may be understood differently by international teammates.

Week 3

Date: 18 August

Format: online

Topic: Intercultural communication

Students will develop practical strategies for communicating across cultures and languages.

The session will address communication in English, direct and indirect communication, listening, clarification, participation, misunderstanding and inclusive discussion.

Students will practise techniques for expressing ideas, asking questions, checking understanding and contributing confidently in an international team.

Week 4

Date: 25 August

Format: Asynchronous online session

Topic: Online assignment

Students will complete an online assignment and asynchronous learning activity.

Instructions and learning materials will be provided through the course platform.

Week 5

Date: 1 September

Format: Asynchronous online session

Topic: Preparation for the international collaboration

Students will complete an online preparation activity before joining the Global Creative School international course.

Further instructions will be provided through the course platform.

Phase 2: International orientation and team formation

Week 6

Date: 8 September

Format: International online session

Topic: Arrivals and assumptions

Students will meet participants from the partner universities and receive an introduction to the international collaboration.

The session will examine first impressions and assumptions about countries, cultures and international teamwork. Students will also be introduced to the use of AI as a collaboration and translation tool.

Week 7

Date: 15 September

Format: International online session

Topic: Culture mapping

Students will develop a shared vocabulary for discussing cultural differences.

The session will consider communication, feedback, trust, leadership, decision-making and approaches to time. Students will compare their own preferences with those of participants from other contexts.

Week 8

Date: 22 September

Format: International online session

Topic: Working internationally

Students will examine the practical challenges of working across countries and time zones.

The session will address asynchronous collaboration, scheduling, trust, feedback and communication practices in international teams.

Week 9

Date: 29 September

Format: International online session

Topic: Co-creation

Students will explore co-creation as a structured approach to shared authorship and collaborative work.

They will participate in a practical international co-creation activity and reflect on decision-making, roles, communication and shared responsibility.

Week 10

Date: 6 October

Format: International online session

Topic: Becoming a team

Students will join their permanent international project teams.

Teams will establish how they will work together, including meeting schedules, communication channels, decision-making processes, feedback practices, responsibilities and expectations.

Phase 3: International project development

Week 11

Date: 13 October

Format: Independent or supported project work

Topic: Project coordination

This week may be used for international team meetings, independent project development, local support or preparation for the next stage of the collaboration.

Week 12

Date: 20 October

Format: International online session

Topic: What travels across cultures

Students will examine why some stories, products, ideas and creative formats work across borders while others remain strongly connected to a specific local context.

Teams will consider what is universal in their project and what should remain locally distinctive.

Week 13

Date: 27 October

Format: International online session

Topic: Understanding international audiences

Students will learn how to research audiences in markets they do not personally know.

The session will introduce audience profiles, personas, market research and the value of learning directly from teammates and people living in the target market.

Week 14

Date: 3 November

Format: International online session

Topic: Adaptation and international marketing

Students will explore localization beyond direct translation.

The session will consider how language, tone, platforms, visual choices, audience expectations and communication strategies may need to change between markets while maintaining a consistent central idea.

Week 15

Date: 10 November

Format: International online session

Topic: Prototyping and critique

Teams will develop an early version of their creative project.

Students will learn how prototypes can be used to test ideas, gather feedback and improve a project. They will also practise structured critique and constructive feedback.

Week 16

Date: 17 November

Format: International online session

Topic: Distribution, funding and launch

Students will explore how international creative work can reach its intended audience.

The session will introduce launch planning, platforms, distribution, partnerships, funding approaches and market-specific strategies.

Week 17

Date: 24 November

Format: International online session

Topic: Pitching across cultures

Students will prepare to present their project to an international audience.

The session will focus on persuasive communication, presentation structure, confidence, audience awareness and different cultural expectations surrounding pitching and professional communication.

Week 18

Date: 1 December

Format: International showcase

Topic: Project presentation and reflection

International teams will present their creative project and launch plan.

Students will explain what they created, how they worked together and what they learned from the international collaboration.

Course progression

The course follows four main stages.

Prepare

Students develop cultural self-awareness, communication skills and readiness for international collaboration.

Connect

Students meet participants from other universities, challenge assumptions and learn how international teams build trust and establish working practices.

Create

Students work in permanent international teams to research audiences, develop an idea and create a prototype.

Present and reflect

Students prepare a launch strategy, present their work and reflect on their development as international collaborators and emerging leaders.