

Institutional Quality for Sustainability

Module Descriptor

Module Code: SUS7INQ
Version: V3.00
Status: Final
Date: 12/08/2025

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Institutional Quality for Sustainability

Module Leader: Dr Hazel Nash and Dr Graeme Larsen

Module Mode: Supported online learning

Semester: Autumn (UK)

Level: 7

Credits: 20

Learning Hours: 200

Contact & Study Hours

Directed Study Time: 33 hrs (16.5%)

Self-directed Study Time: 167 hrs (83.5%)

Assessment Type

Coursework: 70%

Computer Marked Assessment: 30%

Module Summary

This module will address the issues of standards for sustainability including BREEAM and LEED. It will cover the major regulations, UNSDG, ESD guidance, ISO14001, ethics and how these might be put into practice. Further, the module will at times take a critical view, what should be measured, how and by whom. Challenges around how we might better address issues of quality in the short and long terms around sustainability will be debated. Students will master the key institutional logics around quality which impact sustainability. By the end of the module the students will have a critical understanding of the institutional quality agenda around sustainability.

Taken on which Programmes

MSc Innovation in Sustainable Built Environments (E)

L7 Sustainability Business Specialist Apprenticeship (C)

Postgraduate Diploma Innovation in Sustainable Built Environments (E)

Core (C) or Elective (E)

Module Aims

This module aims to offer students a critical understanding of the institutional quality systems and the relationship between them today and for the future associated with creating a more sustainable built environment.

Module Learning Outcomes

- LO1. Understand the current institutional quality systems associated with the built environment.
- LO2. Analyse the current and potential institutional quality systems associated with the built environment.
- LO3. Synthesise the short, medium, and long-term institutional quality system options to meet the challenges associated with the changing demands of the built environment.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- Concept of institutional logics
- Concepts of quality
- What to measure; how, when and by who
- BREEAM
- LEED
- UNSDG
- ISO14001:2015 and other international standards deemed relevant
- Ethics

This content will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the legal, moral and financial changes in professional standards and practice.

Overview of Summative Assessment

Module learning outcomes	Assessment	Word count or equivalent	Weighting
LO1	Assessment 1 Coursework	1,500 words	30%
LO2, LO3	Assessment 2 Case study comparing two sustainability projects, including reflection piece.	3,500 words	70%

Module Pass Mark (as a weighted average of all assessments): 50%

Key Module Learning Resources

Core Sources and Texts

The core reading resources within each module will be provided via the specific Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) module pages and within the e-Library. Additional reference material and supplementary resources to support your studies are available through the University e-Library.

Module tools

Students will have access to study materials, dedicated academic support, student forums, and learning activities via an online learning platform (VLE).

The module page on the VLE is broken down into structured study weeks to help students plan their time. Each week will have a key theme related to the module, drawing upon an evolving set of methods, including flipped learning with interactive workshops and discussions, and online Padlet discussion activities for students unable to attend the live sessions. Online webinars/seminars led by specific academics can be attended in real time and provide opportunities to consolidate knowledge, ask questions, discuss topics and work through learning activities together. These sessions are recorded to support students who cannot attend and to enable students to recap the session and work through it with a degree of flexibility. Module forums on the VLE provide further opportunities to

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discuss topics with other students, complete collaborative work and get extra help from the module team.

Professional online resources

The e-Library provides access to trusted, quality online resources, selected by subject specialists, to support students' study. This includes journals, industry publications, magazines, academic books and a dissertation/work-based library. For a list of the key industry specific and education resources available please visit [the VLE e-Library](#).

Other relevant resources

Access is also provided to further information sources that include the British Library and Open University UK catalogues, as well as providing a monthly current awareness service entitled, **Knowledge Foundations** - a compendium of news, research and resources relating to the educational sector and the Built Environment.

The module resource list is available on the module VLE page and is updated regularly to ensure materials are relevant and current.