



UNESCO Chair  
in Curriculum  
Development

UQAM

Université  
du Québec à Montréal  
(Canada)

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## UNESCO Chair in Curriculum Development

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#### Chairholder:

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### Creation of the UNESCO Chair

The UNESCO Chair in Curriculum Development was created at UQAM in 2009. This Chair is based on the earlier work of the *Observatoire des réformes en éducation (ORÉ)*. The members of this interdisciplinary Chair support education ministries, educational systems, universities and other higher education institutions in their complex processes of curriculum reform. The Chair's teams are active both nationally and internationally.

### Expertise in curriculum engineering

The frames of reference for educational system reform imply new roles and responsibilities for stakeholders even while the foundations of the reforms concerned are still being discussed. Although curriculum reform is generally proceeding well, various kinds of difficulty still exist. This is why there is a need to consolidate and formalize curricular approaches on the basis of clear-cut theoretical and practical foundations. The dynamic and complex process of curriculum reform is a core concern of the Chair's researchers, who contribute perspectives from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds in a process whereby curriculum reforms are positioned within their own social, ethical, cultural, political and economic contexts. By developing specific curriculum development methodologies, the researchers employ a systemic curricular vision that produces coherence among the various components of a given reform to ensure that they are effective, relevant and feasible.

### The methodological objective

The Chair's interdisciplinary team pursues the general objective of progressively identifying the basic elements of an operational methodology for systemic analysis combined with developing and adapting curricula into a genuine form of curriculum engineering. For several years, this general objective and long-term outlook has involved the Chair's team of experts on the international scene of contemporary educational system reform in both basic and higher education, as well as initial and ongoing teacher training.

### Research Areas and Activities

The Chair's team members are international researchers and experts interested in the following dimensions of curriculum development: the theoretical and practical foundations of curriculum reforms; methodologies for curriculum development and training program reform; assessment policies and development of student learning assessment tools; administering, managing and implementing reform; initial and ongoing teacher training; integration of ICTs in educational systems; adoption of innovation by stakeholders, and; implementing and instituting curriculum reform.

### Partners

The Chair's team has formed partnerships with UNESCO's International Bureau of Education (IBE) in Geneva, the UNESCO office in Kinshasa, the Education Research and Foresight (ERF) unit of UNESCO's Education Sector in Paris, Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Agence universitaire de la francophonie (AUF), the Quebec Department of Education, Recreation and Sports (MELS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (commonly known by its French acronym, UEMOA), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) in Montreal, the Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF), the UNESCO Chair in Education Sciences in Brazzaville, and Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario.

### Current projects

- The development of new curricula in the institutions of higher education in Benin, Ivory Coast, Niger and Togo (UEMOA)
- Revamping the reform of basic education in Ivory Coast (World Bank).
- Defining the curricular orientation framework for primary, secondary and professional education in the Democratic Republic of Congo (UNESCO).
- Basic education reform in Niger (Catalytic Fund).
- Evaluation of the implementation of the reform of basic general adult education in Quebec (MELS).