

Sustainability Teaching at Roehampton University

Faculty of Business and Law

Project Management

We teach an Energy Transition Masterclass in project management. It utilises a case study on Peterborough Power Station and is delivered by industry experts – DAREL and KPMG.

Risk Management and Corporate Governance

Course: [Banking, Finance and Risk Management](#)

Sustainability-related teaching topic: current issues in risk management and corporate governance. The topic focuses on the impact of climate change on risk management and corporate governance.

MSc Digital Marketing programme

Sales, Advertising and PR: Full module dedicated to sustainability

The whole assessment regime has been developed around the theme of sustainability, most notably to develop a corporate marketing communication campaign that concurs with COP26 (in the 2021-22 academic year) and with COP27 (2022-23). Students had the possibility to work on a project for one of 4 companies, each of them enlisted in the UK Government's '[Race to Zero](#)' programmes. All along the semester and in their 2 assignments students worked on their project developing a credible and impactful campaign connecting the given company to the cause of sustainability and of COP26 / COP27. Sustainability and climate change are the underlying themes along the semester in this module.

Life and Health Sciences

BSc Biological Science and the BSc Zoology

We have quite a bit on environmental sustainability, there is, for example, a whole module on Conservation Ecology, there the South African Field Course that looks sustainable tourism, there is the new Earth in Crisis module and a number of other modules that have sustainability as part of their content. We aim to expand this further in the upcoming revalidation.

Even in the BSc Biomedical Science, there are various modules that have content around environmental sustainability. About an hour ago, I finished a session on OneHealth in my Medical Microbiology module and in the same module I'll have a number of sessions on the antibiotic resistance crisis, and I'll mention what that means for food safety and security, etc.

Humanities and Social Sciences

NEW MA in Environmental Humanities

Business and Law and the School of Life and Health Sciences

Msc Sustainable Economics - Earth in Crisis module

It is widely agreed amongst experts in Education for Sustainable Development that sustainability education should be both interdisciplinary and embedded in practice. Roehampton is pioneering such teaching in our new Earth in Crisis module. The module is available to students in the Faculty of Business and Law and the School of Life and Health Sciences and is taught by a team of teachers from across the University.

This new module offers a unique interdisciplinary understanding of global ecological crises, as well as exploring approaches to tackle these crises from the perspective of different disciplines. It draws on scientific, legal, economic, philosophical and literary approaches to explore the relationships between the environment and sustainability. Students will learn about the earth crisis from various disciplines, with a specific focus on biodiversity, climate and water.

The module will support the development of students' understanding of how interdisciplinary approaches can shed new light on and help find solutions to environmental problems, and enable students to critically reflect on and analyse key literature on the environmental crisis from different disciplines. It will also equip students with understanding and skills they will need to function effectively in a climate-changed society.

Earth in Crisis is comprised of six teaching units. The first introduces the perspectives from the different disciplines and explores the climate and ecological crisis and systems thinking. Unit 2 aims to develop an understanding of the biodiversity, water and climate crises from a scientific perspective. Unit 3 aims to offer an overview on the international legal frameworks governing climate change, biodiversity and water management - as well as an overview on the main international organisations and their role to tackle environmental issues. Unit 4 aims to offer an overview of the environmental humanities exploring how reading can generate engagement in environmental issues and action with a focus on philosophy, theology and literature. Unit 5 focuses on an economic analysis of the two most serious environmental crises facing humanity: the breakdown of the global climate centred on the Stern Review; and the systemic nature of our dependence on other species focused on the Das Gupta Review. The final unit offers students the chance to synthesise their learning from the across the disciplines through case-studies on the use of micro-plastics, deep sea mining, carbon markets, and protected areas and biodiversity targets.

Arts and Digital Industries

In Dance we have developed a PG module that is part of the suite of optional modules of the MA/MFA Dance degrees. Its focus is on Sustainability in Dance/Arts, titled:

Dance, Sustainability and the Environment (20 credits)

The module is offered across all of our PGT provision to enable interdisciplinary inquiry and practice-research. Our social and political and lived environments have changed in the 21st century which puts pressure on all of us to be more critical as thinkers, writers, choreographers and practitioners and to be more receptive to the possibility of 'community' as a global trans-national experience.

This module explores Dance as way of understanding our interactions with nature, the built environment and each other in order to construct new possibilities to observe, analyse and create the world we in/cohabit.

Focused on embodied inquiry and its implications for practice, research and applications in a range of contexts, the module offers opportunities to delve into the experiential, practical and theoretical considerations of Dance's relationship to the challenges of environmental sustainability. Areas of investigation may include topics such as nature, landscape and climate change; design, architecture and infrastructure; home, migration and adaptation; autobiographical, public and professional life.

Psychology

BSc Therapeutic Psychology

Teaching Topics that cover environmental, social and economic sustainability (e.g., climate change, disaster risk reduction, cultural diversity, poverty reduction, and sustainable consumption).

In terms of physical sustainability, we work towards repairing equipment (such as musical instruments), and being sustainable in the sense that we do not use disposable wipes, instead we have cloths that I bring home and wash when people are using blowing instruments (though we haven't really been able to have shared blowing instruments since the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic). This is a practical example of how we try to model sustainability in terms of equipment.

Sustainability is embedded throughout teaching in relation to the idea of a sustainable profession in terms of physical and mental health and self-care. Additionally, supporting students to understand their role in promoting public health and preventing ill health (both these are new standards from our regulatory body, HCPC).

The module equity diversity and ethics can be related to the notion of social and economic sustainability. Many parts of the module are focused on sustainability in a broader sense (GRACES and sustainability could be easily associated).

Other examples of sustainability in course content:

- BSc Psychology - Psychological issues around climate change
- MSc Psychology conversion, BSc Psychology; BA/BSc Therapeutic Psychology; BSc Psychology and Counselling - Several programmes allow students to conduct empirical research. In many programme students have the opportunity to study the topics relating to sustainability and climate change.
- BA/BSc Therapeutic Psychology, Qualitative Research - Includes examining social issues (such as prejudice, discrimination, difference and disability) support students in researching project that demonstrate social awareness and engagement.
- BA/BSc Therapeutic Psychology; BSc Psychology and Counselling - Programme aim to evaluate different modalities of psychological assessment and appraise psychological interventions in diverse contexts is applicable to responding to climate change.
- BSc Psychology; BSc Psychology and Counselling - Examination of individual responsibility and collective action has relevance to change required sustainability and responding to climate change (module 'Understanding the Individual and Society').
- BSc Therapeutic Psychology - Examining of individual and social change has relevance for achieving sustainability and for responding to climate change (modules: 'Supporting Groups' and 'Communities and Human Development and Transitions')
- BSc Therapeutic Psychology & BSc Psychology and Counselling - Core modules examine anxiety, distress, behavioural change and mental health and are applicable to the psychological aspects of climate change (modules: 'Understanding Psychological Distress' and 'Behavioural Approaches to Counselling and Psychotherapy').