

Promising practice

University: University of Cambridge

Academic discipline: Geography

Course title: Citizenship, Cities and Civil Society: Field Class and Policy Engagement

Course description:

The Citizenship, Cities and Civil Society paper is an optional paper for students in their second year studying Geography. The compulsory Field Class and Policy Engagement part of this unit involves attending presentations by CSOs and conducting fieldwork with members of the public in Cambridge.

Learning outcomes:

Students gain practical experience of questionnaire design and asking survey questions with members of the public. They have the opportunity to explore the relationship between theory and academic knowledge, and policy and practice.

How students' learning is assessed:

The students write a report of up to 2000 words on the topic. This report includes their reflections both on the policy and practice presentations and the survey conducted.

How students learn with civil society through this course

A topic of focus is chosen each year: these have included housing & homelessness and transport & mobility. CSOs / public sector bodies are invited to send speakers for presentation and Q&A in the morning. These representatives then may participate in the design of a survey that the students carry out with members of the public in the city of Cambridge in the afternoon, regarding public attitudes to the subject in focus. A PhD student collates the responses and a report is prepared to share with the CSOs and public sector organisations as well as published on the Geography department website.

How students learn about dimensions of RRI through this course

The course aims to develop students' ability to reflect on how ideas of belonging, inclusion and exclusion are understood and practiced in cities and in society. Different perspectives are presented that shape the policy environment. Students develop an understanding of the complexity of enacting policy

RRI keys integrated in the course

Public engagement/ societal engagement; Social justice

RRI process requirements integrated in the course

Reflexivity; Inclusion

Weblink: <http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/>

To find out more, contact:

Kathryn Muir, University of Cambridge

kathryn.muir@admin.cam.ac.uk