

Evaluation of the Bachelor in Community Development at Kathmandu University Jonathan London, UC Davis Department of Human Ecology

The Bachelors in Community Development at Kathmandu University is Nepal's first such program and is training the nation's next generation of planners, policy experts, and community advocates. After its first five years in operation, the leadership at KU sought out Dr. Jonathan London – who had collaborated with the university in a recent study abroad program-- to serve as an outside evaluator to provide insights into the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for enhancing the program. Dr. London reviewed a wide range of materials related to the history, current strategies and future plans of the BCD program to understand the visions, goals, student learning and intended institutional outcomes of the program. These documents have included: The original plan for the BCD program; curricula from the core BCD classes; promotional materials, and student fieldwork theses. In late August and early September 2017 Dr. London conducted a site visit at Kathmandu University. This intensive field visit provided an opportunity to meet with key internal and external stakeholders associated with the BCD program, to observe classes and other campus events, and to consult with faculty and administrative leadership at the program, school, and university level. In addition to an analysis of the past and current performance of the program, Dr. London's report also identified a range of short, medium and long-term recommendations. The KU leadership will be using the evaluation to inform its strategic planning, fund development, curriculum reviews, and communications activities.