

# GD307-30 Dissertation/Independent Study

**23/24**

**Department**

Global Sustainable Development

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Gioia Panzarella

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

26 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This is the final year core module for all joint and single honours Global Sustainable Development undergraduate programmes. It requires students to bring together theoretical concepts and practical approaches that they have encountered on the course in order to address a specific problem. Students should demonstrate their ability to think across disciplines and produce an original intervention in the field of sustainable development.

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

The module requires students to demonstrate their acquisition of a range of intellectual and practical skills for engaging with a topical issue related to any area of Global Sustainable Development. The module requires students to bring together theoretical concepts and practical approaches to address a specific problem; It expects students to demonstrate their ability to think across disciplines and produce an original intervention (a concept paper, a practical project, a film production, a long essay, an advocacy campaign etc...) in the field of sustainable development. Furthermore, the module encourages each student to design a strategy for disseminating their

findings (present at a conference, publish online, publish in a journal, hold a public meeting) in the public space. Students are encouraged to work in teams, and group submissions may be allowed if the supervisors deem it appropriate.

## **Outline syllabus**

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

### **Year 2 Term 3**

Introduction to GD307 (this session includes guidance on: generating original ideas and deciding on your project; the submission of an expression of interest form; project management skills; managing the relationship with your supervisor)

### **Year 3**

Module convenors will publish at the start of year a detailed schedule outlining deadlines and teaching sessions as follows:

#### **Term 1**

- three lectures covering topics such as: how to write an effective research proposal; Literature review, research question, and methods; Collecting and analysing data; managing your research
- a mix of scheduled and optional supervision meetings (group or individual)
- weeks to be devoted to independent work
- submission of the proposal and subsequent meeting with supervisor for feedback

#### **Term 2**

- three lectures covering topics such as: Structuring your dissertation; Dissemination and communication strategies
- a mix of scheduled and optional supervision meetings (format to be agreed with the supervisor)
- weeks to be devoted to independent work

#### **Term 3**

- optional supervision meeting
- Dissemination event
- Submission of project

## **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- By the end of the module students will have learned to design a feasible research project.
- By the end of the module students will have planned, implemented and managed a research project.
- By the end of the module students will have produced a piece of original research that is based on a topical issue related to Global Sustainable Development.
- By the end of the module students will have designed a public dissemination event to showcase their findings.
- By the end of the module students will have presented the findings of their research project in a public forum.

## **Research element**

This is the final year core module for the Global Sustainable Development programmes which requires students to plan, implement and manage a research project (with supervision).

## **Interdisciplinary**

This is a core module on the Global Sustainable Development course which adopts an interdisciplinary approach spanning the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences fields in order to engage with the major global challenges facing contemporary society, explore these 'big problems,' from a variety of perspectives and consider a range of possible solutions.

## **International**

This is a core module on the Global Sustainable Development course which offers a unique trans-disciplinary and international learning experience that allows students to achieve breadth and depth of knowledge.

## **Subject specific skills**

critically assess and analyse sustainability issues that need to be addressed, including real-life examples  
use and apply established frameworks and methodologies for analysing the impact(s) of a behaviour or process  
generate and evaluate different models of sustainable development to assess their likely impact  
actively implement or contribute to changes that promote sustainable development within the scope of own learning experience  
engage with real-life problems relevant to sustainable development  
use historical knowledge and an understanding of the consequences of past actions to envision how futures may be shaped  
identify the importance of empowering individuals and organisations to work together to create new knowledge  
employ leadership for sustainable development by challenging assumptions and negotiating alternatives to unsustainable current practices  
identify the opportunities to support and develop a progressive and resilient culture that encourages citizens, professions and institutions to put learning into practice

## **Transferable skills**

Oral communication skills  
Working with others  
Problem solving  
Information technology  
Numeracy  
Research across various disciplines  
Peer review

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# Study

## Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	7 sessions of 1 hour (11%)
Project supervision	8 sessions of 30 minutes (7%)
Private study	50 hours (82%)
Total	61 hours

## Private study description

In addition to the timetabled contact time (7 hours of lectures and 4 hours of supervision), students are expected to work independently and to manage their own time. We expect students to require up to 289 hours of research, planning and writing. Since they will start their project late in year 2 (at the start of the summer term) we expect them to dedicate c.11 hours per week to this module (289 hours / 26 weeks).

8 supervisions are compulsory. An additional supervision is offered in year 3, term 3 for students who require support prior to undertaking their dissemination event.

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A3

	Weighting	Study time
Project Proposal 1500 words.	10%	30 hours
Dissertation or Project Dissertation (8000words) OR Project (2000 words + project)	70%	159 hours
Public Dissemination Variable word count.	20%	50 hours

## Feedback on assessment

Feedback on the proposal will be given during a supervision session: the student researcher will record the feedback on tabula for future reference; the supervisor then checks and approves ; Written feedback on the final dissertation / project will be provided on Tabula.; Feedback on the dissemination will be provided by members of the public (where that is possible and relevant) or by the student researcher's peers.

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 3 of UIPA-L1L8 Undergraduate Economic Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UIPA-L1L9 Undergraduate Economic Studies and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UIPA-XL38 Undergraduate Education Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UIPA-XL39 Undergraduate Education Studies and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UIPA-L8A1 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UIPA-L8A2 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UIPA-L8N1 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development and Business
- Year 4 of UIPA-L8N2 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development and Business Studies (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UIPA-R4L8 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UIPA-R4L9 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UIPA-V1L8 Undergraduate History and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UIPA-V1L9 Undergraduate History and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
- UIPA-C1L8 Undergraduate Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 3 of C1L8 Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 3 of C1LA Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development: Biological Sciences
  - Year 3 of C1LB Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development: Ecology
- UIPA-C1L9 Undergraduate Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of C1L9 Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of C1LC Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development: Biological

Sciences (with Intercalated Year)

- Year 4 of C1LD Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development: Ecology (with Intercalated Year)
- UIPA-V5L8 Undergraduate Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 3 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 3 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UIPA-V5L9 Undergraduate Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UIPA-L2L8 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UIPA-L2L9 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UIPA-C8L8 Undergraduate Psychology and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UIPA-C8L9 Undergraduate Psychology and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UIPA-L3L8 Undergraduate Sociology and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UIPA-L3L9 Undergraduate Sociology and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UIPA-W4L8 Undergraduate Theatre and Performance Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UIPA-W4L9 Undergraduate Theatre and Performance Studies and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)