

PBL and Outreach Initiative – Learning Lab

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Learning Lab is a new initiative introduced on GRS 9th semester Mobility Studies during fall semester 2018

The Learning Lab forms part of a pilot initiative as part of the work in an initiative to explore new exam forms at GRS.

Learning Lab is a one-week activity where students work with tasks set by an external organization. Students present solutions to the set tasks in the last Learning Lab session to the external organization.

During the AAU semester course period (first six week of the semester), students have presentations by external specialists in visual presentation methods. The presentation Methods Seminars provides students with competences to pitch ideas to the external organization. ‘The pitch’ is short and clear-cut involving less text and more visual methods.

The Learning Lab activity is a preparation for 9th semester students to produce a ‘product’, which forms part of a new (experimental) exam form at the Mobility Studies semester. The ‘product’ is the outcome of students work in groups during the last two months of the semester where students prepare projects/products for an organization (of their own choice).

This new initiative is thus both an outreach- and a PBL project, since we try to rethink PBL in course teaching. Furthermore, we aim to involve external stakeholders in both course work and semester project – which we have redefined as ‘semester product’.

Apart from being a new initiative in working with PBL, the semester is providing us with material for our research project ‘Creative Learning (by doing)’. Our Students are co-creating new knowledge – with us, and thus forms an essential part of the research project. Not only are we doing research-based teaching. We are also turning research around to be inspired by, and based on student and teaching. Thus creating co-creative and dynamic process, building on Kolb’s learning spiral (Kolb, D.A. (2014 (1984)). *Experiential Learning: Experience as the source of learning and development*. Pearson Education Inc. NJ. Second edition).