

Living Beyond Tomorrow

This article is about a four-minute read.

“Established in 2003, the International Development Institute brings together students, faculty and partners from around the world,” explains Clarisse Esteban, Finance and Program Officer for the [International Development Institute](#) (IDI). The IDI is responsible for managing international development projects, engaging with multiple partners and countries in the areas of education, training and capacity building.

“A lot of the work we do is rooted in the framework of the [sustainable development goals](#) (SDGs) set by the United Nations,” Clarisse continues to add that the department’s work is aligned with the SDGs, the [Humber Learning Outcomes](#) (HLOs) and strategic priorities outlined in [Humber's Strategic Plan](#).

Clarisse credits Humber’s statement, “we preserve our collective future,” in the Strategic Plan as the phrase that influences her team’s international development projects. It is important to the IDI team that they empower their partners in the Global South to be able to sustain the work they do, through knowledge sharing and providing the proper tools, to ensure their stakeholders learn and grow from the initiatives.

“It’s cosmopolitanism; everyone deserves justice and the same shot at this,” said Clarisse. She mentions that even when the team facilitates community engagements or events on campus, it’s important for them to source local foods and use reusable supplies.

Clarisse believes that awareness is one of the driving factors for the team’s engagement initiatives on campus.

“Humber is a large institution and there’s a lot of great initiatives that different departments and units are working on. We try hard to ensure that the work we do is shared amongst the institution because there’s always an opportunity for collaboration or to inspire interest in those of the Humber community,” explained Clarisse.

Pandemic Lockdown

Clarisse explains that during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, apart from the education aspect, her role was to assist international students with many of the added challenges students were faced with, including financial hardships. Clarisse states, “We owe it to them to provide the support they need while they’re here. Some [students] are here alone in Canada with little to no support from family or friends.”

Article continued.

“At the beginning of COVID-19, it was an emotionally heavy experience for me,” says Clarisse, “I had students reach out and say “hey, listen, I’m homeless. I’ve been drinking water for a full week because I can’t afford food. Is there something that you can do to help me?”

Clarisse explains that though the team felt limited in their roles, “it was [truly] a gratifying experience to help students.”

Plans for Post-pandemic Lockdown

Weeks before Humber College shut down on-campus activities, the team put together a successful series of workshops for students and staff, in collaboration with other departments. “I’m excited to be able to pivot this workshop programming to online, so we can continue to deliver it and engage our students and staff with the SDGs,” says Clarisse.

Clarisse believes that students and staff are becoming more aware of the SDGs, but are now asking, “what can we do to work towards these SDGs? What’s the call to action?” Clarisse is excited to get started on projects that pose a call to actions concerning the SDGs and to continue the conversations with the community, as the majority of programming continues to transfer to the online setting for the foreseeable future.

For more information about the IDI’s projects, training, community engagements, and/or how to get involved, visit their [website](#).



Above: Clarisse Esteban, Finance and Program Officer



Above: Jennifer Cleary and Clarisse Esteban,
International Education Week 2019