



Foundations

Certificate in University Teaching for faculty members

Context

The **Foundations** phase marks the beginning of the **Certificate in University Teaching**. This first phase begins in the spring of each academic year and is usually spread over a period of three to six weeks. It comprises six 3-hour face-to-face sessions with colleagues and specialists in the field of university teaching. Each session will consist of discussions, personal reflections and activities designed to deepen knowledge, refine teaching practice, broaden horizons, raise questions, and share challenges in relation to university teaching and learning.

Adopting a cohort format, the **Foundations** are an essential first step in consolidating the fundamentals of course design and teaching in a university environment, while exchanging ideas with colleagues and a teaching team. This is the starting point not only for the **Certificate in University Teaching**, but also for in-depth personal reflection on teaching practice.

At the end of this first phase, participants will be invited to continue their professional development by enrolling in the second phase of the certificate, the **Pillars**.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the **Foundations** component, participants will be able to:

- Share experiences, questions, reflections and perspectives on teaching and learning;
- Explore and test different concepts related to university pedagogy;
- Analyze available knowledge, tools and resources related to teaching and learning in post-secondary settings;
- Evaluate the possibilities and means of integrating new learning into their teaching practice, according to their context, preferences, and disciplinary field;
- Apply acquired knowledge and skills to their teaching practice; and
- Reflect on the evolution of their teaching practice and report on their progress.

Structure

In order to achieve all the learning outcomes, each session will focus on one or more specific topics. At the beginning of each session, the group will review the previous week's learning and reflections before moving on to the new topic.

First session

- Welcome and establishing a starting point
- Values, skills and roles in university teaching
- Teaching philosophy

Second session

- Introduction to course design
- Context (situational factors) and learning outcomes

Third session

- Evaluations
- Overview of assessment design frameworks

Fourth session

- Learning activities
- Lesson planning
- Overview of lesson and activity design models

Fifth session

- Classroom management
- Conflict resolution strategies
- Techniques for handling difficult conversations

Sixth session

- Conclusion and taking stock
- Other important perspectives and the future of post-secondary education
- Introduction to stage two: the **Pillars**

Between each session, participants will have the opportunity to reflect on the topics and activities covered at the last meeting. They will also be able to deepen their understanding of the topics covered in the classroom and exchange ideas with their colleagues via a virtual platform.

Conclusion

At the end of this stage, participants who have completed the **Foundations** will receive a document attesting to the professional development they have completed. They will then be able to register for the **Pillars** component of the certificate.