DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
AND
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

MSc Sustainability and Management

POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT
STUDENT HANDBOOK
SUPPLEMENT

2016/2017
Disclaimer

This document was published in September 2016 and was correct at that time. The Department* reserves the right to modify any statement if necessary, make variations to the content or methods of delivery of programmes of study, to discontinue programmes, or merge or combine programmes if such actions are reasonably considered to be necessary by the College. Every effort will be made to keep disruption to a minimum, and to give as much notice as possible.

* Please note, the term ‘Department’ is used to refer to both ‘Departments’ ‘Centres’and ‘Schools’. Students on joint or combined degree programmes will need to use two departmental handbooks.

An electronic copy of this handbook can be found on your Departmental website (http://www.rhul.ac.uk/geography/currentstudents/home.aspx) where it will be possible to follow the hyperlinks to relevant webpages.
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1. Introduction

The MSc Sustainability and Management is a degree programme taught jointly by the Department of Geography and the School of Management.

The course covers a range of subject areas, both in the environmental governance for sustainability and in corporate social responsibility (CSR). It is a course open equally to scientifically trained, arts, and social science students. It deals with the major issues of concern to people and organisations that are aware of the damage currently being done to the planet by corporations, governments, and others, and that are conscious of the need for the adoption of scientifically sound and socially responsible policies if greater damage is to be avoided in the future. Students considering careers in major corporations, NGOs, governmental agencies concerned with the environment, and those who intend to pursue doctoral studies will find this degree course meets their needs. It combines an understanding of the needs of business with an equal understanding of the needs of the planet if life is to survive on it in the long-term.

1.1 Why is Sustainability and Management so distinctive?

1. Being within a Geography department and the School of Management, we are in a unique position to present a focus on the interactions between natural and human environments, the physical and social sciences, management and organisational practices. Students have access to a range of facilities within the Department of Geography to give students practical experience. There are few programmes in the field of development and environment in the UK that allow students to develop hands-on practical skills in a range of techniques, from the social to the physical sciences

2. We provide practical focussed research skills training and guidance in order to enable students to carry out and complete independent primary fieldwork and research-based dissertations on environment and development related topics and in cross-cultural situation

3. The Geography elements of the MSc are taught by members of the Politics, Development and Sustainability Research Group, a leading interdisciplinary research centre in the field of development, environment and sustainable development, linking natural and social science theories, policies, tools and methodologies. The School of Management elements of the course are taught by members of Centre of Research into Sustainability, a multidisciplinary, international group of researchers and educators at Royal Holloway who are actively engaged with the understanding of organisational responses to the multiple facets of sustainability. Collectively, we are in a unique position to convey research knowledge, experience and skills that will have direct relevance to employability as well as research training for further education, namely doctoral research.

Past students of the course are now employed by international development and environment agencies, global and national policy making and implementing agencies, higher education institutions, private sector companies and NGOs, as CSR and environmental and development
workers, activists, teachers and researchers. Alumni have also gone on to undertaking doctoral programmes in the UK and abroad.

2. Programme Specification

The MSc Sustainability and Management programme specification can be found at the following link;

http://www.rhul.ac.uk/studyhere/progspecs/repository/management/pg/sustainabilityandmanagementfrom2013-pgprogrammespecification%28latest%29.pdf This document describes the Master of Science Degree programme and Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainability and Management. This specification is valid for new entrants from September 2015.
Sustainability and Management
2016-17

Core Courses 80 units

- GG5307 Sustainability, Development and Governance (20 units)
- GG5308 Sustainability, Development and Society (20 units)
- MN5114 International Strategy (20 units)
- MN 5571 Business Ethics and Entrepreneurship (20 units)

Core Research Courses 80 units

- GG5304 Volunteer project (10 units)
- GG5402 Research Methods (10 units)
- GG5403 Dissertation (including dissertation training) (60 units)

Elective Courses 20 units
(students must choose 1 from the list or another 20 unit course)

- GG5405 ICT4D (20 units)
- GG5406 Participatory Methods (20 units)
- MN5281 International Sustainability Management (20 units)

3. Degree programme structure.
4. Assessment Regulations: Individual Courses

Marks for assignments, tests, presentations, examinations, and the dissertation are weighted in each course as follows:

**GG5307 Sustainability, Development and Governance**
1 x 3500 word report (100%)

**GG5308 Sustainability, Development and Society**
One 2500 word essay (67%) & one 1000 word policy briefing (33%)

**GG5304 Volunteer Project**
1 x 250 word project summary and risk assessment (formative); 1 x Volunteer Project poster (25%); 1 x 2000 Volunteer Project report (75%)

**GG5402 Research Methods**
1 x 2500 word extended dissertation research proposal (50%), an oral presentation (50%)
Formative statistical exercises.

**GG5306 Dissertation**
1 x 1000 word formative dissertation proposal, dissertation (100%)

**MN5114 International Strategy**
1 x ‘in class test’ (20%), 1 x 2 hour unseen paper examination (80%)

**MN 5571 Business Ethics and Entrepreneurship**
1 x 3,000 word individual essay (40%) and 1 x three-hour individual examination (60%).

**Electives;**
**GG5404 Technologies, Innovation and Development**
1 x 3000 essay (75%) and 1 x 1000 word GIS report & map (25%)

**GG5406 Participatory Methods**
1 x 3500 word report (100%)

**MN5281 International Sustainability Management**
1 x individual essay (50%), 1 x presentation (15%) and 1 x one hour in-class test (35%)
5. Content of Individual Courses

Please note that for all of the elective courses to run, a minimum number of students must have enrolled in each (usually 10 students).

Core course units:

GG5307 Sustainability, Development and Governance
This course will equip students with a detailed understanding of the development of sustainable development as a discourse. Students will explore key sustainability issues such as climate change, globalisation, and human responses with an emphasis on the emergence of environmental governance as a means to pursue sustainability.

GG5308 Sustainability, Development and Society
You will develop a detailed understanding of key social / environmental relationships incorporating contemporary issues in the geographies of sustainability. These will include 'risk society', sustainable cities, and the impacts of corporate sector activities on the environment. You will also understand the challenges to sustainable development at household and community levels, with a focus on community-based approaches to sustainable development.

MN5571 Business Ethics and Entrepreneurship
The aim of the course is to equip students with the moral frameworks and critical abilities necessary to understand the role of business in society from an ethical perspective. The course will cover different types of business including large publicly traded multinationals, small and medium sized enterprises, social enterprises and family firms. Students will be expected to understand the different issues in these organizational types and to articulate moral arguments from a range of different perspectives.

MN5114 International Strategy
This course provides the student with an understanding of how international business strategy fits into the organisation and running of a company or multi-company corporation. The lectures are used to illustrate the key points under each topic as well as real business examples. Workshops will be used for case studies and applications of the material covered in the lectures. The aim of the module is to introduce the student to the way in which a firm can achieve sustainable competitive advantage through strategy.

GG5304 Community Volunteer Project
You will undertake an independent volunteer project which will give you practical experience in gaining sustainability related work experience. The project will enhance your
employability whilst and provide an opportunity to gain practical experience of organisational objectives, cultures and practices.

**MN5402 Dissertation Preparation and Research Methods**

The Research methods unit will help prepare you for your dissertation. You will recognise and critically evaluate approaches to management research and the assumptions upon which they are based. This will equip you to make justified choices as to appropriate quantitative/qualitative research methods for data collection and subsequent analysis. You will then be able to conduct research, and evaluate primary and secondary data sources in a systematic and critically reflective manner.

You will also evaluate potential limitations to research investigation and applications and develop a coherent and appropriate research proposal, recognising the ethical implications of research investigations and their impact upon findings.

**GG5403 Dissertation**

You will analyse a sustainability or CSR issue in depth. By the end of the dissertation, you will be able to plan and manage a project, define aims and objectives, identify appropriate data sources and collection methods, be aware of and deal with potential pitfalls, execute a dissertation plan, and construct an effective argument.

**Elective course units:**

**MN5281 International Sustainability Management**

This course provides participants with an understanding of how Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) informs sustainability management issues in large, transnational organisations. It will focus on issues such as consumption and sustainability as dichotomised between the apparently incompatible tensions of economic and environmental interests.

**GG5404 Technology and Development**

This course provides you with an introduction to the role of technology in development, focusing particularly on mobile phone and computer technologies. The course combines an understanding of key theoretical debates and how technologies have been applied in diverse sectors such as health and education. The course also includes training in the use of GIS (geographical information systems) within a development context.

**GG5406 Participatory Methods**

This course combines detailed understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of participatory research and methods with practical experience of using different participatory research techniques. These include participatory diagramming, participatory video and participatory environmental monitoring.
APPENDIX 1 GENERAL READING LIST

General Textbooks relevant to the course. There are various textbooks available in the library and bookshop, here is a selected few that you might find useful to refer to.

The following texts are particularly useful for the course;


Key Journals:

Students are encouraged to explore journals to extend your reading beyond assigned articles. These are just some of the key journals with relevant articles:-

Annals of the Association of American Geographers

Area

Ecological Economics

Environment and Planning A,B,C,D

Environmental Management

International Social Science Journal

Local Environment (available via Senate House Library)

Nature

Political Geography

Science
Books of Interest (selected chapters will be assigned in advance of relevant sessions):-

These books are useful sources to further your individual reading on themes explored.

Baker, S. (2006) Sustainable Development. London: Routledge. This is a good general reader for understanding issues relevant to the course and is available online via the Library catalogue..


