Module Specification

Dynamic Earth

Version: 2026-27, v2.0, Approved

Contents

Module Specification 1

Part 1: Information 2

Part 2: Description 2

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods 3

Part 4: Assessment 5

Part 5: Contributes towards 8

Part 1: Information

Module title: Dynamic Earth

Module code: UBGLYD-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 explores a range of themes fundamental to the understanding of the physical environment, geomorphology and landscape interpretation and evolution. It also develops core practical skills for investigating processes and landforms.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: Through this modules students will explore a range of themes fundamental to understanding the physical environment, geomorphology and landscape interpretation and evolution. This core foundational module to the programme develops students understanding of processes, landforms and spatial and temporal scales which is essential for understanding specialist processes in modules in Levels 5 and 6.

The module is very practical in nature. Students learning is structured and supported through practical sessions and iterative and integrative assessment to develop core practical skills, in both laboratory and computer-based settings, to investigate processes and landforms. Students also are encouraged to develop assessment and feedback literacy throughout the module through continuous summative and formative assessment and feedback.

Outline syllabus: This module will introduce you to the processes that shape the surface of the earth at a range of scales. This will involve the study of various aspects of physical geography, which may include:

Tectonics
Weathering and erosion
Slope processes
Meteorology
Hydrology
Glacial geomorphology
Periglacial geomorphology
Karst geomorphology
Arid geomorphology
Long term landscape evolution

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: There will be two types of timetabled activity for this module. Over the course of the year the module will be divided into a number of

core themes linked to the outline syllabus. Each theme will have its own approach to teaching and assessment.

Lectures - In lectures students will explore a diverse range of topics and relevant to the module content. Key thematic content will be explored which develops students understanding of key processes and landforms.

Practicals - In both laboratory and computer-based practicals students will put into practice the theory covered in the lectures and develop core skills to investigate processes and landforms at a range of spatial and temporal scales. In these practical sessions students will be completing a series of assessed tasks which form the basis of the assessment for each theme. Therefore continuous engagement with the modules assessment and tutor formative feedback is encouraged through practical attendance.

Given the diverse topic content of the module throughout links will be made to other modules and topics, including the Field Study module and specialist modules which expand on the core knowledge gained in this module at Levels 5 and 6.

Given the module has a number of very practical and iterative assessments which are completely integrated with the timetabled practical sessions students are supporting in using both summative and formative feedback to enhance their work across the course of the module. This develops students assessment and feedback literacy and core academic skills needed for successful university study.

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

MO1 Demonstrate understanding of fundamental geological and tectonic processes and landforms drawing on practical outputs and academic literature.

MO2 Demonstrate understanding of fundamental hydrological and catchment processes and landforms drawing on practical outputs and academic literature.

MO3 Demonstrate understanding of fundamental geomorphological processes and landforms in extreme environments drawing on practical outputs and academic literature.

MO4 Evidence an ability to produce accurate and professional analytical outputs on earth science practical activities in a range of formats.

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/ubglyd-30-1.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Each of the module themes will be assessed with a practical skills-based assessment. Each assessment will have a maximum length of 1000 words plus practical outputs. For each assessment students are expected to complete a series of practical exercises in taught sessions and use academic literature to consider how the findings relate to the theoretical concepts.

This module has a ‘short and frequent’ assessment for learning approach designed to develop core skills and good academic practice at Level 4. Specifically, this approach aims to:

1. Develop and apply a range of transferable practical and academic skills and consolidate theoretical understanding through tasks related to the themes examined. The practical sessions (lab, and PC lab based) will provide experience and training in observation, recording, analysis, and clear, appropriate and concise communication of outputs. The ‘short and frequent’ assessment for learning approach of the module enables students to develop and continuously practice a

broad range of such transferable data and academic skills.

2. Support student engagement with academic literature and practice appropriate use of such to contextualize practical outputs and datasets.

3. Provide a base of key skills (see point 1) that are applicable, and will be further developed, at Levels 5 and 6; these include: analysis of online secondary data, production of primary data, appropriate communication of outputs, appropriate use of concise descriptive statements, and analysis of maps.

4. Provide opportunities for students to develop assessment and feedback literacy and academic practice. Students will have opportunities, within the scheduled practical/workshop sessions, to receive formative feedback on the outputs they are producing and the related written elements. This gives students the opportunity to maximise performance within task. Further, students will be encouraged and supported to reflect on previous summative feedback and provided with guidance in identifying action points to feed-forward into subsequent assignments on the module – this is again enabled by the ‘short and frequent’ submission approach.

Resit – For all tasks the same brief will be used at resit so that students can benefit from summative feedback to enhance their work prior to resubmission.

Assessment tasks:

Practical Skills Assessment (First Sit)
Description: Practical Task 1
Weighting: 25 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO4

Practical Skills Assessment (First Sit)
Description: Practical Task 3
Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO4

Practical Skills Assessment (First Sit)
Description: Practical Task 2
Weighting: 25 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO4

Practical Skills Assessment (First Sit)
Description: Practical Task 4
Weighting: 25 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Practical Skills Assessment (Resit)
Description: Practical Task 1
Weighting: 25 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO4

Practical Skills Assessment (Resit)
Description: Practical Task 3
Weighting: 25 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO4

Practical Skills Assessment (Resit)
Description: Practical Task 2

Weighting: 25 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO4

Practical Skills Assessment (Resit)
Description: Practical Task 4
Weighting: 25 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Geography [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

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