



Realities of Sustainability

Module Descriptor

Module Code: SUS7REA
Version: V3.00
Status: Final
Date: 12/08/2025

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Realities of Sustainability

Module Leader: Dr James Ritson

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: 100%

Module Summary

This module develops a student's skill in identifying the difference between fact and fiction while dealing with sustainability. This module is based on two critical aspects of master's level education. The first is the ability to synthesise, analyse and critically review data and sources of information used in practice. The second major component of this module is communicating and conveying information at master's level, involving academic writing, editing and synthesis of data and information, and being able to record findings distinctly and accurately for dissemination. Live case studies will be used to understand the realities of sustainability in practice.

Taken on which Programmes

MSc Innovation in Sustainable Built Environments (C)

Postgraduate Diploma Innovation in Sustainable Built Environments (C)

Postgraduate Certificate Sustainable Building and Property Studies (C)

Core (C) or Elective (E)

Module Aims

This module aims to provide communication skills for students to synthesise, analyse and critically review data and sources of information in relation to sustainability.

Module Learning Outcomes

- LO1. Critically evaluate a range of sustainability issues.
- LO2. Critically review data and sources of information in relation to sustainability.
- LO3. Synthesise complex information related to sustainability to a range of audiences within a professional context.
- LO4. Communicate at a professional level demonstrating high level verbal and written skills.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- Researching sources of information in terms of sustainability
- Critical analysis of sustainability information
- Writing, editing and information synthesis skills
- Contemporary triple bottom line sustainability issues
- Different types of professional and academic writing skills
- Multi-level analysis
- Note taking and research skills.

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 Briefing style presentation for 'company director' level	2,000 (word count equivalent)	40%
LO1, LO2, LO3 & LO4	Assessment 2 Critique the case study project(s)	3,000 words max	60%

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, 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

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to 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.