Presentation pattern  October to May

Module description

This module considers the interactions between terrestrial organisms and their environments – that together form ecosystems, ranging from simple microbial communities to tropical rainforests. The module introduces students to key ecosystem concepts, and develops their understanding of the stability and resilience of ecosystems to disturbances such as disease and pollution. Students learn how ecosystem function depends on exchanges of water, energy and nutrients; and gain practical experience with current research techniques, including real-time monitoring and computer modelling. Skills developed include experience in writing professional-style reports on ecological systems.

The teaching and assessment for this module is carried out entirely online. The module requires about 9 hours of study time per week, and involves students working in small groups (within their tutor group) to carry out some collaborative work. Tuition is delivered by a range of synchronous online tutorials (using Adobe Connect), asynchronous forum work, and via interactive online learning exercises. Additional tutorial support will be provided through the use of email and telephone.

Person specification

The person specification for this module should be read in conjunction with the generic person specification for an associate lecturer at The Open University. As well as meeting all the requirements set out in the generic person specification, you should have:

- A relevant degree in environmental science or related subject.
- Demonstrable current knowledge of environmental science.
- Ability and willingness to support learning in environmental science.
- Proven ability to facilitate learning in data literacy and statistics.
- Evidence of competence in the use of digital communication tools, both synchronous (e.g. Adobe Connect), and asynchronous (e.g. online forums), to facilitate student learning.
- Evidence of recent undergraduate teaching using an interdisciplinary approach to the subject of environmental science.
- Evidence of developing transferable skills within the context of environmental science.
- Experience of providing tuition which demonstrates your potential to support student learning effectively in an online, digital distance learning environment.
- Ability to explain difficult concepts in Environmental Science.
- Ability to guide students’ practical data collection.
- Ability to teach statistics in an environmental science context.
- Ability to facilitate collaborative learning in a digital learning environment with students from diverse academic backgrounds.

It would be an advantage to have:

- Relevant postgraduate experience, and / or a postgraduate qualification in environmental science or a related subject.
- Experience of teaching adult learners in environmental science.
- Experience of running environmental computer models.

Additional information

This module is delivered entirely online. You will be expected to support students via online tutorials in Adobe Connect, through engagement with interactive online activities, on online forums, and using telephone and email.
Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module:</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of assignments submitted by the student:</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Method of submission for assignments:</td>
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<td>Level of ICT requirements:</td>
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<td>Number of students likely to be in a standard group:</td>
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<td>Salary band:</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated number of hours per teaching week:</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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The teaching and assessment strategy for this module has not yet been approved and therefore the information is subject to change.