

GLOBAL LABOUR UNIVERSITY ONLINE ACADEMY

-Connecting activists and workers worldwide-

Founded in 2014, the GLU Online Academy is a pioneer in online education offering decentralised, globally-connected learning spaces for workers and trade unionists. Thousands of participants are connecting through these learning spaces in vibrant debates about social and environmental justice, workers' rights, political freedom and democracy. The free online courses developed by labour academics and activists are combined with webinars and localised workshops, and supported by a global team of certified trainers.

AN INNOVATIVE LEARNING MODEL: EXPANDING AND CREATING NEW POSSIBILITIES

- Providing complementary and new opportunities for labour education, thus creating synergies with existing worker education programmes offered by trade unions, labour-support organisations and universities.
- Supporting trade unions and labour-support organisations with new educational content and networks of certified tutors/trainers, many of whom are GLU alumni.
- Responding to workers and activists with different time availabilities and interests.
- Popularizing labour issues in the public debate.
- Supporting the creation on the ground of learning communities and alliances around the most pressing issues.
- Strengthening the digital literacy of trade union members and labour activists.

DIFFERENT LEARNING MODELS: DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

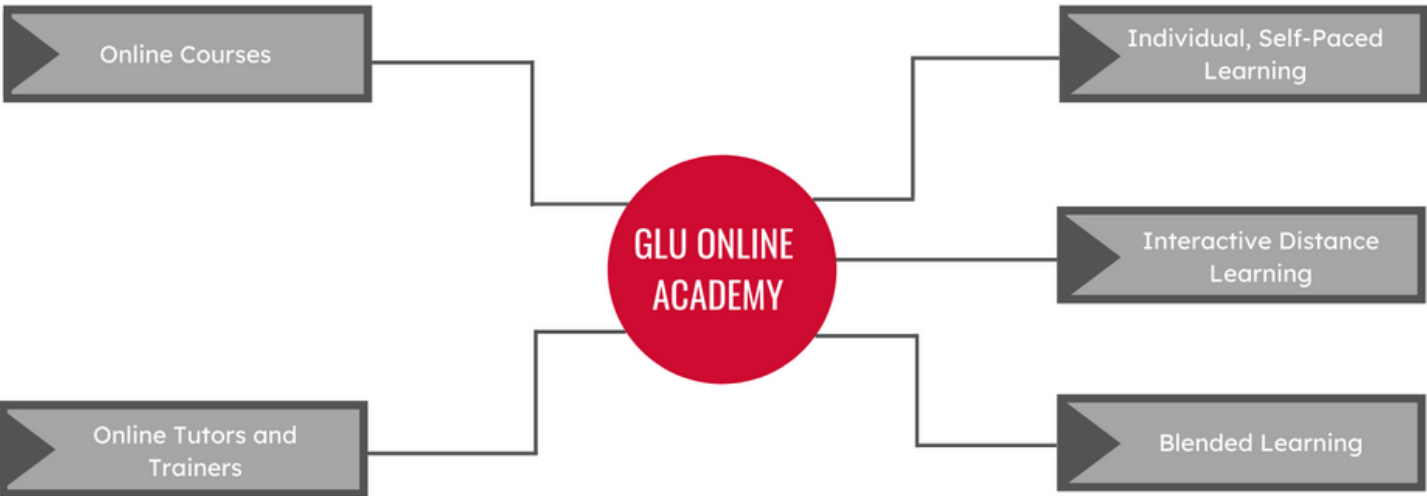
1. Individual, Self-Paced Online Learning
Gain knowledge on the course topics by studying on your own time. All learning is based on open access video lectures and reading materials, all available on the course platform (iversity).

2. Interactive Distance Learning
Go one step further from the self-paced learning to deepen the knowledge of the course topics by engaging in real-time with experts and other course participants in:

- a. Online Zoom workshops with the course experts to discuss specific questions on a particular topic of the course you are studying; and
- b. Online study circles organised and supported by online tutors during the tutored phase of the course to discuss together with other participants specific course topics and/or watch and discuss related audio-visual materials.

3. Blended Learning
Take the final step to move from knowledge to action on the ground. Upon completing the interactive distance learning phase, you can join localised workshops with trade unionists and other activists in your own country to contextualise the global debates and discuss possible strategies and alliances on the ground. These localised workshops are conceptualised by the certified trainers of the Online Academy. For participants unable to access the course, either because of language or technological barriers, the certified trainers use the content of the online course to develop the modules of the localised workshops. Local experts on the topic are also engaged in the blended learning model.

ONLINE ACADEMY EDUCATIONAL MODEL



Study for Free: Get a Certificate

Accessing and studying in our online courses is free. Completion of an online course is recognised either through a Certificate of Participation or a Certificate of Accomplishment. These can be obtained from the course platform for a fee, upon completion of the specific requirements for each type of certificate.

The Online Academy provides certificate scholarships to course participants from the Global South and trade unionists from the Global North.



Cambodia workshop



Trinidad & Tobago workshop



South Africa workshop

KEY RESOURCES: MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES

Since its establishment, the GLU-OA has launched over [20 Massive Open Online Courses \(MOOCs\)](#) developed through collaboration with top labour experts from academia, trade unions, and other labour organisations in the Global Labour University network. Thousands of people from across the world, regardless of their location and prior education, are able to access video lectures from some of the best experts on various topics related to labour. Our online courses are hosted by the online learning platform iversity.

Over 27,000 users combined (May 2023)

- majority from the labour sector
- spread equally across the Global South & North

The main elements of an online course are:

1. Video lectures of around 6-8 min. Course participants facing internet connection issues can download videos and use them offline, access the transcripts of the video lectures or activate subtitles.
2. A set of quiz and discussion questions for each video lecture.
3. A key reading of 2,000-2,500 words expanding on the topic of each video lecture.
4. A selection of additional readings for those interested to study further.
5. Discussion spaces where participants can learn from and with each other.

In addition to English, several courses are made available, including through subtitles, in other languages, such as Bangla, Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian, French, Hindi, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish.

KEY RESOURCES: TEAMS OF ONLINE TUTORS AND LOCAL TRAINERS

Since 2021, the Online Academy has focused on developing teams of online tutors and local trainers to support the distant learning process in general and blended learning in particular. The trainers/tutors use the content of the online courses to develop contextualized modules for people-centred learning. Trained on principles of radical/critical pedagogy and adult popular education, they are a crucial resource of the Online Academy for building new spaces for social learning and political engagement on the ground.

This process started with the development of a Global Team of 47 online Tutors and local Trainers (GTTT) from 20 countries, namely Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Germany, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, US, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The trainers used the content of the online course [Just and Green: Labour's Ecological Question](#) to deliver nearly 60 localised workshops reaching over 1,100 people from trade unions, communities and environmental movements across all sectors including agriculture, extractive industries and garment as well as the public sector such as health, waste management and transport.

By bringing together labour, environmental and community activists in a [project of popular education](#), these workshops have created spaces for bridging academia and activism, for a dialogue over tensions and contradictions in the environmental justice movement and for developing strategies and alliances for a people's centred "just transition".

The GTTT experience on the topic of environment underscores the potential of this model in both diffusing and contextualizing global debates, but also in bridging ideas and activism. When anchored in solid organisational structures, such as Global Union Federations, this model can play a key role in supporting political projects for meaningful change.

As of May 2023, the Online Academy has developed 87 local trainers, in 31 countries, across all continents.



GTTT workshop, May 2022, Kassel

Role of Tutors and Trainers:

- organise localised workshops on topics of the online courses;
- tutor online courses;
- support the development of other trainers; and
- engage in the development of new courses.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the localised workshop of the certified trainers of the Online Academy was transformed into a political event, halting a "Just Transition" government Bill which was not consulted with labour and opening up a broad conversation with over 150 unionists on a "progressive just transition" from a labour perspective.

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Contact us via: online@global-labour-university.org