



PRESENTACIÓ DE RESULTATS DELS PROJECTES DE MILLORA DE LA DOCÈNCIA**International Design Project Semester**

Project Coordinator

Jordi Segalàs.

Jordi.segalas@upc.edu

*Sotsdirector de Relacions Internacionals i Sostenibilitat
EPSEVG*

Teaching Staff involved in the project:

*Sergi Sánchez López, Angels Hernández Gómez,
Enric Trullols Farreny, Ariadna Llorens García, Patricia Benson Murphy*

Interns involved in the project : Meritxell Padreny Sales.

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Abstract

The International Design Project Semester (IDPS) at the EPSEVG is aimed at students from abroad and within Spain who would like to complete their Industrial Design Engineering studies by following a one-semester international programme at our school. The programme is run entirely in English and 30 ECTS are awarded on successful completion (12 ECTS divided between four core subjects and 18 ECTS for a final project). It is PBL (Project- Based Learning) in its approach and students acquire transversal competences through group work and the scheduled workshops, seminars and subjects.

The uniqueness of the IDPS lies in the combination of the following factors: presential and distance study (blended learning), its focus on sustainability (the core subjects include Eco Design, Sustainable Value Design, Human Centered Design and a Business Practicum and the project) and its ability to involve staff from a wide range of backgrounds, from partner universities in Europe and from local companies, responsible for proposing and monitoring the project in conjunction with the academic supervisors.

Key Words: Sustainability, Project Based learning, Blended learning

Teaching Aspects to be taken into consideration

- New Teaching methodologies
- Curriculum Design

UPC Areas of Knowledge

- Industrial Engineering degrees
- The Environment, Sustainability and Natural Resources.

Target Groups

This trans-disciplinary 30 ECTS project-based learning programme involves teachers from different departments who participate in different ways; by offering seminars and intensive courses and by tutoring projects. Industrial Design and Product Development Engineering students are awarded 30 ECTS on successful completion of the programme.

Results

The International Design Project Semester (IDPS) has been created and designed and the inaugural programme will start in February 2012. The work carried out is detailed below.

1. A web page (<http://www.epsevg.upc.edu/idps>) has been designed and an email address set up (idps@upc.edu) to deal with queries and manage applications.

UPC Escola Politècnica Superior d'Enginyeria de Vilanova i la Geltrú UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA

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International Design Project Semester

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Designing sustainable products for the future

Develop strategies for sustainable products
Explore in-depth human centered design

Design ultimate eco-products

The *International Design Project Semester* (IDPS) is an **innovative training programme** which addresses the **new professional demands** engineers of the future will face. The programme focuses on industrial design and adheres to the **learning outcomes** established by the European Higher Education Area.

The IDPS programme
The IDPS is a one-semester programme for industrial design engineering students interested in eco design and sustainability...[read more](#)

Information for students
For further information and details on how to apply...[read more](#)

Information for companies
If you are interested in collaborating with us ... [read more](#)

IDPS 2012
Projects, timetables, calendars and more...[read more](#)

2. IDPS Calendar

A calendar, which clearly shows how the semester is divided up between presential and distance learning, along with evaluation period has been created and published on the web page.

EPSEVG - IDPS - Academic calendar 2011-12

Year	Month	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
2012	February			1	2	3	4	5	
2012	"	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Students Welcome
2012	"	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Presential core courses + Project
2012	"	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
2012	Feb-March	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	
2012	March	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
2012	"	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
2012	"	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Distance-monitored core courses and Project
2012	Mar-April	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	
2012	April	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Easter Holidays
2012	"	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Distance-monitored core courses and Project
2012	"	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
2012	"	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
2012	Apr-May	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	Presential core courses + Project
2012	May	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
2012	"	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
2012	"	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
2012	May-June	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	
2012	June	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
2012	"	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Assessment
2012	"	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
2012	June-July	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	

Project Evaluation: Dates in Red
 Marks Published: Dates in Yellow

3. Students have registered and been assigned to a Project for the 2012 Programme

The goal for the first programme was to register 5 Industrial Design Engineering and Product Development students from European Universities and then gradually increase the number of students to 25-30 (based on the targets reached and maintained in the European Project Semester which has been in operation at the EPSEVG since 2008) by the third year of the programme. The goal has been met for 2012.

Student 1	Sligo Institute of Technology	Ireland
Student 2	Sligo Institute of Technology	Ireland
Student 3	Nottingham Trent University	United Kingdom
Student 4	Nottingham Trent University	United Kingdom
Student 5	Groningen Hochschule	The Netherlands

4. Foreign teaching staff

Another essential objective of the course was to involve teaching staff from partner universities able to teach the core subjects to both the students and to teachers from the UPC who would like to participate in them with a view to offering the courses themselves in English at a later date.

Core courses (Each worth 3 ECTS)

Name	Home Institution	Course
Dr. Elli Verhulst	Artesis University, Antwerp, Belgium	Sustainable Value Desing
Tim Timmermans and Ernst Mul	Ideal & Co, Delft, The Neterlands	Eco Design
Dr. Tim Cooper	Nottingham Trent University, UK	Sustainable Business Practicum

Workshops and Seminars

Name	Home Institution	Seminar/ workshop
Les Aurthur	Nottingham Trent University, UK	Visual Language and sub Advertising
Vera Vergunizen	Delft, The Netherlands	Further Eco Design
David Ashworth	IHK, Copenhagen, Denmark	Managing Projects

5. Coursebook

A course book has been edited with all the relevant academic information of the program (http://www.epsevg.upc.edu/files/idps/11-12/Coursebook_IDPS-Barcelona_2012.pdf)

6. Teacher staff training

In line with point 4, it is essential to improve the English language skills of teachers. To this end EPSEVG staff have benefited from language courses programmed by ICE-

Interactive Teacher Speaking Skills and Strategies (Campus VNG) October – December 2011

Evaluation of the project

The EPSEVG has previous experience in organizing project semesters. The European Project Semester (EPS) started 5 years ago is now highly successful with over 70 foreign students from 13 different institutions having participated in it. The organizational skills involved in designing and creating the EPS were put to good use in the design and implementation of the new IDPS.

Another success of EPS was the participation from the university community as a whole. This participation has been consolidated and extended with the IDPS. Not only have over 50 PDI and PAS been involved in the design and implantation of the project, it has also reinforced our commitment to internationalize the school with an increased number of lecturers from partner universities involved in IDPS 2012. Like the EPS, the IDPS is run entirely in English, which yet again emphasises its international focus.

The IDPS has been introduced to coincide with EPSEVG students who will be completing their degree in Industrial Design Engineering and Product Development at the EPSEVG. It will give them the opportunity to complete an International programme either at the EPSEVG or at one of the partner universities offering similar programmes.

Conclusions

The IDPS will start in February 2012. It is aimed at students from an Industrial Design Engineering background in the 7th or 8th semester of their studies. The main characteristics of the IDPS are:

- It lasts one semester and is worth 30 ECTS
- It is PBL (Project –Based Learning) in focus
- It is international
- The vehicular language for the entire programme is English
- Students are assigned to groups of 4-6 members with particular emphasis on creating a balance between different nationalities and gender

- It heightens the student's awareness of sustainability through the four courses offered (Eco Design, Sustainable Value Design, Human centered Design and sustainable Business practicum)
- It is novel in its teaching approach by combining presential and distance learning methods and makes use of TICS

The IDPS is divided into two complimentary parts

- 1) The four core courses: Eco Design, Sustainable Value Design, Human centered Design and Sustainable Business practicum (Each worth 3 ECTS = 12 ECTS in total)
- 2) A project (18 ECTS): Under the supervision of a tutor each group of 4-6 students have to develop a project proposed by a real company. The projects are designed to allow the students to exploit what they have learned in the core courses and to develop a product which is sustainable

Further Information and References

Webs

- www.epsevg.upc.idps/eps (WEbpage for Project)