Module Specification

Understanding Coastal Dynamics

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Understanding Coastal Dynamics

Module code: UBGMLE-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2028-29

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

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 supports students to develop a detailed understanding of coastal processes and landforms whilst also developing field, laboratory, spatial and academic skills.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module aims to provide a theoretical and practical foundation to the study of coastal processes and landforms. It develops field, GIS

and laboratory skills that are also practiced elsewhere in the programmes and some students will chose to apply this knowledge to a module Managing Rivers and Coasts in their final year.

Outline syllabus: The syllabus includes:

Lecture topics:
Coastal processes: waves and tides
Estuary processes and landforms
Erosional coasts
Wave dominated coasts
Tide dominated coasts
Wind dominated coasts

Practical topics:
Aerial photograph and geological map interpretation
Particle size and shape analysis
Field data collection

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning on this module includes lectures, practical classes and fieldwork.

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

Students will receive – on average - 3 hours' contact time per week. This will be in a range of formats, including weekly keynote lectures, paper or computer-based practical sessions and fieldwork.

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

MO1 Use computer, laboratory and field data to effectively investigate, describe and explain a variety of process and form inter-relationships in natural coastal systems.

MO2 Demonstrate a critical awareness of different ways of conceptualising natural coastal systems and the associated academic literature.

MO3 Produce a portfolio of laboratory exercises and coherent written arguments describing influence of coastal processes on the development of coastal landforms.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 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/ubgmle-15-2.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment for this module is designed to assess:

The application of theoretical understanding of coastal landforms developed in the lectures applied to a series of computer and laboratory practical sessions. This will be assessed in a portfolio of practical exercises and a field visit.

Summative Assessment:

Practical Portfolio (Equivalent to 3000 words). The lecture, practical and seminar sessions in this module will all support students to develop their portfolio providing feedback on student's progress throughout and in a 1-2-1 discussion of a draft submission.

Resit Portfolio - a similar brief to that described above.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Practical portfolio (3000 words)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: Practical portfolio (3000 words)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Environment and Sustainability {Apprenticeship-UWE}[Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Environmental Management {Apprenticeship-UWE}[Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26