



Introduction to Sustainability

Module Descriptor

Module Code:	INT4SUS
Version:	V6.00
Status:	Final
Date:	24/07/2025

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Introduction to Sustainability

Module Leader: Jordan Turner

Module Mode: Supported online learning

Semester: Autumn (UK) and Spring (UK)

Level: 4

Credits: 20

Learning Hours: 200

Contact & Study Hours

Directed Study Time: 90 hrs (45%)

Self-directed Study Time: 50 hrs (25%)

Assessment Study Time: 60 hrs (30%)

Assessment Type

Computer Marked Assessment: 100%

Module Summary

This module introduces sustainability with a particular focus on the construction and property sector. Students will be made aware of the causes of climate change and key terminology and issues related to sustainable development. The relationship between property and the environment will be examined and criteria by which sustainability is measured in relation to finished buildings is identified. As sustainability is central to the core mission of University of the Built Environment, students will also learn about the University's sustainability agenda and activities.

Introduction to Sustainability

Taken on which Programmes

BSc (Hons) Building Control (C)

BSc (Hons) Building Surveying (C)

BSc (Hons) Construction Management (C)

BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying (C)

BSc (Hons) Real Estate Management (C)

BSc (Hons) Architectural Design Technology (C)

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Built Environment Studies (C)

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Construction and Built Environment (C)

Core (C) or Elective (E)

Module Aims

This module aims to:

- Provide students with the key sustainability terminology that they will use on their programme of study.
- Develop students' understanding of sustainable development and the impact the construction sector has on meeting sustainability targets.
- Raise awareness of the University's sustainability activities and how they can engage in environmental practice

Module Learning Outcomes

- LO1. Provide students with the key sustainability terminology that they will use on their programme of study.
- LO2. Develop students' understanding of sustainable development and the impact the construction sector has on meeting sustainability targets.
- LO3. Raise awareness of the University's sustainability activities and how they can engage in environmental practice.
- LO4. Reflect on personal sustainable practice.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- **Climate Change**

An overview of the causes of climate change, the effects, and the statistical evidence of global climate change (supported by the NASA Global Climate Change resource).

- **Sustainable development**

The adoption of a sustainable development agenda within the UK. A construction sector perspective of the UN sustainability development goals. An overview of social, economic, and environmental sustainability issues and with reference to the RIBA Sustainable Outcomes how these outcomes can be addressed on building projects.

- **Sustainable legislation and regulation**

Review of how the variety of legal frameworks within the built environment support sustainable aspirations, needs and ethical principles.

- **Assessment methods**

An overview of sustainable assessment systems making the distinction between regulatory frameworks, and independent standards and codes of practice. An overview of the assessment tools used within the sector, i.e., BREEAM, LEED, WELL and CEEQUAL.

- **Sustainability terminology**

An overview of the key sustainability terminology that will be used within the programme; net zero, whole life carbon cycle, circular economy etc.

- **University of the Built Environment's Sustainable Journey**

An overview of the University's sustainability ambitions and the opportunities for the students to engage in wider sustainability events. (This module will embed the activities of Climate Change week into the module structure).

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 LO2 LO3 & LO4	Assessment 1 Computer Based Assessment (CBA)	800 words equivalent	30%
LO1 LO2 LO3 & LO4	Assessment 2 Computer Based Assessment (CBA)	2,200 words equivalent	70%

Module Pass Mark (as a weighted average of all assessments): 40%

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, with each week containing a mixture of reading, case studies, videos/recordings and interactive activities to go through. Online webinars/seminars led by the Module Leader 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 at their own pace. Module forums on the VLE provide further opportunities to discuss topics with other students, complete collaborative work and get extra help from the module team.

Professional online resources

Introduction to Sustainability

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.