



## **Module Specification**

### **Social and Environmental Research**

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#### **Contents**

<b>Module Specification .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Part 1: Information .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 2: Description .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 3: Teaching and learning methods .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Part 4: Assessment.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Part 5: Contributes towards .....</b>	<b>7</b>

## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Social and Environmental Research

**Module code:** UBGLXX-30-2

**Level:** Level 5

**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 provides students with in-depth training and experience in social and environmental research methods. The module progresses through quantitative methods (surveys and observational data), qualitative methods (interviews, focus groups, visual methods, qualitative GIS), and finally mixed-methods research.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** This module aims to provide students with necessary knowledge and skills training in social and environmental research methods. The module covers the whole process of research design; it starts with a focus on the initial selection of a topic and definition of the Research Aim, Questions, and Objectives, second the module covers the philosophical underpinnings of different approaches and research ethics next it turns to the design and conduct of a range of social and environmental research methods, and finally it focuses on the analysis and writing up of the research project.

**Outline syllabus:** The syllabus has a substantive applied project/fieldwork element to enable students to undertake social science research in field locations, building towards their final year dissertation. The topics covered include, for example:

Introduction to the social and environmental research process:

Generating ideas for research

Research design

Research strategies and questions

Values and ethical issues in social science research

Reviewing the literature and secondary data sources

Quantitative methods for social and environmental research:

Questionnaire design

Sampling techniques

Data analysis

Statistical techniques

Qualitative methods for social and environmental research:

Interviews

Focus groups

Observation

Visual approaches

Context for social and environmental field trip destination:

Historical and geographical context

Itineraries

Health and safety issues

Ethical issues

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** Scheduled learning includes lectures, tutorials, project supervision, workshops and fieldwork. A key component of the teaching and skills development on this module is the group work element of the assessment. Students are supported to work in groups, taking on the task of conducting research as a team. The group work in this module leads on from previous experience in the research training modules at L1.

Independent learning includes time engaged with essential reading, assessment preparation and assessment completion.

Students will receive regular hours of contact time per week.

This will be in a range of formats, including weekly keynote lectures, tutorial or computer-based sessions, virtual discussion groups and support via email.

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

**MO1** Search, organise and critically evaluate academic literature.

**MO2** Formulate relevant and realistic research questions, based upon academic literature, and use these to develop, critically evaluate and carry out a variety of methods appropriate to social and environmental research.

**MO3** Work effectively within groups to prepare and carry out research projects in a range of social and environmental research topics, demonstrating transferable skills that they will take into their working lives.

**MO4** Present proposals for, and findings of, research projects in a range of social and environmental sub-disciplines, using written, oral, and visual communication (reports and presentations).

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 150 hours

Face-to-face learning = 150 hours

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubglxx-30-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubglxx-30-2.html>

## Part 4: Assessment

**Assessment strategy:** Group Presentation - (Field trip presentation) (20 minutes per group) Students will submit their plans for their main research project prior to the field trip to allow time for changes in response to feedback received. In addition, a selection of presentations given during the field trip contribute towards the summative assessment; students will receive feedback after each presentation designed to improve performance on the remaining presentations.

Individual research report on a group project (1,500 words) x2 - (Report 1 and Report 2). Assessment in Term 1 is focussed on two short research reports that detail students' group work on two research projects. These reports will support students development of professional/technical writing. Students will undertake a quantitative study and a qualitative study, and be expected to analyse and write up the results of each in two separate reports. The reports will include: Introduction, literature review, aims and RQs, methods, results and discussion, and conclusions.

Resit individual research report (1,500 words) x2

(Report 1 and Report 2) - This is an individual version of the original group-based Term 1 assignment. Students will undertake a quantitative study and a qualitative study, and be expected to analyse and write up the results of each in two separate reports. The reports will include: Introduction, literature review, aims and RQs, methods, results and discussion, and conclusions.

Resit Presentation - since group work is not a learning outcome of this module, Individual presentations will be used for resits of this task. The brief will be written to ensure the relevant learning outcomes are tested.

### **Assessment tasks:**

#### **Presentation (First Sit)**

Description: Field trip presentations (20 minutes per group approx).

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

#### **Report (First Sit)**

Description: Individual research report (Report 1) on a group project (1,500 words) - Quantitative research project.

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

#### **Report (First Sit)**

Description: Individual research report (Report 2) on a group project (1,500 words) - Qualitative research project.

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Presentation (Resit)**

Description: Individual presentation (15 mins) on the design, conduct, and results of a mixed methods research project.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Report (Resit)**

Description: Individual research report (Report 1)  
(1,500 words) - Quantitative research project.

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Report (Resit)**

Description: Individual research report (Report 2)  
(1,500 words) - Qualitative research project.

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Geography [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26

Environmental Management [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Environment and Sustainability [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26