

The University of Edinburgh

The Moray House School of Education

School Postgraduate Studies Committee

17th November 2015

Change to MSc Learning for Sustainability DPT

Brief description of the paper

This is a request to change the DPT for the MSc/PGDip in Learning for Sustainability by offering the option to select a 20credit course from another postgraduate programme. I believe that this will increase flexibility across the programme and encourage students to enrich their own curriculum, suited to their own career trajectory and aspirations. This change would benefit current and future students.

Action requested

For comment and approval

Resource implications

Does the paper have resource implications? No

Risk assessment

Does the paper include a risk analysis? No

Equality and diversity

Have due considerations been given to the equality impact of this paper? Yes

Freedom of information

Can this paper be included in open business? Yes

Any other relevant information

None

Originator of the paper

*Dr Beth Christie,
Programme Director MSc Learning for Sustainability,
5th November 2015.*

Request for an adjustment to the DPT for MSc and PGDip Learning for Sustainability

Background:

MSc Learning for Sustainability (LfS) ran for the first year in 2014-15. It is offered as a part-time only course and courses are delivered at weekends and online. Most of the students are full –time teachers in schools or environmental organisations.

Issue arising:

Not all courses are offered each year. Some courses are offered every year and others follow a rolling programme of ‘year on-year off’ delivery. Therefore there are circumstances arising where a student may miss one course, as they cannot attend part one (of a two part course), and they then find that they cannot pick up that particular course again until it is offered in two years time. This becomes problematic if they wish to finish within a two-year timeframe.

Solution:

I wish to introduce greater flexibility into the PgDip/MSc programme by allowing students the opportunity to select a 20 credit course from another MSc programme. This has two benefits:

1. It would enable any student who is keen to complete within two years but finds that they are 20 credits short, due to logistical/personal issues, to join another course from another programme and remain on their individualised time-frame for completion.
2. It would enable all students to select option courses to enrich their own curriculum, suited to their own specific career trajectory and aspirations.

Notes:

- Students would be encouraged to explore the possibility of selecting 20 credits from another programme but any final choices would be at the MSc LfS Programme Director’s discretion and dependent on practical logistics between the individual student’s current programme and their proposed option course.
- Current students will not be disadvantaged by this change. Any student currently on programme would benefit from this change as they could take advantage of this increased flexibility within their current academic career.
- I am moving towards offering MSc Learning for Sustainability as a full time programme and this will resolve this logistical issue as all courses would be offered each year. However, irrespective of the part-time/full-time nature of the programme I am still keen to increase flexibility in this way as I feel it is beneficial to all students to have the opportunity to personalise their academic studies.

This paper provides a note of the current DPT for PGDip and MSc programmes and a note of the proposed changes.

CURRENT

DPT: Learning for Sustainability (MSC) (Full-time) (PTMSCLEASU1F)

COMPULSORY COURSES

The following courses are compulsory for this DPT:

Course	Course Name	Period	Credits
EDUA11316	Introduction to Learning for Sustainability		As available 20
EDUA11318	Ecosystems for Educators		As available 20
EDUA10142	Outdoor Learning and Primary Education		As available 20
EDUA11215	Education for Environmental Citizenship		As available 20
EDUA11317	Env. Philosophy & City-based Outdoor Learning		As available 20
EDUA11303	Experiential Education		As available 10
REDU11044	Research Methods: Planning Research		As available 10
REDU11071	Dissertation (Learning for Sustainability)		As available 50

COURSE OPTIONS

Option courses to be selected for this DPT using the following rules:

Select exactly 10 credits from the following list of courses for the Programme Collection: 'Courses from School(s) C - Learning for Sustainability (MSC) (Full-time) - Level(s) 11' (ROU_C_PTMSCLEASU1F1_11), as available

Course	Course Name	Credits
REDU11046	The sources of knowledge: Understanding and analysing research literature	10
REDU11045	Conceptualising research: Foundations, assumptions and praxis	10

Notes: Students should take REDU11046 The sources of knowledge: Understanding and analysing research literature unless they were originally registered on the PG Certificate and then re-registered on the MSc in which case they are advised to take REDU11045 Conceptualising research: Foundations, assumptions and praxis.

PROPOSED

DPT: Learning for Sustainability (MSC) (Full-time) (PTMSCLEASU1F)

COMPULSORY COURSES

The following courses are compulsory for this DPT:

Course	Course Name	Period	Credits
EDUA11316	Introduction to Learning for Sustainability		As available 20
EDUA11318	Ecosystems for Educators		As available 20

EDUA10142	Outdoor Learning and Primary Education	As available	20
EDUA11215	Education for Environmental Citizenship	As available	20
EDUA11317	Env. Philosophy &City-based Outdoor Learning	As available	20
EDUA11303	Experiential Education	As available	10
REDU11044	Research Methods: Planning Research	As available	10
REDU11071	Dissertation (Learning for Sustainability)	As available	50

COURSE OPTIONS

Students can request to gain 20 of their required credits via successful completion of another course, offered on another MSc programme anywhere in the University at level 10 or 11 (see regulation 53) as long as it is logically practical. This opportunity enables students to select option courses to enrich their specific career trajectory and aspirations. Students are encouraged to explore such possibilities but any final choices will be at the MSc LfS Programme Director's discretion and dependent on practical logistics between the individual student's current programme and their proposed option course.

These 20 credits can replace any of the following courses:

EDUA11316	Introduction to Learning for Sustainability	As available	20
EDUA11318	Ecosystems for Educators	As available	20
EDUA10142	Outdoor Learning and Primary Education	As available	20
EDUA11215	Education for Environmental Citizenship	As available	20
EDUA11317	Env. Philosophy &City-based Outdoor Learning	As available	20

Option courses to be selected for this DPT using the following rules:

Select exactly 10 credits from the following list of courses for the Programme Collection: 'Courses from School(s) C - Learning for Sustainability (MSC) (Full-time) - Level(s) 11' (ROU_C_PTMSCLEASU1F1_11) , as available

Course	Course Name	Credits
REDU11046	The sources of knowledge: Understanding and analysing research literature	10
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CURRENT

DPT: Learning for Sustainability (Pg Dip) (Full-time) (PTPGDLEASU1F)

COMPULSORY COURSES

The following courses are compulsory for this DPT:

Course	Course Name	Period	Credits
EDUA11316	Introduction to Learning for Sustainability	As available	20
EDUA11318	Ecosystems for Educators	As available	20
EDUA10142	Outdoor Learning and Primary Education	As available	20
EDUA11215	Education for Environmental Citizenship	As available	20
EDUA11317	Env. Philosophy & City-based Outdoor Learning	As available	20
EDUA11303	Experiential Education	As available	10

COURSE OPTIONS

Option courses to be selected for this DPT using the following rules:

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Course	Course Name	Credits
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REDU11045	Conceptualising research: Foundations, assumptions and praxis	10

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PROPOSED

DPT: Learning for Sustainability (Pg Dip) (Full-time) (PTPGDLEASU1F)

COMPULSORY COURSES

The following courses are compulsory for this DPT:

Course	Course Name	Period	Credits
EDUA11316	Introduction to Learning for Sustainability	As available	20
EDUA11318	Ecosystems for Educators	As available	20

EDUA10142	Outdoor Learning and Primary Education	As available	20
EDUA11215	Education for Environmental Citizenship	As available	20
EDUA11317	Env. Philosophy & City-based Outdoor Learning	As available	20
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