



International Credit Union Development Educator (ICUDE) Designation 2026 APPLICATION

*Please read through the following information and submit your I-CUDE application by **Friday, April 10, 2026**.*

NOTE: Considering evolving formats of DE programs, global education, and conference offerings, the ICUDE requirements are reviewed regularly to match these changing circumstances. By providing an inclusive and equitable process, this makes achievement of the ICUDE designation possible for more credit union professionals. When possible, we suggest and encourage the completion of any or **all ICUDE requirements using an in-person format**.

ABOUT GLOBAL DE

Global DE is a cohort of the Worldwide Foundation and the seven CUDE programs operating within specific credit union systems to advance the value and impact of CUDE training and networking. This cohort coordinates the awareness and engagement with the International Credit Union Development Educator (ICUDE) designation, which is achieved by a CUDE graduate after meeting four specific ICUDE application criteria.

Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions is a strategic partner with the seven CUDE programs around the world in advocating, fostering and growing DE programs and the CUDE/ICUDE designations to credit union peers to seek out greater engagement with our credit union world.

ABOUT ICUDE

The International Credit Union Development Education (ICUDE) program is designed to provide credit union employees and volunteers with a greater understanding of the international credit union system and opportunities for continued engagement.

Once an individual earns his/her Development Educator (DE) designation, he/she is encouraged to apply the skills and knowledge obtained from DE to (1) complete independent studies projects and (2) participate in credit union development and education, both domestically and globally.

DEs who complete a level of project work and international development are eligible to receive the International Credit Union Development Educator (ICUDE) designation. This designation is offered in partnership between the international DE programs (Africa, Asia, Canada, Caribbean, Europe, Philippines, USA) and the Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions.

Recognition for ICUDEs at World Credit Union Conference

Global, industry and peer recognition of the ICUDE Class of 2026 will take place in-person at the **World Credit Union Conference (WCUC) in Sydney, Australia between July 19-22, 2026**. Individuals who received an ICUDE designation will be recognized ahead and during the event by the Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions.

DE Program Directors, ICUDE designees and the greater DE network will be invited to attend this event to recognize new ICUDE's that join this prestigious group.

ICUDE: Application Process & Milestones

To earn an ICUDE designation, individuals must complete and submit the following application to their country's DE Program Director. An ICUDE application and recognition calendar is in **Appendix B** at the end of this document.

Once your application is received, your country's DE Program Director will review and confirm your information meets the ICUDE requirements. Your country's DE Program Director will forward your application to the Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions who will review, finalize and process your ICUDE designation. Upon approval by both of these parties, you will be notified of your ICUDE designation by your DE Program Director.

***If your application is accepted**, you will receive further detail on your new ICUDE designation and plans for recognition.*

***If your application is considered incomplete or requires more information**, your home country's DE Program Director will contact you and provide guidance on how to satisfy the requirements of the designation.*

ICUDE Criteria: What I Need to Do to Apply for ICUDE?

To achieve a ICUDE designation, individuals must have met the following four criteria.

NOTE: Only Criteria #1 OR #3 can be completed virtually, but not both.

Consult and get advance approval from your home DE Program Director before applying.

1. Earn a DE designation from your home DE program (In-person or virtual format).

- **Note:** Home DE program refers to your country or region's DE program, or the program you attended to earn your first DE certification.

2. Complete at least ONE INDEPENDENT STUDIES PROJECT that aligns with the learning objectives of the DE program. Provide a report of no less than 500 words detailing your project.

- Your project must be approved by your home DE Program Director as meeting this criteria.
- Projects can be either domestically or internationally focused.
- Applicants should provide at least 500 words, images, and other documentation detailing:
 - i. The purpose of their project.
 - ii. How it aligns with the learning objectives of DE such as the cooperative principles and sustainable development goals (development issues).
 - iii. The tangible impact the project had on credit unions (includes employees and directors), the credit union system, credit union members, or your community.
 - iv. The duration and frequency of your project (is it ongoing or being replicated?).
 - v. Provide any available documentation, photographs, communications, or other resources that confirm the existence and completion of your project.

3. Earn a second DE designation by completing a DE program outside of your home country/region. (In-person or virtual format upon approval from your home DE Program Director.)

- **Note:** DE Workshops, DE Networking events, or any other DE-focused events outside of official DE programs do not qualify.

4. Attend a World Credit Union Conference or another significant credit union/co-op education and engagement event outside of your home country/region (as approved by your home DE Program Director).

- To meet this criterion, the experience must significantly increase the breadth of your cooperative/credit union knowledge and network outside of your home country/region. The event must be aligned with DE philosophy.
- Examples might include: WOCCU's World Credit Union Conference, national/apex credit union conference, multi country confederation conferences, multi-day DE Workshops, other significant DE focused events, or significant CU/co-op education experience.
- See Appendix A for a pre-approved list of education and engagement events. For all other events, **you must obtain approval from your home DE Program Director.**
- You must have already attended the event with one exception: proof of registration for the current year's WOCCU's World CU Conference.

5. A biography and a head shot MUST be included with the application.

Questions regarding the criteria can be directed to your home DE Program Director.

A full list of DE programs and directors can be found at www.doglobalgood.org/icude

ICUDE Application

Name: _____

Country: _____

Current credit union or organization: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

REFER TO THE CRITERIA LISTED ABOVE IN THIS DOCUMENT, read the questions below carefully and provide complete and detailed answers. Contact your DE Program Director with any questions.

- 1. Earn a DE designation from your home country's DE program (virtual or in-person format).**

List the year and location of the DE program you completed.

- 2. Complete at least one independent studies project that aligns with the learning objectives of the DE program and has demonstrated an impact, and ATTACH A REPORT TO THIS APPLICATION FORM PROVIDE NO FEWER THAN 500 WORDS DETAILING. (SEE ICUDE CRITERIA FOR DETAILS.)**

- 3. Earn a second DE designation by completing a DE program outside of your country.(In-person. Or, virtual format upon approval from your home DE Program Director.)**

List the year and location of the DE program you completed.

- 4. Attend the World Credit Union Conference or another significant credit union/co-op education and engagement event outside of your home country/region. (as per the qualifications outlined in the application details and as approved by your home DE Program Director). Please provide the full name, date, location, and host organization of your event. Provide detail on the activities and interactions you experienced while participating in this event, along with how it deepened your knowledge and network in ways that are aligned to DE philosophy.**

This section to be used by your home country's DE Program Director & WOCCU/WFCU.

Date application received: _____

DE Program Director Reviewer: _____ Approved ☐ Returned. ☐

If returned, describe reason:

Worldwide Foundation Reviewer: _____ Approved ☐ Returned. ☐

If returned, describe reason:

APPENDIX A: List of pre-approved events for Criteria #4

Attend a World Credit Union Conference or another significant credit union/co-op education and engagement event outside of your home country/region (as approved by your home DE Program Director).

- To meet this criterion, the experience must significantly increase the breadth of your cooperative/credit union knowledge and network outside of your home country/region. It must be an event that is aligned with DE philosophy.
- Examples might include virtual, in-person, or hybrid: WOCCU's World Credit Union Conference, national/apex credit union conference, multi-country confederation conferences, multi-day DE Workshops, other significant DE focused events, or significant CU/co-op education experience.
- See below for a pre-approved list of education and engagement events. For all other events, you must obtain approval from your home DE Program Director.

PRE-APPROVED EVENTS LIST (AS OF 1/10/2023)

WOCCU's World Credit Union Conference – International
ICA Summit – International Cooperative Alliance
SACCA Congress – Africa
ACCU Forum – Asia

Governmental Affairs Conference (GAC) – USA
CCCU Annual Conference – Caribbean
CCUA Conference – Canada

National/apex credit union conference

- Non-USA attendees attending a NCBA-CLUSA or America's Credit Unions national conference (USA); non-Canadian attendees attending CCUA national conference (Canada); etc.

Multi-country confederation conferences

- International Co-operative Alliance Global Conference

Multi-day DE Workshops or other significant DE focused events outside of your home country/region

Significant CU/co-op education experiences

- Multi-day Cooperative Education Study Tour – e.g. Saint Mary's University education experience in Mondragon (Spain), Emilia-Romagna (Italy).

APPENDIX B: 2026 ICUDE Calendar

Monday, February 9: ICUDE Application online window opens at <https://doglobalgood.org/icude> and call for submissions marketing goes out.

Friday, April 10: ICUDE Application deadline, all applications should be received by the DE Programs Directors for review and approval by the EOD.

Week of April 13: DE Program Directors review/approval applications and send to WOCCU/WFCU for review/approval.

Week of April 20: WOCCU/WFCU reviews & approves ICUDE applications and notifies DE Program Directors.

Tuesday, April 28: All applicants are notified by their DE Program Directors and a joint-press release is issued.

May-July: WFCU posts social media profiles promoting the new class of ICUDES and their projects. Simultaneous promotion of WCUC recognition activities.

July: Formal ICUDE recognition events occur virtually, in-person or hybrid at the World Credit Union Conference.