

M/63 - Award in Teaching Outdoor Learning through Nature

Lecturer	TBA
MQF Level	Level 6
Pass Mark	45%
No. of ECTS	2 ECTS
Entry Requirements	A minimum qualification at MQF Level 6 and currently teaching in the primary sector.

Rationale

This course introduces a key methodology for education for sustainability: through connecting children with nature. It provides primary school teachers with the skills and competences to deliver outdoor learning through nature. Teachers reflect on their own learning, attitudes and values that define their relationship with the natural environment and evaluate the effectiveness of their classroom practice as social leaders for sustainable living in the first ECTS. In the second ECTS, participants will apply course methodology to create learning environments in nature and appraise their teaching and learning support for the benefits that learning through nature provides to children's education, physical health, emotional wellbeing, personal and social skills and environmental responsibility.

Overall Objectives and Outcomes

- Apply course knowledge of anthropogenic influences on climate and the natural environment to the local context and identify curricular areas that allow opportunities for education for sustainable development through course methodology.
- Develop understanding of a teaching methodology for curriculum-linked outdoor learning through nature, and apply understanding to their own practice .
- Construct a practice based on principles of curriculum-linked outdoor learning through nature that will demonstrate understanding of the benefits of connecting children with nature as well as the benefits of outdoor learning on children's education, physical and emotional wellbeing and values towards sustainable living.
- Learn to evaluate their effectiveness in outdoor learning methodology by applying assessment criteria used in the course.
- Take responsibility for continued personal learning through enlarging their reading base by including course reading subject area (pedagogy and content).
- Appraise their own teaching, assess its effectiveness in education for sustainability, present examples from their practice, and examine opportunities for enhancing their teaching through applying course methodology.
- Create controlled situations in nature that will benefit children's experiential learning of the syllabus and create a relationship with the environment that imbues sustainability values.
- Represent active citizenship by using outdoor learning through nature to transfer the values of sustainable living.
- Demonstrate how outdoor learning through nature creates an excellent platform for interpersonal, intercultural, social, and civic competences through the application of a practice constructed on the course methodology.

Pedagogical Guidelines

- Self-study texts
- Videos
- Field work Workshops
- Lectures

Assessment Strategies

1. Written assignments (self-reflective reports)
2. Presentations
3. Peer reviews

Suggested Readings

Core Reading List

https://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/wellbeing_tcm9-132872.pdf _
<https://education.gov.scot/Documents/cfe-through-outdoor-learning.pdf> _
<https://www.thomhartmann.com/blog/2007/11/last-hours-ancient-sunlight-were-made-out-ancient-sunlight> _
http://www.unescobkk.org/fileadmin/user_upload/esd/documents/workshops/Manila/Head_heart_and_hands_of_ESD_postSep08.pdf

Supplementary Reading List

https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/what_happens_when_we_reconnect_with_nature?utm_source=GG+Newsletter+March+1%25252C+2017&utm_campaign=GG+Newsletter+March+1+2017&utm_medium=email

<http://www.fountaingateps.vic.edu.au/images/FGPS/brochure/pdf/Outdoor%20Learning.pdf>

<http://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/view/NCC105915>

<http://www.internationalschoolgrounds.org/risk>

<http://www.internationalschoolgrounds.org/collaborative-work> (video)