Programme Specification

Environmental Consultancy [Frenchay]

Version: 2024-25, v2.0, Validated

Contents

Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Environmental Consultancy [Frenchay]

Highest award: MSc Environmental Consultancy

Interim award: PGCert Environmental Consultancy

Interim award: PGDip Environmental Consultancy

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: Yes

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CATE School of Architecture and Environment, College of Arts, Technology and Environment

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies:

Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)

Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP)

Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)

Modes of delivery: Full-time, Part-time

Entry requirements: For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website.

For implementation from: 01 September 2020

Programme code: F90012

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: Environmental Consultancy is a fast growing sector in the global economy which demands specialist postgraduate courses which combine academic study with professional practice.

The MSc Environmental Consultancy provides a distinctive educational and professional practice programme to meet the requirements of the environmental consultancy sector providing both a higher and deeper level of expertise than that typically associated with an environmental science or management related undergraduate qualification. The ability to meet the higher educational challenge demanded of a masters student provides for a distinct advantage:

To those already in consultancy practice needing career development in new areas of knowledge and professional skills,
and
To those wishing to enter a range of environmental consultancy fields.

The overall aim of the programme is to provide a broadly based vocational education at postgraduate level that is academically rigorous and develops the professional skills of an environmental consultant practitioner.

The programme provides an opportunity for graduates and existing consultants to explore the theory and practice of contemporary environmental problems in depth and develop both subject-specific and advanced practitioner skills.

Features of the programme: Student learning is supported by a range of staff including academics, researchers, practioners, UWE careers staff, staff from UWE marketing department and practicing consultants.

A placement which provides experience of working within and environmental

consultancies. Support for finding placements comes from the placement office which in liaison with academic staff provides a database of opportunities. In addition support from the UWE careers services enables students to develop and hone their CVs and placement applications.

Academic staff who act as placement tutors. Their role is to review and approve placement learning agreements and the placement tasks to ensure they provide the opportunity to develop appropriate professional and consultancy skills, visit students whilst on placement, interview placement providers and provide guidance and support for students whilst on placement.

A programme steering group comprising programme staff and practicing environmental consultants which regularly reviews the programme to ensure that it meets the requirements of the sector.

A distinctive feature of the faculty is the inter-professional ethos. It is anticipated that students will be drawn from a range of disciplines and with differing levels of professional experience, providing a diverse cohort character that will enrich the collaborative learning ethos that underlies the programme.

A programme leader will manage the day to day operation of the programme and liaise with module leaders in order to ensure that modules are effectively delivered. The programme leader will be assisted by a student adviser who will be the first point of contact with students. The Faculty of Environment and Technology offers a range of learning support material and staff dedicated to student support, at all levels. This includes an advanced academic skills programme. Module leaders and the programme leader will provide support via module websites and through e-mail as well as on a face-to-face basis. Students will have access to computing facilities with the necessary software, as well as the opportunity to install the required software on their own computer.

Educational Aims: The aims of the programme are:

To provide a coherent programme of study in environmental consultancy

underpinned by staff research and consultancy.

To provide a programme that is firmly rooted in the needs of professional practice and enables students to become effective environmental consultants.

To provide a programme that offers varied and flexible patterns of study suited to students and their employers.

To provide a programme that is academically challenging, relevant, and engaging which encourages students to develop their capacity for independent, analytical and reflective thought and judgment.

To encourage students to examine the link between theoretical concepts, current research and the application of environmental consultancy skills.

To equip graduates with the skills to pursue doctoral research should they so wish.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Knowledge and Understanding

A1.   The need for both a multi-disciplinary and an interdisciplinary approach in applying knowledge and understanding of environmental systems

A2.   Environmental issues and sustainable and integrated approaches to management and resolution of problems

A3.   Methods of acquiring, interpreting and analysing information and data with a critical understanding of the appropriate contexts for their use in practice

A4.   Operational and management systems, particularly project and business management for consultancy

A5.   The use of research and practice based inquiry to create, interpret and apply knowledge in the disciplines and in their own contexts

Intellectual Skills

B1.   Critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship

B2.   Apply relevant theories to the analysis of and management of processes and outcomes

B3.   Create, identify and evaluate options and provide original solutions to work-based problems sometimes with incomplete data

B4.   Challenge the status quo by demonstrating intellectual flexibility and lateral thinking

B5.   Learn through reflection on practice and experience

B6.   Evaluate methodologies, develop critiques of them and where appropriate propose new hypotheses

B7.   Design a consultancy or research programme, analyse the findings, draw conclusions and make recommendations

Subject/Professional Practice Skills

C1.   Apply learning on the programme to environmental consultancy practice

C2.   Engage creatively in project development

C3.   Participate effectively in a consultancy project programme

C4.   Design and implement a consultancy research programme

C5.   Participate in communicating project progress, strategies and outcomes

C6.   Devise costs and draw up tenders for project work

C7.   Engage in client management and communications

Transferable Skills and other attributes

D1.   Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems

D2.   Act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks

D3.   Demonstrate interpersonal skills of effective listening, negotiating and persuasion

D4.   Show self-awareness and sensitivity to diversity in people and different situations

D5.   Perform effectively in a team and project environment

D6.   Communicate effectively in a range of contexts

D7.   Understand the importance of working within a resource parameter

D8.   Seek, process and critically evaluate information and data effectively and disseminate in appropriate formats

D9.   Demonstrate the ability to make decisions in complex and unpredictable situations

D10.   Demonstrate the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

D11.   Application of IT skills in professional and technical practice

Assessment strategy: Knowledge and Understanding

Assessment of knowledge and understanding is from assessed coursework and project work. This may include including presentations, viva examination and written examination, work-based projects and production of a portfolio of work, poster and written reports.

Intellectual Skills

A variety of assessment methods is employed. Each assesses a learner's ability to demonstrate intellectual skills through assessed coursework, project work, including presentations, work-based projects, portfolio, poster and written commentary.

Subject, Professional and Practical Skills

Skills are assessed by project work and a portfolio grounded in professional practice and by role-play.

Transferable Skills and other attributes

All of the transferable skills are encapsulated within the modules. Students will be encouraged to consider how they might apply them outside their experience of their

current studies. Skill assessment is individual and in the context of team and project based learning.

Student support: Induction events ensure that students understand how to use the appropriate support facilities.

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1
Full time students must take 180 credits from the modules in Year 1.
Part time students must take 90 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Full Time)
Full time students must take 150 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGLXM-15-M	Environmental Assessment 2024-25	15
UBGLY6-30-M	Environmental Business Skills 2024-25	30
UBGMRK-60-M	Masters Project 2024-25	60
UBGMW4-45-M	Professional Practice in Environmental Sciences 2024-25	45

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Part Time)
Part time students must take 75 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGLY6-30-M	Environmental Business Skills 2024-25	30
UBGMW4-45-M	Professional Practice in Environmental Sciences 2024-25	45

Year 1 Optional Modules (Full Time)
Full time students must take 30 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Full Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGMW7-15-M	Air Quality Management 2024-25	15
UBGMU4-15-M	Introduction to Applied Geographical Information Systems (GIS) 2024-25	15
UBGLW7-15-M	Renewable Energy and Carbon Futures 2024-25	15
UBGMV4-15-M	Water Management and Law 2024-25	15

Year 1 Optional Modules (Part Time)
Part time students must take 15 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Part Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGMW7-15-M	Air Quality Management 2024-25	15
UBGMU4-15-M	Introduction to Applied Geographical Information Systems (GIS) 2024-25	15
UBGLW7-15-M	Renewable Energy and Carbon Futures 2024-25	15
UBGMV4-15-M	Water Management and Law 2024-25	15

Year 2
Part time students must take 90 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Part Time)
Part time students must take 75 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGLXM-15-M	Environmental Assessment 2025-26	15

| UBGMRK-60-M | Masters Project 2025-26 | 60 |

Year 2 Optional Modules (Part Time)
Part time students must take 15 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Part Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGMW7-15-M	Air Quality Management 2025-26	15
UBGMU4-15-M	Introduction to Applied Geographical Information Systems (GIS) 2025-26	15
UBGLW7-15-M	Renewable Energy and Carbon Futures 2025-26	15
UBGMV4-15-M	Water Management and Law 2025-26	15

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

The MSc Environmental Consultancy provides a distinctive educational and professional practice programme to meet the requirements of the environmental consultancy sector providing both a higher and deeper level of expertise than that typically associated with an environmental science or management related undergraduate qualification.

The overall aim of the programme is to provide a broadly based vocational education at postgraduate level that is academically rigorous and develops the professional skills of an environmental consultant practitioner.

It will also explore the theory and practice of contemporary environmental problems in depth and develop both subject-specific and advanced practitioner skills.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

QAA reference points

The programme has been developed in accordance with QAA statements on postgraduate qualifications, and in relation to QAA Masters level descriptors. As yet

QAA benchmark statements are not available for disciplines relevant to Masters level for this programme. However, the structure of the proposed degree is fully consistent with the QAA position statement on postgraduate qualifications.

External reference points
UK government and EU environmental and business development policy, industrial and consultancy business advice and professional body requirements.

Internal reference points
The Faculty of Environment and Technology's academic programme planning objectives for postgraduate development together with the programme teams expertise, experience and professional links.

QAA precepts and Masters level descriptors
The programme has been designed to reflect the QAA precept that there is a balance between a strong and effective skills base relevant to the expectations of future employers and knowledge of current theory, practice and research. The proposed programme emphasizes the development of both personal and professional skills, in particular those enunciated by employers as essential for the practice of environmental consultancy. The programme takes as its foundation knowledge base that provided by a first degree. It builds upon this base to develop a critical awareness and reflection in students that encourages a flexible, creative and original approach to practice. A framework that is both constructed and elaborated by advanced understanding of established and evolving theoretical paradigms, research and practice based evidence and awareness of professional and ethical guidelines enables this approach.

University learning, teaching and assessment policies
In line with the University's teaching and learning policies, this programme takes a student-centered approach to learning by allowing students to take control of aspects of their learning to develop individual participation and autonomy in learning. A variety of assessment methods are incorporated within the programme to cater for a diversity of student strengths and abilities. Although this document focuses on summative assessment, the course team recognizes the importance of both

summative and formative assessment activity and feedback, including reflective work and practice based learning, as an integral part of the learning and teaching process. All assessments comply with the current version of the University¡¦s Academic Regulations and Procedures.

Research, consultancy and professional practice
The programme draws on staff research specifically from a range of groups and centers of excellence within UWE.

Part E: Regulations
Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.