Sustainable Development: Case Studies in Liverpool City

IEEL017  5 credit module (equivalent to 2.5 ECTS)

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1. Module Description

This module uses the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (as an analytical framework), and also the city of Liverpool (as a practical classroom, termed “living lab”), to explore and visit case studies of sustainability that are taking place in different urban projects. The topic of sustainable development can often be taught too theoretically, at times lacking a global context, and regularly without connecting it to individuals – however, this module overcomes all those obstacles, by teaching in a different, creative and fun way. Seminars will provide the background to local projects that students will visit, as well as a discussion of the learning objectives of each visit. Students will then be given a structured question set for each of their practical visits, to ensure that they take full advantage from learning outside the classroom. The final outcome will be a group-based presentation of personal insights and real-life leadership gained.

Staff involved in sustainable development at the University, in partnership with others who lead a variety of projects in the city of Liverpool, are keen to share their experiences with students on the International Summer School, by showcasing real examples of what they have designed and delivered.

2. Module Aims

This module aims to:

- Use active learning approaches to evaluate the societal, environmental and financial impacts of global challenges in terms of sustainable development goals.

- Provide opportunities to learn about the culture, life and people of the UK by exploring the topic of sustainable development through working on case study projects that are located near the University within the City of Liverpool.

- Develop confidence in understanding and communicating cross-disciplinary ideas in
different formats to diverse audiences.

- Improve skills in research and collaborative learning.

3. **Content**

The module will cover the following topics:

- The United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and other associated analytical tools.
- The urban environment as a real-life resource for understanding sustainable development in-action.
- Case studies of sustainable development in the city of Liverpool involving a diverse range of local people.
- Comparable internationally examples of sustainable development that are taking place in other countries.
- Communication mechanisms for sustainable development plans.
- Production of a presentation of leadership reflections and lessons learned towards a wider group outcome.

4. **Module structure**

The module will be delivered over a three-week period in six two-hour sessions (four hours per week, total 12 hours contact time). The final 2 sessions will be for assessment.

In addition, it is expected that students will spend 28 study hours outside of the classroom contact hours on activities including assigned reading, optional reading of areas of personal interest, homework tasks, web research and preparation for assessment. Students should be aware that in order to fully benefit from the face-to-face classroom sessions, they will need to have done the preparation work assigned beforehand.

5. **Teaching methods**

The teaching will include the following:

- Taught sessions
- Small group working
- Group discussions
- Presentations
- Site visits and team interactions

6. **Assessment**

Assessment will be by:

- Group presentation (15 minute)
- Multi choice/short answer questions (2 x 10 questions)
Standard University policies apply with regard to late submission of assessments. There is not re-assessment opportunity.

7. **Learning outcomes**

On completion of this module, student will be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
<th>Assessment component which assesses this learning outcome</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will demonstrate ability to extract, summarise and evaluate information from a range of resources.</td>
<td>Group presentation (15 minutes) Multi choice/short answer questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students will be able to understand and communicate complex ideas in written and spoken language.</td>
<td>Group presentation (15 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students will be able to research a topic and work collaboratively in this research to produce a piece of work based on research.</td>
<td>Group presentation (15 minutes)</td>
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</table>

9. **Skills**

Key skills that will be developed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>How this skill is developed</th>
<th>Mode of assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork and collaboration</td>
<td>Group discussions. Activities and tasks in class. Supplemented by real-life project visits to the city of Liverpool.</td>
<td>Group presentation (15 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Orally in group discussions and on visits. Written communication via completion of assessed assignments.</td>
<td>Group presentation (15 minutes) Multi choice/short answer questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesising complex information</td>
<td>Site visits and term interactions. Presentation of group work.</td>
<td>Group presentation (15 minutes)</td>
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10. **Books, ebooks and websites:**

The University Website at [http://www.liv.ac.uk/library](http://www.liv.ac.uk/library) provides access to many relevant books and electronic books, as well as academic journals and databases.
Example pre-course reading:
Liverpool City Council (2015) Mayor of Liverpool’s Commission on Environmental Sustainability


Useful websites