



Dryland Futures Academy

Co-developing a short course on pastoralism and planetary health

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Edinburgh)

Building the Resilience and Prosperity of Pastoralists and Dryland Communities

Nairobi, 1–2 October 2025



Garissa University
(Oasis of Innovation)



**JAMEEL
OBSERVATORY**
FOR FOOD SECURITY EARLY ACTION



**THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH**

Why this course, why now?

- Pastoralism is vital to Northern Kenya's livelihoods and food systems.
- Planetary health lens links ecosystems, climate shocks, and public health and calls for an integrated approaches.
- Students need integrated, practice-oriented knowledge and skills for dryland challenges.
- This course fills a 'gap' in our offering; designed to meet demand from our region.
- Part of wider effort to raise attention and investment in drylands and pastoralist futures.



Pastoralists migrating in Garissa — Photo: Ahmed Mohamed



Inter-Institutional Collaboration

Strategic Academic Partnership

Result of collaboration between GaU and UoE and integrates expertise with a regional focus.

Focus on Pastoralist Communities

The collaboration aims to address challenges faced by pastoralist communities in dryland areas.

Dryland Futures Academy

Part of wider initiative promoting sustainable development and resilience in dryland ecosystems. Additional field experience from other institutions will provide realities on the ground to learners.

GaU: local leadership,
cohorts, workshop delivery,
approvals

UoE: pedagogy, platform,
quality assurance,
moderation

Dryland Futures Academy:
evidence base, networks,
live cases



**Dryland Futures
Academy**

Overview of the Course

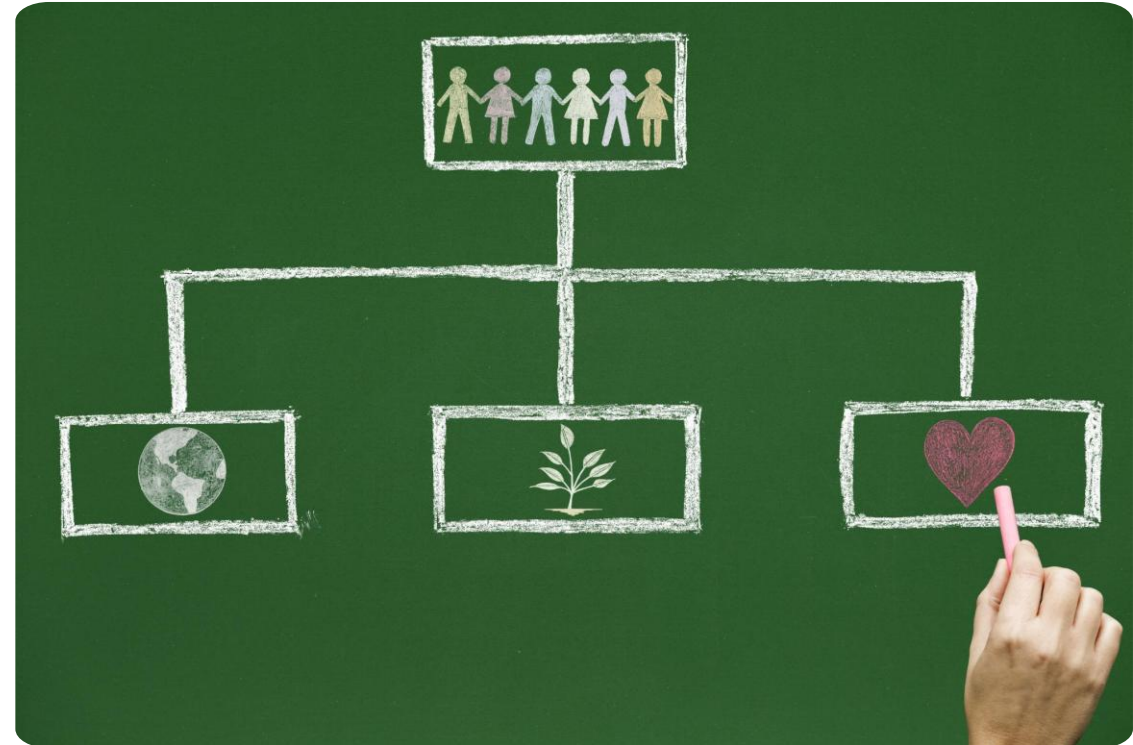
Co-design: The course is a joint initiative between Garissa University and the University of Edinburgh, promoting academic collaboration.

Hybrid Learning Model: The course combines pre-recorded lectures and in-person workshops for flexible and interactive learning experiences.

Localized Content: Course content includes contextual exercises tailored for Garissa University students reflecting Northern Kenya's environment.

Accreditation: Academic credit is granted by Garissa University with flexible scheduling aligned to its academic calendar.

Open content: Course content will be available for adaptation, re-purposing and re-use across the wider network



Course Aim

To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between pastoralism and planetary health, emphasizing the sustainable management of resources and resilient practices that align with both environmental stability and the prosperity of pastoral communities.

What this course enables

- Analyze interdependencies of pastoralism and planetary health
- Apply evidence-based stewardship and risk-informed adaptation
- Advance prosperity and rights of pastoral communities
- Communicate findings to policy and practitioner audiences



Learning Objectives

Analyze Environmental Impacts

Students will learn to assess how environmental changes affect pastoral systems and livelihoods.

Connect Pastoralism and Health

Understanding the link between pastoralism and planetary health is a core learning objective.

Community-Engaged Solutions

Students will apply tools to develop community-based sustainable practices and advocate for pastoralist rights.

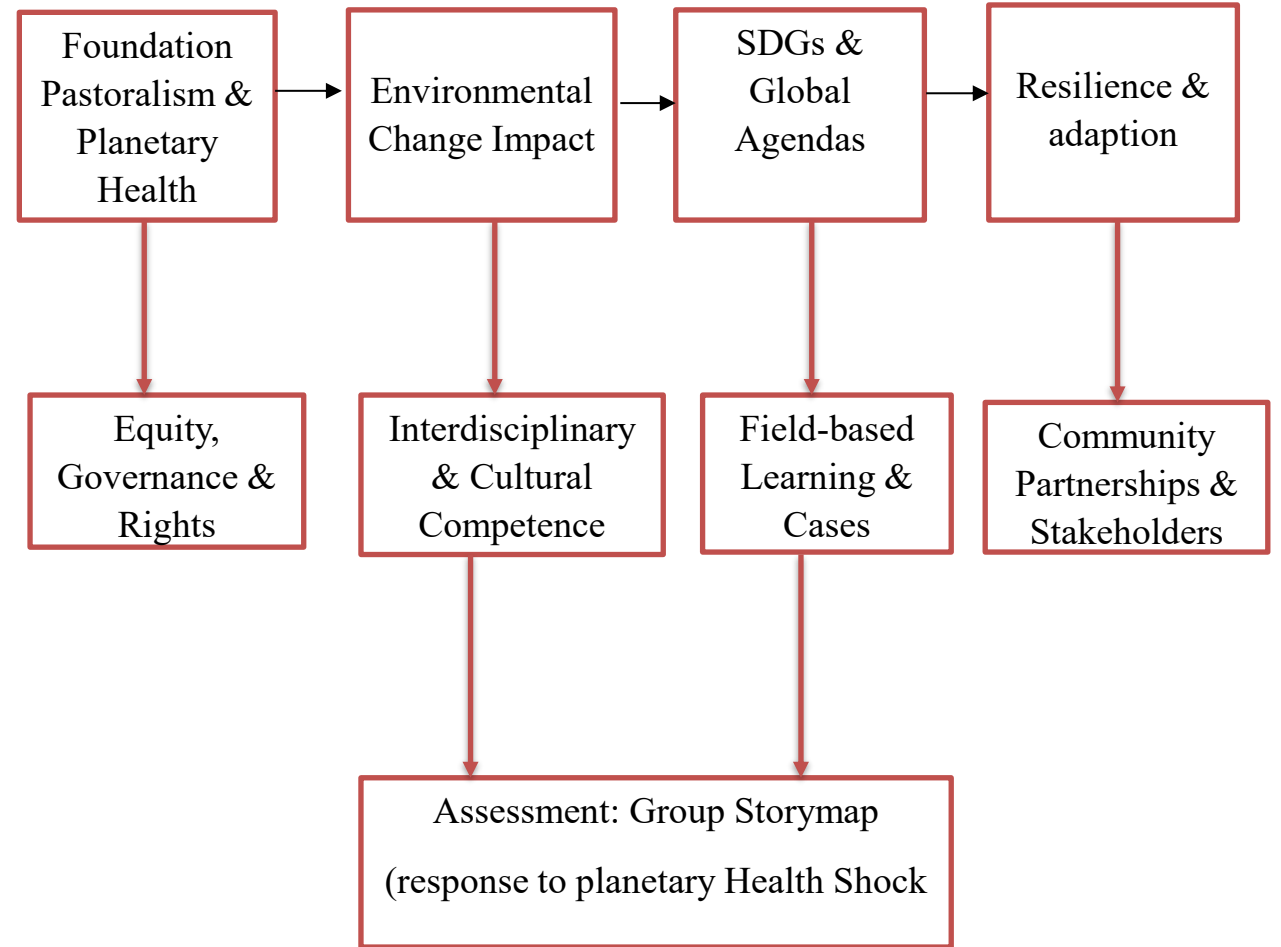
Policy Advocacy and Strategies

Learners will develop strategies for stakeholder engagement and policy advocacy to support sustainable pastoralism.



Course Content

- Pastoral systems in planetary health (ecological, social, economic)
- Environmental change: climate, land degradation, biodiversity loss
- Pastoralism & SDGs: contributions, trade-offs, metrics
- Resilience & adaptation: anticipatory & proactive measures
- Equity, governance, and pastoralist rights
- Field-based learning and community case partnerships

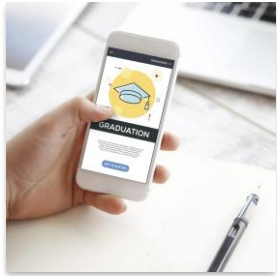


Mode of Delivery and Hosting Platforms



Hybrid Learning Structure

The course combines online pre-recorded lectures with interactive, in-person workshops for better flexibility and engagement.



Hosting Platforms

Content is hosted on two university platforms, offering accessibility through the University of Edinburgh and Garissa University portals.



Localized Course Content

Garissa University's platform includes additional exercises and case studies relevant to Garissa and Northern Kenya contexts.



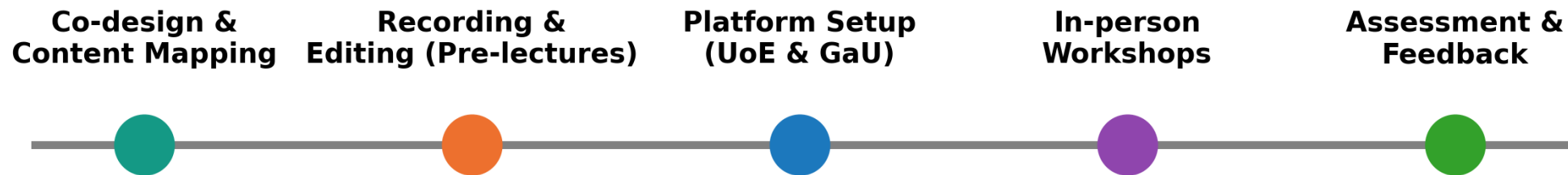
Recognition & Certification

- Credit-awarding institution: Garissa University (GaU)
- Certificates of completion issued per GaU standards
- Eligibility for academic credit/stackable recognition (per GaU policy)
- Official acknowledgement of UoE



Path to Launch

- Oct–Nov 2025: Present in Nairobi; gather stakeholder input.
- Nov–Dec 2025: record/edit lectures; finalize platform build.
- Jan–Mar 2026: GaU approvals; promotion; onboarding.
- Apr 2026: run GaU-specific instance; deliver in-person workshops.



The Jameel Observatory for Food Security Early Action is an international partnership led by the University of Edinburgh collaborating with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Save the Children, the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) and Community Jameel.

Based at ILRI in Nairobi, Kenya, we combine the local knowledge and concerns of communities facing on-the-ground threats of hunger with innovations in data science and humanitarian action; teaming up to devise solutions that can predict, prepare for, and overcome climate-related food security and malnutrition challenges in dryland areas.

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