PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Programme Title: Governance and Sustainable Development

Awarding Body: Staffordshire University

Accreditation:

Final Awards: MA Governance and Sustainable Development

Intermediate Awards: PgC Governance and Sustainable Development
PgD Governance and Sustainable Development

Mode of Study: Part-time (3 years)

UCAS Codes:

QAA Subject Benchmarks:

Professional/Statutory Body

Date of Production: May 2011

Date of Revision:

If you require this document in a larger text or a different media please contact us.
EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

- To provide an advanced course of study of the theory and practice of governance for sustainability and environmental management; emphasis is given to the analysis of the conceptual debates surrounding the contested nature of these central concepts, and the study of its implementation in the ‘real world’, informing policies from the international to the local scale;

- To engage students in the evaluation of key principles, theories and concepts associated with the sustainability agenda and governance; and in particular conduct a critical and comprehensive review of the analysis of global policy in the context of globalisation and pressures for global governance;

- To provide students with the capacity, critical abilities and skills to relate the academic debates on sustainability, sustainable development and governance to the practice and implementation of the sustainability agenda from the global to local scale;

- To develop students’ capacity for independent, creative thought, and developing critical skills to assess and evaluate academic literature and other forms of research output which addresses the contribution that governance can make to the implementation of sustainability agendas;

- To enable an appreciation of the contested nature of the theory and practice of sustainability, and so to develop conceptual skills in understanding and evaluating appropriate research methodologies and strategies as a basis for research into the role of governance in progressing sustainability and sustainable development;

- To develop a critical understanding of the techniques and methods deployed in the implementation of effective governance for sustainable development, competence in collecting, processing and presenting information and data, thus enabling students to undertake their own research;

- To develop and advance students’ skills in communicating effectively their understanding and analysis of research on a topic related to the governance and sustainability to academic and lay audiences;

- To provide students with the opportunity to develop a range of key academic and life-long skills supporting their management of continuous career, professional development or further post-graduate study.

What is distinctive about this programme?

- A stimulating inter-disciplinary programme examining the challenges of international governance, sustainability and sustainable development;

- An innovative part-time award which allows you to balance Masters
level study with the demands of your workplace and family;

- An Internet-based delivery using a virtual learning environment which allows interaction with tutors and fellow students drawn from right across the world;

- Access to an extensive electronic library of on-line journals, e-books and study skills resources 24/7.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

What will this programme teach me to do? At the end of your studies you should be able to:

**Postgraduate Certificate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of the concepts of sustainability and environmental management and apply this knowledge and skills to make a case for and develop an organisation’s sustainability agenda. (SU: Knowledge &amp; Understanding, Enquiry, Analysis, Application, Learning)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate a critical understanding of the key functions that diplomacy in its various forms has served in the past and in the present. (SU: Knowledge &amp; Understanding, Analysis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyze the changing nature of diplomacy in the context of globalization and the growth of international organizations (SU: Analysis, Enquiry, Problem Solving, Application, Reflection, Communication)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Postgraduate Diploma**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engage in critical analysis and reflection of the inter-relationship between Urbanisation, climate change and urban sustainability (SU: Knowledge &amp; Understanding, Reflection, Analysis)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate and communicate the potential for urban governance to Contribute to the sustainable development of urban areas. (SU: Analysis, Communication, Enquiry)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate a critical understanding of a range of policy related theory and apply this to analyze a range of global policy issues and case examples relating to either international security or trade and development (SU: Knowledge &amp; Understanding, Application, Enquiry, Analysis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand the key functions that global policy forums, in their various forms, have served in the past and in the present with reference to either international security or trade and development (SU: Knowledge &amp; Understanding, Reflection).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Masters

Demonstrate critical understanding of the methodological issues in researching sustainability and its agendas and a critical ability to evaluate and reflect upon different research methods and techniques (SU: Knowledge & Understanding, Learning, Enquiry, Problem Solving, Analysis, Application)

Independently design and execute a research project in sustainability its related agendas selecting appropriate research methodologies, critically evaluate and interpret the results in the context of the appropriate wider literature and communicate these results for the wider professional and public understanding of sustainability and its related agendas. (SU: Enquiry, Analysis, Problem Solving, Reflection, Communication)

The learning outcomes statements have been cross-referenced to Staffordshire University’s set of generic learning outcomes e.g. Knowledge and Understanding, details of which can be found at: http://www.staffs.ac.uk/services/qis/forms/suoutcomes.doc

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE, MODULES AND CREDITS

Programme Title: MA Governance & Sustainable Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>September - February</th>
<th>February – July</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>SCS83481-7 Understanding Sustainability</td>
<td>AM25137-7 Diplomacy and the Global World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>SCS83483-7 Cities, Governance &amp; Sustainability</td>
<td>Options: AM25326-7 International Security; AM25538-7 Money, Trade &amp; Development in the Global Political Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>SCS83452-7 Understanding Sustainability Research</td>
<td>SCS83453-7 Research Project Dissertation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT AND ASSESSED?

Teaching and Learning
The programme of teaching follows an ‘e-learning’ approach supported by induction workshops. The Award Team recognises e-learning raises particular opportunities and challenges in terms of instruction and teaching. The e-learning programme of this award is mainly delivered through the use of BLACKBOARD, a virtual learning environment (VLE). The teaching and learning self-instructional material developed for this programme of study, facilitates an ‘active learning’ pedagogy where the student's learning is more directly structured and supported, and where the passive traditions of listening to lectures and sitting through seminars are inherently avoided. The taught modules consists of weekly activities containing information, directed reading (often from the resource pack provided to the learners or through hyperlinked web-based documents) and tasks (that may have formative [not graded or contributing to the final module grade] or summative (graded) assignments associated with them.) Throughout the Award(s), learners are also encouraged to further develop their own independent learning capabilities, particularly in the varied diet of tasks they are given. To improve interaction and contact between tutors and students, the latter are organised into learner groups (usually around 10 in number), each with their own virtual space within Blackboard, through which various forms of computer-mediated communications (CMC) are undertaken. At present, interaction between students and tutors during each module is enabled through discussion boards, both within learner groups, and the level of the module, with asynchronous communication threads being posted by members of a learning group. Standard e-mail is used for private communications both between tutors and students, and between students; however wherever possible, the emphasis is on open communication between individuals registered for a module.

Assessment
Every module contributes to the overall final grade for the Award. All of the assessment consists of coursework rather than examinations. This coursework takes a number of forms, including essays, reports (sometimes written as consultancy documents, or involving engagement with problem-based scenarios), portfolios of tasks, and a range of shorter submitted tasks (such as short responses to questions, annotated bibliographies, etc.).

This diversity of assessment results from various observations about the nature and value of assessment:

- we recognise that students have different abilities and learning styles (including those with special educational needs); and assessment needs to 'capture' the strengths and weakness if it is to be transformative and act as a foundation for further improvement in life-long learning skills;
- we recognise that assessment must reflect the sorts of tasks our
postgraduates will be asked to prepare in their existing and future careers;
- we want to ensure that learning outcomes are tested in the most appropriate way

There are multiple assessments per module and the assessment workload has been devised to ensure that the distribution of work across the award is broadly appropriate, equitable and balanced across modules and between levels. Multiple assessments per module is used for pedagogic reasons, including:

- to use a greater variety of shorter assessment formats such as electronic presentations, annotated bibliographies, comparative reviews;
- to provide students with further opportunities if they under-perform for a particular assessment within a module;
- early graded (summative) assessments also provide a useful formative function for the subsequent assessments.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Entry Requirements
What qualifications would I need to join this programme?

The entry requirements for the award are normally:

Normally, an honours degree from an officially recognised Institution of Higher Education in a related subject such as geography, politics, environmental studies/ science, environmental management, ecology, law, sociology or development.

Candidates with degrees (or equivalent) in other subjects will also be considered as well as those individuals who have related employment or substantial voluntary experience, with a demonstrable interest in or a commitment to sustainability and environmental issues.

A postgraduate diploma recognised as being equivalent to an honours degree or an accredited professional or vocational experience in environmental management related areas of practice will also be considered.

Additional evidence of particular interests and active involvement in the environmental and sustainable development agendas will also be considered. Where specific professional expertise is involved, candidates who do not have a first degree, but who have qualifications or experiences which could be accredited through Staffordshire University's Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) or Accreditation of Experiential Learning (APEL) systems are welcome to apply.
Disability Statement
Staffordshire University operates a policy of inclusive teaching and learning to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to fulfil their educational potential. Details about how to apply to have your needs assessed can be found at: http://www.staffs.ac.uk/study_here/disabled_students/index.jsp

Students who apply to this award with Special Education Needs and Disabilities will be identified and counselled as to the reasonable adjustments that can be made to teaching, learning and assessment to ensure that they have the opportunity to achieve the award outcomes.

AWARD SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Further information about the award can be found in the relevant Student Handbook and on the University Website. This includes information about optional modules, learning outcomes at levels below honours, student support, and academic regulations.

====================================