EXECUTIVE SUMMARY WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This document provides a report on findings and a set of recommendations from the November 2023 program evaluation of the Global Development Studies (GDS) at the University of Victoria.

Recommendation 4: Explore a certificate option to open up the GDS program to professional programs (e.g. business, engineering), including an online offering for people in the workforce who may want to take a refresher or upgrade their knowledge of globaldevelopment trends.

Recommendation 5: Maintain the opening of GDS course offerings (GDS 201, GDS 202, GDS 301) to non-GDS students, except the capstone course, which is meant to facilitate the building of cohorts.

Recommendation 6: Build more flexibility into the GDS minor, and simplify and propose different pathways or bundles of course offerings for students.

Recommendation 7: Review the current process for advising and supporting students' progress/completion with the goal of streamlining the process.

Recommendation 8: Create diverse experiential learning opportunities, including remote placements, as more organizations are open to remote work options in a post COVID environment.

Recommendation 9: Create a student society to enhance the student experience and help with (and possibly take ownership of) publicity/events, which will also encourage the building of cohorts and support recruitment and retention efforts.

Recommendation 10: Provide adequate support for the Program Director in the form of at least two course releases for a three-year term.

Recommendation 11: Enhance interaction between GDS Program Director and other Directors or Program Leads by, for example, having a seat at Chairs and Directors meetings.

Recommendation 12: Enlarge the number of faculty associated with the GDS program (especially among the Program Committee) to effectively spread the administrative load and ensure sustained commitment to the core programming of the minor.