

*This document provides detailed information on the module named below. It will be updated as necessary when modifications to the module are approved. Modules are allocated to a Subject Network not a programme, and may be accessed by students studying on different programmes.*

### FIELD STUDIES

#### **a Aims**

To explore the interface between natural and human systems. To provide an understanding of environmental and cultural perspectives in the pursuit of sustainable rural development.

#### **b Intended learning outcomes**

On completion of the module the student should be able to:

- understand the fundamental linkages between the environmental, social, economic and social equity aspects of rural communities;
- identify and evaluate the main operational problems and opportunities in implementing sustainable development in rural areas;
- analyse and discuss relevant case studies which illustrate key aspects in the theory and practice of sustainable rural/mountain development.

#### **c Indicative content**

The module provides local experience of sustainable rural/mountain development and the relationship between people and their environment. Students are encouraged to analyse this in a rural/mountain context and to relate this to other elements of their degree programme. The subject has an inter-disciplinary approach, analysing environmental, economic, and human social systems, and then exploring the feedback loops caused by the interaction of these systems.

This module will enable participants to:

- identify and investigate a significant area of enquiry relevant to the professional context of participants and which represents a significant challenge in relation to sustainable rural development;
- define clear aims and objectives for the enquiry, informed by knowledge of current literature in negotiation with the supervisor;
- justify the choice of the identified topic as a focus for an investigation of the management of sustainable rural/mountain development;
- reflect on the experience and identify ways in which the findings can inform the future theory and practice of sustainable rural/mountain development.

Students will then be encouraged to consider different perceptions of the management of sustainable rural/mountain development and to relate these to current issues of the interaction between humans and natural environment ecosystem.

#### **d Mode(s) of delivery and support for teaching and learning**

Face-to-face	40 hours or	... %
Video-conference	0 hours or	... %
Supported online learning	10 hours or	... %

Self-directed learning	100 hours	... %
Total activity	150	100%

#### **e Assessment**

1. a reflective review of the field study programme as a vehicle for professional with the management of sustainable rural/mountain development, with analysis of critical incidents – 1500 words (25%);
2. a report that identifies and details proposals for the improved management of sustainable rural/mountain development, based on the field studies experience and contains recommendations for blending theory effectively with practice – 4000 words (75%).

#### **f Key learning resources**

##### **Reading List:**

None required.

#### **g Additional background information**

Tutorials will be supported by web-based learning resources and guided study provided by on-line contact (individual e-mail and computer conferencing).

#### **h Specialist resource requirements**

- internet access to web and e-mail facilities;
- access to a PC and printer;
- access to on-line library resources.