
Environmental decision making: a systems approach T863

Presentation pattern *May to October*
 November to April

Award information

Full details are available via the website at <http://edm.open.ac.uk>

This modular award for professionals already involved or becoming involved in environmental decision making takes a holistic or systems approach to environmental protection, natural resource management, waste disposal, environmental legislation and policy and practice. It teaches interdisciplinary skills that are useful to managers, environmental specialists and others interested in environmental issues.

There are two entry points to the award:

- non-graduates with appropriate work experience must complete the Advanced Diploma in Environmental Decision Making (120 points: 60 points from recommended undergraduate-level courses and 60 points from postgraduate-level courses in the advanced diploma profile). They can then go on to do the Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Decision Making.
- graduates can gain the Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Decision Making by successful completion of the two core courses, plus two optional courses (total 120 points).

Holders of the postgraduate diploma can register for the MSc in Environmental Decision Making in which case they will go on to study T802 the MSc research course.

Course description

Many of the decisions we make and actions we take either individually or in groups affect our environment, yet economic and political considerations often dominate. Integrating 'environment' with other factors in decision making is vital for an effective outcome. In this course students will learn how to use techniques and develop in systems thinking, modelling, evaluating and negotiating for exploring environmental decision-making situations, formulating problems and opportunities, identifying feasible and desirable changes and taking action. The course features a case study on air travel and many other examples. Students will also have opportunities to explore their own environmental decision-making situation.

The end-of-course assessment is a 4,000-word project. Students identify and explore an environmental decision-making situation in which they have some sort of stakeholding and they are expected to draw on their own experience. As a tutor for this course, you will be the first marker for projects of all students in your tutor group and you will be expected to attend a Moderation Meeting in Milton Keynes at the end of each presentation. You may also be invited to be a second marker for other students.

This course replaces T860, which has the same title and covers broadly similar content, and had its last presentation in November 2005.

Person specification

The person specification for this course 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 diploma in a relevant area
- a good understanding of environment and development issues

- some understanding of systems concepts and approaches
- ability to provide support for students by marking and making detailed comments on assignments (using the electronic marking system), and by being available via the telephone and email to answer queries on course content
- willingness to participate in online forums.

It would be an advantage to have:

- teaching experience
- some experience of project-based assessment
- an appreciation of how adults learn and the challenges of distance learning.

Additional information

- You might be invited to run a day school or online event, if student numbers permit.

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

Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module:	30
Number of assignments submitted by the student:	3
Method of submission for assignments:	1a
Level of ICT requirements:	2
Number of students likely to be in a standard group:	15
Salary band:	3
Estimated number of hours per teaching week:	4.5

There may be opportunities for ALs to undertake associated assessment work for which there will be additional payment and about which you will be contacted separately if applicable.