

Welcome to Global Challenges at Brunel

Discover
Brunel

Congratulations on securing your place at Brunel

We're looking forward to meeting you - either in person or online - and introducing you to life at Brunel.

To help us get started, we've put together a short activity and some further information to help you prepare for your course - including a snapshot of the topics you'll cover and useful resources.

If you have any questions please email mary.richards@brunel.ac.uk.

Pre-arrival activity

We'd like you to complete a short activity before you join us. We can discuss your answers in one of your first personal tutor sessions. Your work will not be officially assessed however it will allow your tutor to get to know you better.

Details of the task will be sent to you by email shortly - please look out for an email from mary.richards@brunel.ac.uk.

Sample lecture topics

As you progress through your degree, these are the types of questions you'll be able to answer with confidence:

1. How have perspectives on 'creativity' changed since ancient times?
2. How do qualitative and creative approaches help researchers address global challenges (which kind of challenges)?
3. What does it mean to 'decolonise' literature review sources? Give examples and explain why this is important?
4. What factors must be considered when thinking about the ethics of a research project?
5. With reference to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, define a specific global challenge. Outline the benefits of adopting a transdisciplinary approach to addressing this global challenge.
6. What is the difference between a disciplinary team, a multidisciplinary team, an interdisciplinary team, and transdisciplinary team? Describe how each of these might approach the same global challenge.
7. What strategies might be used to create a zero-carbon future? Consider the differing perspectives of at least two innovators.
8. Discuss the role of wealth and income inequality in the persistence of poverty. Make reference to at least two of the following Piketty, Raworth, Dorling and/or Giridharadas.

Reading list

- Elizabeth Gilbert, '[Your elusive creative genius](#)', Ted Talk (2009)
- Giridharadas, Anand (2020) *Winners Take All: The Elite Charade of Changing the World*
- Helen Kara, *Creative Research Methods in the Social Sciences: A practical guide*, (Policy Press, Bristol, 2015).
- Klein, Naomi (2019) *On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal*
- Patricia Leavy (ed), *The Oxford Handbook of Qualitative Research*, (OUP: Oxford, 2014)
- Raworth, Kate (2018) *Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist*
- Silverman, D. *A very short, fairly interesting and reasonably cheap book about doing qualitative research*, (Sage: London, 2013).
- Yunus, Muhammad (2017) *A World of Three Zeros: The New Economics of Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment, and Zero Net Carbon Emissions*

We look forward to meeting you in Welcome Week (Monday 21 – Friday 25 September).

Global Challenges Team



Find out more about Welcome Week
brunel.ac.uk/welcome-week

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