

1st International Conference in Experiences in Active Learning in Higher Education

October 27, 2017 (Friday)

Faculty of Economics and Business (University of Barcelona)

<http://www.ub.edu/ice/noticies/learning>

Abstract Proposal

Service-Learning at the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Barcelona

Some reflections on its benefits to students and impacts on community

Authors:

M. Cristina Poblet Farrés, Department of Economics, University of Barcelona, mcpoblet@ub.edu

Anna Escobedo Caparrós, Department of Sociology, University of Barcelona, anna.escobedo@ub.edu

Núria Rodríguez Ávila, Department of Sociology, University of Barcelona, nrodriguez@ub.edu

Since 2014, the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB) of the University of Barcelona is promoting service-learning, as an active learning approach, in cooperation with public and third sector organizations. The aim of this paper is to undertake an exploratory evaluation. First service learning methods in our social sciences disciplines are discussed, second our experience is described, third we explain what we have observed in students who have participated in our service-learning activities and the impacts of this service on the community. Finally we conclude on how to develop service-learning and its evaluation in the framework of our faculty (with students in economics, business and management, sociology, statistics...). The data are based on the Faculty administrative registers and evaluation surveys, interviews to students and supervisors of the activities, and a discussion group amongst Faculty professors.

Between 2015-17, we have developed three categories of service-learning practices:

- **Student's contribution to Secondary School active learning:** preparing and teaching specific subjects by means of lectures and workshops in the framework of the "Compartir ideas" UB Interfaculty Project. In this activity, a pair of students go to High Schools of Barcelona city and give a conference/workshop related to some subject of knowledge of their bachelor. For instance, business students have given a workshop on entrepreneurship.

- **Bachelor's and Master Thesis (called TFG and TFM)** based on subjects proposed by Social Economy or the Third Sector organisations (for example in the field of ethical banking or corporate social responsibility).

- **Practice placements in public and non-profit programmes (for undergraduate and master students)**, where students help mainly third sector organisations or municipalities to develop activities or projects otherwise they couldn't do it.

All this service-learning activities have their own environment and service community. A brief summary of them are in the table 1:

Table 1. Summary of service-learning activities, environments and real needs

	What students do	In what environment	What is the real need
"Compartir ideas"	Conferences/workshops	Visiting High schools	Strengthen contacts University-High schools
TFG_social projects	Studies proposed by social companies	Contacting and visiting entities	What the entity needs
Placements	Placements in social companies	Working inside organisations	What the entity needs

Our objective is two-fold: to evaluate students experiences in our service-learning activities and the impacts of this service on community, with a more general aim of informing and strengthen the service learning approach in economics, business and sociology.