Presentation pattern: October to May

Module description
This interdisciplinary course examines contemporary issues such as food security, biodiversity and climate change in order to develop students' environmental literacy and enable them to take part in informed debate and action. As well as including some numerical modelling, it explores environmental materials on the web used to publish data; implement policy; debate issues; and promulgate views. The course teaches students how to navigate these materials, and how to analyse and evaluate information. The course is designed for students progressing from a range of OU modules with differing social science and science content, e.g. S(XF)206 Environmental Science and DST206 Environment: sharing a dynamic planet. Therefore, ability and willingness to teach and support students with different academic backgrounds in environmental science and studies is essential.

The teaching and assessment for this course is carried out almost entirely online. The course requires about 18 hours of study time per week, and involves students working in small groups (within their tutor group) to carry out a modelling project. Tuition is delivered by one face-to-face day school, 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 studies, environmental science or related subject.
- Demonstrable current knowledge of environmental studies or environmental science.
- Proven ability to facilitate learning in data literacy and statistics.
- Ability and willingness to support learning in environmental policy / politics, as well as environmental science.
- Evidence of recent undergraduate teaching using an interdisciplinary approach to the subject of environmental studies / environmental science.
- Evidence of developing transferable skills within the context of environmental studies / environmental science.
- Proven ability to explain difficult concepts in environmental studies / environmental science.
- Experience of providing tuition which demonstrates your potential to support student learning effectively in an online, digital distance learning environment.
- 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 studies, environmental science or a related subject.
- Experience of teaching adult learners in environmental studies/environmental science.
- 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.

Additional information

With the exception of one face-to-face day school, this course 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.

Please note that all students are required to submit an EMA that is double marked. Tutors will be expected to do the first marking of their students’ EMAs; an additional payment will be made for this as it is not included in the module’s salary. (The second marking of EMAs will be via an invitation to submit Expressions of Interest.)

Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website

| Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module: | 60 |
| Number of assignments submitted by the student: | 5 |
| Method of submission for assignments: | Electronic |
| Level of ICT requirements: | Intensive |
| Number of students likely to be in a standard group: | 20 |
| Salary band: | 6 |
| Estimated number of hours per teaching week: | 5.5 |

The teaching and assessment strategy for this module has not yet been approved and therefore the information is subject to change.