



Module Specification

Tropical Expedition

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Tropical Expedition

Module code: USSK59-15-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2022-23

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Applied Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Frenchay Campus

Field: Applied Sciences

Module type: Professional Practice

Pre-requisites: Life on Earth 2022-23

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module examines the ecology of tropical ecosystems and the field and analytical methods used to survey and assess these ecosystems. When possible, students will have the choice of going either on an expedition to Cuba or to

Madagascar. Students will attend workshops and tutorials relevant to their particular expedition.

Outline syllabus:

Ecology and environments of tropical ecosystems. Including ecology of tropical populations of reptiles, birds, fish and mammals and the methods and techniques used to study them.

Techniques in floristic identification, diversity and collection. Assessment of plant species distribution and abundance in the tropics. Introduction to forest gap dynamics.

Techniques in faunistic identification, diversity and collection. Assessment of animal species distribution and abundance in the tropics. Factors affecting the diversity and distribution of tropical animals. Biological interactions and community structure. Symbiotic relationships.

Threats to tropical ecosystems and conservation measures. Examples may include coral reef conservation and reef health or conserving threatened primates or reptiles through tropical forest restoration.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Not applicable

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Undertake ecological field work in tropical ecosystems and describe the problems and limitations of working in tropical environments

MO2 Undertake and describe in detail, field surveys to assess the populations of tropical fauna and flora

MO3 Critically evaluate field survey techniques used in tropical environments

MO4 Discuss current theories of tropical ecosystem ecology

MO5 Demonstrate core transferable skills through team work, project management, time management, independent research and communication

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 46 hours

Face-to-face learning = 104 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ussk59-15-3.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ussk59-15-3.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy has been designed to support and enhance the development of practical skills, whilst ensuring that the modules learning outcomes are attained. The focus is on assessments that link directly to employability skills as described below. The aims of this module are to develop practical skills and knowledge of the techniques used to study tropical ecosystems.

Component A is based on achieving a satisfactory level of skill in field tests. Both elements must be passed.

Component B: The ability to record notes and collect accurate data in the field is assessed through two field logs that will be completed by hand in the field. Due to the nature of the information collected in the logbooks a word count is not appropriate. Taking part in a scientific expedition to the tropics provides students with a unique opportunity to work in a difficult environment with local experts. In these challenging conditions, students develop essential skills in endurance, tolerance, team working, organisation and time management. These are all key graduate skills. These skills are developed and demonstrated through the production of these comprehensive field logbooks.

Assessment components:

Practical Skills Assessment - Component A (First Sit)

Description: Field Tests

(Pass/Fail)

Weighting:

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Report - Component B (First Sit)

Description: Field log book (1)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Report - Component B (First Sit)

Description: Field log book (2)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Examination - Component A (Resit)

Description: Examination on field techniques in the tropics (1 hour)

(Pass/Fail)

Weighting:

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Written Assignment - Component B (Resit)

Description: 3000 word extended essay

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Integrated Wildlife Conservation {Top-Up} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][1yr] BSc (Hons)
2022-23

Biological Sciences [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Biological Sciences [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] MSci 2020-21

Environmental Science [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] MSci 2020-21

Environmental Science [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] MSci 2020-21

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Sep][FT][Zoo][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][5yrs]
MSci 2019-20

Biological Sciences {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Biological Sciences [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Biological Sciences [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] MSci 2019-20

Biological Sciences {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][5yrs] MSci 2019-20

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] MSci 2019-20

Environmental Science [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Environmental Science {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Environmental Science {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][5yrs] MSci 2019-20

Environmental Science [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] MSci 2019-20

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Zoo][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Sep][SW][Zoo][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Environmental Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] MSci 2018-19

Biological Sciences {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19

Environmental Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] MSci 2018-19

Biological Sciences {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] MSci 2018-19

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Zoo][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19