Module Specification

Environmental Challenges

Version: 2026-27, v3.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Environmental Challenges

Module code: UBGLXD-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Architecture and Environment

Partner institutions: None

Field: Geography and Environmental Management

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module will introduce students to the science behind key environmental challenges that face humankind during the 21st century, such as climate change and biodiversity loss. Throughout the module students will also learn and practice a range of data and statistical skills.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module aims to provide a theoretical and practical study of key environmental challenges facing humans and the environment - for example climate change and environmental hazards, and ecological challenges and biodiversity loss. Students will explore a range of different environmental challenges and build key foundational knowledge which is later developed in specialist Level 5 and 6 modules.

Alongside the disciplinary knowledge students will develop and practice a range of geographical and environmental data skills. This will include the manipulation, analysis and presentation of datasets. There will also be a component in the module where students gain an understanding of and apply foundational geographical statistical approaches. The focus throughout being how we can use data and statistical methods to explore a range of key environmental challenges.

Outline syllabus: This module will involve the study of the science behind various key environmental challenges, which may include:

Climate change

Soil use and management

Ecological and biodiversity challenges

Pollution

Sustainable resources

Air Quality

Alongside the thematic content above the module cover key academic data analysis and communication skills. This will include an introduction to commonly used statistical approaches in geographical and environmental research.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will be taught using a combination of lectures, seminars and practicals and will be assessed via coursework.

The lectures will be used to teach the theoretical content of the module, which will be assessed by the written assignments. Where possible these lectures will be interactive in nature with activities embedded to encourage student engagement with the taught content. Some lectures throughout the module will also support foundational data skills and statistical knowledge.

Seminars and practicals will be used to develop and apply data skills to a range of thematic scenarios covered on the module and allow students to complete their assessed coursework assignments. Formative feedback will also be available in these sessions. The incremental nature of the assessment tasks and weekly support sessions will encourage continuous student engagement with the module and assessment.

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

MO1 Demonstrate an understanding of the science behind climate change and the associated challenges facing society in the 21st century.

MO2 Demonstrate an understanding of fundamental ecological processes and the challenges facing the worlds ecosystems in the 21st century.

MO3 Analyse, communicate and visualise data relating to key environmental challenges using a variety of tools and methods.

MO4 Select and apply appropriate approaches and statistical methods to investigate a defined environmental challenge.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubglxd-30-1.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: This module will have two core assessment types:

Term 1 Written Practical Workbook: In Term 1 the focus of the module will be on thematic content delivery (building a core understanding for development in Level's 5 and 6) and basic data analysis and communication skills. The assessment for Term 1 take the form of a practical workbook. In completing the assessment for this students bring together practical work completed in the module's weekly timetabled seminars for assessment.

Term 2 Written Report: The focus of Term 2 is developing more advanced data analysis and statistical skills. Students will apply these skills to a specific environmental scenario/case study to demonstrate their learning and ability to use these skills to investigate an environmental challenge. The assessment for this is a written report assignment where students will include the results of their statistical analysis and include a written interpretation/summary.

Formative feedback for all assessments on the module will be continuously available through the modules timetabled sessions.

The resit tasks for all assessments will be the same as the first sit. This allows students to use feedback to maximise performance.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Written Assignment: Practical Workbook

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Written Assignment: Data Skills Report

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Written Assignment: Practical Workbook

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Written Assignment: Data Skills Report

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Environmental Management and Practice {Foundation} [GCET] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Environmental Management and Practice {Foundation} [GCET] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Environmental Management and Practice {Foundation} [GCET] DipHE 2025-26

Environment and Sustainability {Apprenticeship-UWE}[Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

Environment and Sustainability [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

Geography [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2026-27

Geography [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

Geography [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2026-27

Geography [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27