Module Specification

The Sustainable Organisation: Vision into Practice

Version: 2024-25, v1.0, 14 Jun 2024

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: The Sustainable Organisation: Vision into Practice

Module code: UBLL33-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2024-25

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: Architecture and the Built Environment

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: The practice-based approach has a focus on the need for organisations to rethink their processes and practices for tackling challenges of sustainability. The module therefore emphasizes examining what real-world organisations do. Reflexivity is a crucial part of practice-based approach as an active stance and an ethical interest in the sustainable organization process. Meaning what is the influence on decisions and revisiting deep-held and unquestioned assumptions that makes possible social change, empowerment, and activism.

The written assignment will be based on a practice-based template to create a proposal for an organisation. For example, we will use journey mapping emphasizing sustainability, and the shared proposal resulting from it can be used to communicate an understanding for transformation involved. The maps can also become the basis for decision making as the organisation moves forward.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes.

Outline syllabus: Introduction to a selection of sustainability and responsible management concepts and debates relevant to the study of sustainable organisation.

Analysis of the contextual pressures deriving from the resource scarcity and ecosystem degradation and social justice and assessment of their interrelationship with operations and strategy of organisations in a variety of sectors.

The practice-based approach to change aimed at making a organisation more sustainable and the capabilities necessary for managing sustainability driven organisational change ethically in the local situation and global context.

The complex challenges in responding to the current 'sustainability crisis' - the issues of accountability, decision making, problem definition and prioritisation, power, collaboration and ethics of adaptation.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Learning strategy: Inspired by the teaching of bell hooks, SOViP students confront the challenges and opportunities of integrating sustainability into organisational strategy and learn how diverse organisations manage their social and environmental performance in a variety of industries.

As part of an international program, SOViP considers the influence of national and cultural differences in approaches to sustainability and preparations for

transformational change.

Overall, the module is governed by the principles of critical participatory pedagogy and aims to 1) develop students' understanding of complexities and challenges in implementing a vision of sustainable organisation; 2) improve their ability to evaluate, advise on, and/or lead appropriate sustainability related interventions in a variety of organisational and industrial settings, while appreciating their contextual, historical and cultural diversity, and 3) enhance their confidence in making choices about tools, techniques, strategies and policies that match a specific organisation's needs. The sources of case study material will vary depending on the circumstances of the student. The principal sources will be the workplace (for those students that are in employment) and organisations to which students and the University have existing links, including the team and board that have responsibility for embedding sustainability in UWE's governance and operations. Students will be introduced to relevant analytical techniques which they can apply to an organisational context, and also encouraged to develop communication skills focusing on the clarity of argument, critical questioning and informed persuasiveness.

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

>   **MO1** Demonstrate a critical understanding of how and why sustainability issues provide and create direction in practices and processes in organisations

>   **MO2** Justify a process framework to evaluate what transformational change entails and how responsible management is practised.

>   **MO3** Critically evaluate the value of use of reflexivity-for-practice in reviewing ethical and sustainable organisation practice.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

>   Independent study/self-guided study = 125 hours

>   Face-to-face learning = 25 hours

>   Total = 0

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at

readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link

https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/66C7CECB-23CA-8058-D438-29F6E415144D.html?lang=en-GB&login=1

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy is designed to assess learning outcomes which range from the appreciation of a set of interrelated and complex issues to the ability to apply specific analytical and strategy formulation techniques. The focus of the module is the organisation and a real-world case study organisation provides the ideal vehicle for assessing the ability to apply analytical and strategy formulation techniques. The document is more than a descriptive case study. The use of analytical tools will be assessed as will the ability to conceive imaginative proposals which reflect the complexity of the organisations environment. Formative assessment and feedback will be provided throughout the module based on regular discussions of all early ideas thus providing a rich source of information and inspiration. A number of sessions have been built into the module timetable for this purpose. In addition to offering formative feedback on individual assignment ideas, this will also provide assurances that the assignment work submitted is the student's own.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)
Description: Practice based organisation proposal (2,500 words)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Written Assignment (Resit)
Description: Practice based organisation proposal (2,500 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:

Sustainable Development in Practice [Frenchay] MSc 2024-25

Sustainable Development in Practice [Frenchay] MSc 2024-25