Module description

This course requires students to undertake an individual investigation of a topic within the general area of natural sciences. In addition to covering the science underpinning their chosen topic, they are required to analyse it from the perspectives of four themes – communication, risk, ethical issues and decision-making – that place the topic into its broad social context. Investigations are literature based and therefore students require access to scientific literature, probably from electronic library sources. The course materials provide a guide to planning and conducting project work; help with searching and using the literature; and writing a report. Students are informed that their tutor’s main role is to help them with the process of carrying out a project, rather than to answer detailed questions about the science involved. Tutor support will be provided by telephone, email and electronic conferencing.

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 degree or equivalent in a science subject
- knowledge of and experience in teaching interdisciplinary science at undergraduate level
- the ability to support project work in a range of science discipline areas but of an interdisciplinary nature including science communication, the appreciation of risk, ethical issues and decision making
- enthusiasm for teaching your subject
- familiarity with appropriate literature, whether on the Web or in print
- willingness to support students in using all relevant literature
- experience of supervising university-level project work
- ability to foster independence in students undertaking such work
- confidence to be proactive in supporting and encouraging independent distance learners
- ability to help your students develop the necessary learning skills for project work
- ability to lead online forums
- ability to organise and run online tutorials using OU Live
- ready and regular availability by telephone and email to provide individual student support.

Additional information

- Online forums are organised so that students can benefit from the specific expertise of all the module tutors.
- You will be expected to hold at least one online tutorial using OU Live at the beginning of the module to introduce your students to the module and process of undertaking project work.
- You will be required to mark the three tutor-marked assignments (TMAs).
- You will also be expected to mark the c.10 end-of-module assignments (EMAs) from your own student group, and act as the second marker for c.10 EMAs from other tutor groups. There is extra payment for EMA marking.
Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module:</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of assignments submitted by the student:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method of submission for assignments:</td>
<td>1a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of ICT requirements:</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of students likely to be in a standard group:</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary band:</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated number of hours per teaching week:</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>