

UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH MODULE RECORD

SECTION A: DEFINITIVE MODULE RECORD. *Proposed changes must be submitted via Faculty/AP Quality Procedures for approval and issue of new module code.*

MODULE CODE: MLA639 **MODULE TITLE:** Methods for Sustainability Research
CREDITS: 20 **FHEQ LEVEL:** 6 **HECOS CODE(S):** 100381, 100469
PRE-REQUISITES: None **CO-REQUISITES:** None **COMPENSATABLE:** Y

SHORT MODULE DESCRIPTOR: *(max 425 characters)*

This module enables learners to explore quantitative and qualitative methods in sustainability research, notably survey, ethnographic research, introductory GIS, and rudimentary statistics. It achieves this through lectures, the analysis of existing research case studies and application of research methods to a proposed community-based case study.

ELEMENTS OF ASSESSMENT [Use HESA KIS definitions] – see Definitions of Elements and Components of Assessment			
C1 (Coursework)	80%	P1 (Practical)	20%

SUBJECT ASSESSMENT PANEL to which module should be linked: MLA

Professional body minimum pass mark requirement: NA

MODULE AIMS:

The aim of this module is to give students a grounding in the various methodological options they might take when research issues of sustainability, coherently linking this module to the final Honours Project experience. Students will start by reflecting upon past work, practicing methods of their own, and then develop a proposal for a study close to home.

ASSESSED LEARNING OUTCOMES: (additional guidance below; please refer to the Programme Specification for relevant Programme Intended Learning Outcomes.

At the end of the module the learner will be expected to be able to:

Assessed Module Learning Outcomes (ALOs)	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) contributed to
1. Competently use various quantitative and qualitative methods for researching sustainability.	8.3.2 , 8.4.2, 8.5.1
2. Reflect on research methods in the context of existing case studies.	8.2.2, 8.4.1
3. Apply appropriate research methods to a personal community-based case study.	8.2.3, 8.4.3, 8.5.2
	8.3.1

4. Communicate findings in a professional manner, written, and through verbal presentation.	
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DATE OF APPROVAL: 07/06/22	FACULTY/OFFICE: Academic Partnerships
DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION: May 2023	SCHOOL/PARTNER: MLA
DATE(S) OF APPROVED CHANGE: N/A	SEMESTER: ALL YEAR

Additional Guidance for Learning Outcomes:

To ensure that the module is pitched at the right level check your intended learning outcomes against the following nationally agreed standards

- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf>
- Subject benchmark statements <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements>
- Professional, regulatory and statutory (PSRB) accreditation requirements (where necessary e.g. health and social care, medicine, engineering, psychology, architecture, teaching, law)
- QAA Quality Code <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

SECTION B: DETAILS OF TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Items in this section must be considered annually and amended as appropriate, in conjunction with the Module Review Process. Some parts of this page may be used in the KIS return and published on the extranet as a guide for prospective students. Further details for current students should be provided in module guidance notes.

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2023/4

NATIONAL COST CENTRE: 124 (Geography and Environment)

MODULE LEADER: Aoife Sadlier

OTHER MODULE STAFF: Paul Wright

Summary of Module Content

This module seeks to show how various quantitative and qualitative research methods can be used in the context of sustainability research. The module foregrounds UN SDGs 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goal), encouraging learners to reflect on the ways in which researchers might address the investigation of a research problem. Quantitative methods will include an introduction to the use of GIS, and using quantitative data for analysis of similarity, difference, and relationship. The module will be assessed via an essay that explores a proposed community-based project, based upon reflections on existing research case studies, along with mapping and analysis of data. The presentation of this study to tutor and peers will conclude the module

SUMMARY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING [Use HESA KIS definitions]		
Scheduled Activities	Hours	Comments/Additional Information (briefly explain activities, including formative assessment opportunities)
Lectures	20	Lecture, small group discussions, chance for interactive class participation, assessment, and feedback.
Tutorials	20	Discussions that are either with peers and tutor or between student and tutor. Formative tasks will be included here, with opportunity for feedback at next tutorial.
Self-study	140	Designing a proposed community-based project and analysing existing case studies on research methods, based on direction from tutor and personal research.
Practical	20	Mapping and statistics workshops
Total	<u>200</u>	(NB: 1 credit = 10 hours of learning; 10 credits = 100 hours, etc.)

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Element Category	Component Name	Component Weighting
Coursework	Research proposal based on a proposed community-based case study of significance to the learner, drawing on appropriate methods. ALOs 1, 2,4 [2500 words]	100%
Practical	Delivery of a 15-minute presentation on research methods in a selected case study. ALOS 2,3,4	100%

REFERRAL ASSESSMENT

Element Category	Component Name	Component Weighting
Coursework	Research proposal based on a proposed community-based case study of significance to the learner, drawing on appropriate methods.	100%
Practical	Delivery of a 15-minute presentation on research methods in a selected case study.	100%

To be completed when presented for Minor Change approval and/or annually updated

Updated by:	Date: XX/XX/XXXX	Approved by:	Date: XX/XX/XXXX
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