Module Specification

Environmental Assessment

Version: 2021-22, v2.0, 19 Jul 2021

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Environmental Assessment

Module code: UBGLXM-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2021-22

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Environment & Technology

Department: FET Dept of Geography & Envrnmental Mgmt

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Frenchay Campus

Field: Geography and Environmental Management

Module type: Standard

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Excluded combinations: UBGMBW-15-M EIA

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: In addition to the Learning Outcomes, the educational experience may explore, develop, and practise but not formally discretely assess the following:

Team work

Scheduling and recording work tasks

Outline syllabus: The syllabus includes:

Role of statutory bodies in environmental management and promotion of sustainability in the UK.

Origin and evolution of EIA practice; history, development. Driving forces for EIA implementation such as World Bank, UN, EU and varying implementation world wide.

EU and UK legislative framework and requirements for EIA in relevant legislation.

Environmental monitoring methodologies, interpretation of environmental data and the development of environmental information; quality assurance of environmental data and information.

Components of EIA process; scoping, impact assessment; reporting; decision making, review of Environmental Statements, including best practice in undertaking EIAs.

Public consultation and participation in environmental decision making in developed and developing countries.

EIA and environmental management and planning in developing countries.

Case studies of EIA in practice in the UK and other countries.

Overview of Strategic Environmental Assessment and planning for sustainability in new developments.

Application of the Habitats Directive and the role of Appropriate Assessment.

Sustainability in the construction and development industry.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Nominal hours:
Directed learning (lectures, workshops): 36 hours
Directed independent learning: 36 hours
Independent research: 38 hours
Assessment: 40 hours

Students will undertake learning in several ways that interlink.

Scheduled learning will comprise practical tasks, field visit(s) and group work to support the independent learning and coursework and lectures. Lectures will provide a framework for understanding the reading and key issues covered by the module. They will also explore a range of critical issues such as problems and issues in the application of EIA and environmental management techniques in the UK and elsewhere.

Independent learning based on online resources covers essential technical content that students must engage with to be prepared for their professional lives. That material leads into case studies that are undertaken partly in independent study time and partly in group work in class where critical discussion and evaluation provides feedback. These case studies also link to other case studies in class time.

Module Learning outcomes:

MO1 Critically interpret and evaluate relevant legislation associated with the application of Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment

MO2 Formulate an approach and plan of study for an impact assessment, including recommending appropriate EIA techniques, public participation and

consultation provisions and presentation of findings in line with government and international best practice guidance

MO3 Critically evaluate a wide range of approaches to promoting sustainability, both statutory and voluntary and understand their inter-relationships

MO4 Understand and apply best practice principles to approaches that aim to incorporate sustainability into all stages of the project life-cycle from project conception and Strategic Environmental Assessment, through EIA and land use planning, to construction, operation and business management, including decommissioning and re-use of sites and materials

MO5 Contextualize environmental assessment legislation and best practice in a particular country

MO6 Critically evaluate environmental monitoring data and information, and apply appropriate quality assurance in environmental assessment

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

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/ubglxm-15-m.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment is formed of a report (Comp. B) and a written assignment (Comp. A).

Component A (essay) will assess students' understanding of wider issues with environmental assessment requiring in depth reading and research in preparation for the submission of a 2000 word academic essay.

Component B (report) is formed of two parts and will assess writing skills and reasoning that students will need in practice via a professional output. It is vital that students are able to write in a technical and non-technical way, synthesizing technical information for a variety of audiences for their future professional work. This will be evidenced in the first part of their report by their producing an individual EIA Non-technical summary of a development proposal case study for coursework with a additional critical appraisal of the case study development. There is a group work process that leads up to the production of this report which requires technical writing which students will obtain feedback on. Students need to be able to identify the appropriate elements of best practice, relevant guidance and good comparative examples to inform their work. The second part of the coursework report is a critical assessment of the case study development and the EIA processes relating to it, in the light of best practice. The coursework report output is individual and the coursework assessment is 2000 words comprising both the Non-technical summary and the critical appraisal)

Assessment components:

Written Assignment - Component A (First Sit)
Description: Written assignment, essay (2000 words)
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO5

Report - Component B (First Sit)
Description: EIA report (individual) (2000 words)
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO4, MO6

Written Assignment - Component A (Resit)

Description: Written assignment, essay (2000 words)
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested:

Report - Component B (Resit)
Description: EIA report (individual) (2,000 words)
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Environmental Consultancy [Sep][PT][Frenchay][2yrs] MSc 2020-21

Master of Planning [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19