

This document provides detailed information on the module named below. It will be updated as necessary when modifications to the module are approved. Modules are allocated to a Subject Network not a programme, and may be accessed by students studying on different programmes.

1 SUMMARY MODULE INFORMATION

a Module title

Environmental Assessment

b SITS module code

UF711927

c UHI Subject Network

Sustainable Science, Heritage and Development.

d Exam board

MSc Managing Sustainable Mountain/Rural Development.

e SCQF level

11

f SCOTCAT credit points

15

g Module leader and contact details (email, phone)

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h Brief description of module

The module considers various aspects of Environmental Assessment focusing primarily on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) but also considering project based Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The relationship between these forms of environmental assessment are investigated along with their legislative backgrounds, their operation and structure and their role in delivering sustainable development. Case studies are used to assess their effectiveness.

i Pre-requisites or co-requisites

N/A

j Primary mode(s) of delivery and support

Wholly online.

k Assessment

Two assignments (40% and 45% each) + 15% for contribution to the discussion board.

I Suitable for access via Learning Centres?

N/A

2 MODULE DESCRIPTOR

a. Aims

To enable students to be able to evaluate the use of Environmental Assessment (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)), including how it is used as a management tool in local and regional development planning and how this role might develop.

b. Intended learning outcomes

On completion of the module the student should:

1. be familiar with the European and UK legal basis of environmental assessment;
2. have a clear understanding of the operation of EIA and SEA within the planning process;
3. be able to evaluate the role of EIA and SEA in planning the sustainable use of the Earth's resources;
4. analyse and discuss current and future trends in the use of EIA and SEA.

c. Indicative content

- the development of EIA and SEA from the 1960's to the present
- the development and requirement for environmental assessment in European and UK law
- Simulated aspects of environmental assessment (role-play) will be used to give students a greater understanding of the processes under consideration
- the EIA process; Screening, Scoping, Preparation of an environmental impact statement- presentation of the environmental impact statement, making the decision, monitoring and auditing
- the methods of impact prediction, evaluation and mitigation
- consideration of the need for strategic environmental assessment (SEA)
- discussion of the role of project-based EIA and Strategic EIA (SEA) in the planning system
- consideration of the emerging role of SEA in the sustainable management of the Earth's resources

d. Mode(s) of delivery and support for teaching and learning

Face-to-face 0 hours

Video-conference 0 hours

Supported online learning 65 hours

Self-directed learning 85 hours

Total activity 150 hours

e. Assessment

TMA1. Essay (2000 words and 40%) – Learning outcomes 3 and 4.

TMA2. Report based on a simulation (role-play) of part of an SEA or EIA (45%)

Contribution to Blackboard discussion board 15%

Key learning resources

Reading List:

Essential:

Fischer, T.B. (2007) Theory and Practice of Strategic Environmental Assessment: towards a more systematic approach. Earthscan.

Glasson, J., Therivel, R. and Chadwick, A. (2005) Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment. UCL Press.

Recommended:

Therivel, R. (2004) Strategic Environmental Assessment in Action. Earthscan 2004.

Carys Jones et al. (eds) (2005) Strategic Environmental Assessment and land use planning: an international evaluation. Earthscan 2005.

Morris, P. & Therivel, R. (Eds.) (2001) Methods of Environmental Impact Assessment. UCL Press, London.

Weston, J. (Ed.) (2000) Planning & Environmental Impact Assessment in Practice. Longman, London.

Wood, C. (2003) Environmental Impact Assessment: A comparative Review. Prentice Hall, London.

Background:

Publications of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, web site: www.ieem.org.uk

Journals

Environmental Impact Assessment Review, Elsevier.

Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, Taylor & Francis.

Impact Assessment & Project Appraisal, Beech Tree Publishing.

Digitised items of reading materials will be supplied to students during the module, and students will be referred to on-line journals, accessible through UHI membership of EBSCO and Science Direct

G. Additional background information

Tutorials will be supported by web-based learning resources and guided study provided by on-line contact (individual e-mail and computer conferencing).

H. Specialist resource requirements

Internet access to the VLE, web and e-mail facilities

Access to a PC

Access to on-line library resources