

**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:** MLA720                      **MODULE TITLE:** Researching Sustainability  
**CREDITS:** 30                                  **FHEQ LEVEL:** 7                                  **HECOS CODE(S):** 100381, 100469  
**PRE-REQUISITES:** None                      **CO-REQUISITES:** None                      **COMPENSATABLE:** Y

**SHORT MODULE DESCRIPTOR:** *(max 425 characters)*

This module enables learners to evaluate and explore quantitative and qualitative methods in sustainability research, notably survey, ethnographic and participatory action research, introductory GIS, and rudimentary statistics, foregrounding UN SDGs 11 and 17. It achieves this through lectures, the analysis of existing research case studies and application of research methods to a proposed community-based case study.

<b>ELEMENTS OF ASSESSMENT</b> <i>[Use HESA KIS definitions]</i> – see <a href="#">Definitions of Elements and Components of Assessment</a>			
<b>C1</b> (Coursework)	80%	<b>P1</b> (Practical)	20%

**SUBJECT ASSESSMENT PANEL to which module should be linked:** MLA

**Professional body minimum pass mark requirement:** NA

**MODULE AIMS:** This module aims to allow students to explore and apply relevant qualitative and quantitative methods in sustainability research. It seeks to encourage students to engage with existing literature and fieldwork examples and to present a case study to their peers, thus fostering their communication skills. The latter will offer a solid preparation for the ‘Research Project’ module.

**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:

<b>Assessed Module Learning Outcomes (ALOs)</b>	<b>Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) contributed to</b>
1. Evaluate various quantitative and qualitative methods for researching sustainability.	8.2.2, 8.4.1
2. Explore the role of leadership, organisations and communities in sustainable development, with reference to UN SDGs 11 and 17.	8.1.3

3. Reflect on research methods in the context of existing case studies.	8.2.2
4. Apply appropriate research methods to a personal community-based case study.	8.4.1, 8.4.2, 8.5.1, 8.5.2
5. Communicate findings in a professional manner, written, and through verbal presentation.	8.3.1, 8.3.2, 8.3.3

<b>DATE OF APPROVAL:</b> 07/06/2022	<b>FACULTY/OFFICE:</b> Academic Partnerships
<b>DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:</b> January 2024	<b>SCHOOL/PARTNER:</b> MLA
<b>DATE(S) OF APPROVED CHANGE:</b> N/A	<b>SEMESTER:</b> 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: 2024****MODULE LEADER: Aoife Sadlier****NATIONAL COST CENTRE:****OTHER MODULE STAFF: Paul Wright****Summary of Module Content**

This module seeks to evaluate and apply various quantitative and qualitative research methods 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 role of leadership, organisations and communities in the quest for sustainable development. 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 an analysis of data. The presentation of this study to tutor and peers will conclude the module.

<b>SUMMARY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING [Use HESA KIS definitions]</b>		
<b>Scheduled Activities</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Comments/Additional Information (briefly explain activities, including formative assessment opportunities)</b>
Lectures	30	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	110	Designing a proposed community-based project and analysing existing case studies on research methods, based on direction from tutor and personal research.
Practical	40	Preparing for and delivering an assessed presentation in a selected tutorial, GIS and statistics worksheets
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>(NB: 1 credit = 10 hours of learning; 10 credits = 100 hours, etc.)</b>

**SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT**

<b>Element Category</b>	<b>Component Name</b>	<b>Component Weighting</b>
Coursework	Reflective essay that seeks to evaluate the research methods used in existing case studies. ALOs 1, 4, 5	25%
	Essay based on a proposed community-based case study of significance to the learner, drawing on appropriate methods. ALOS 2,3,5	75%
	[4000 words]	100%

Practical	Delivery of a 15-minute presentation on research methods in a selected case study. ALOs 3, 5	100%
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**REFERRAL ASSESSMENT**

Element Category	Component Name	Component Weighting
Coursework	Development of a proposed scheme of work with a community, with a full and reflective methodology section	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**

<b>Updated by:</b> XX/XX/XXXX	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Approved by:</b> Date: XX/XX/XXXX
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