



BIOL392

Greensteps

S2 Day 2014

Dept of Biological Sciences

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General Information

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Sustainability - Y1A

By appointment

Other Staff

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

39cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Sustainability is a dynamic concept that is best understood through theoretical and practical acquisition of knowledge. This unit considers some of the major themes underpinning sustainability in practice including: environmental issues and responses, environmental auditing, project planning and management, communication for change and behaviour change. The context for this unit is the workplace and how sustainability can be promoted and implemented. These topics are discussed in workshop style lectures where the emphasis is on interactive learning. Workshops include individual and group work, focusing on organisational responses to environmental issues. The practical component of this unit involves an internship within an organisation to develop and/or implement actions for change towards sustainability. The internship provides students with an opportunity to put theory to practice, gaining valuable experience in actual organisations. Students who are interested in sustainability, environmental management and behaviour change will enjoy this unit. The growing recognition of the importance of integrating social and environmental considerations into business as usual processes makes this unit ever more pertinent.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Outline the importance of enhancing the environmental sustainability of workplaces
- Collect and analyse appropriate information to assess how a specific activity at a host institution impacts on the environment
- Identify possible ways in which a nominated activity might be modified in order to enhance environmental sustainability
- Identify and rank any obstacles to change to a nominated activity at a host organisation
- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of alternative options for enhancement of sustainability
- Effectively communicate recommendations to a host organization of how the sustainability of a nominated activity might be best improved, while maintaining key functions of that activity/workplace
- Provide reflections on the key elements of successful teamwork
- Develop key soft skills associated with influencing, communication and behaviour change
- Enhance project planning and problem mapping skills

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Environmental Audit</u>	15%	16 August 2014
<u>Group presentation</u>	20%	17 August 2014
<u>Individual Presentation</u>	15%	31 Aug 2014
<u>Internship report</u>	25%	5 December 2014
<u>Learning journal</u>	15%	5 December 2014
<u>Evaluation</u>	10%	5 December 2014

Environmental Audit

Due: **16 August 2014**

Weighting: **15%**

You will work in a team to conduct energy, water and waste audits of a hypothetical organisation, during class time.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify possible ways in which a nominated activity might be modified in order to enhance environmental sustainability
- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of alternative options for enhancement of sustainability
- Enhance project planning and problem mapping skills

Group presentation

Due: **17 August 2014**

Weighting: **20%**

You will work in a team to develop and deliver a 7 minute presentation in class which presents the results of the audits and makes recommendations for improvements based on what you found.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Outline the importance of enhancing the environmental sustainability of workplaces
- Identify possible ways in which a nominated activity might be modified in order to enhance environmental sustainability
- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of alternative options for enhancement of sustainability

- Provide reflections on the key elements of successful teamwork
- Develop key soft skills associated with influencing, communication and behaviour change
- Enhance project planning and problem mapping skills

Individual Presentation

Due: **31 Aug 2014**

Weighting: **15%**

You will prepare, structure and deliver a 7 minute presentation on an environmental sustainability topic of your choice, in class. Preparation will take place between the first and second block mode delivery of the unit, with the presentation to occur in the second block delivery period.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop key soft skills associated with influencing, communication and behaviour change

Internship report

Due: **5 December 2014**

Weighting: **25%**

During your internship you will provide your host organisation with a final product in a format agreed between yourself and your host supervisor. The product will be the result of the project undertaken whilst on internship.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Outline the importance of enhancing the environmental sustainability of workplaces
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- Identify and rank any obstacles to change to a nominated activity at a host organisation
- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of alternative options for enhancement of sustainability
- Effectively communicate recommendations to a host organization of how the sustainability of a nominated activity might be best improved, while maintaining key functions of that activity/workplace
- Develop key soft skills associated with influencing, communication and behaviour change

- Enhance project planning and problem mapping skills

Learning journal

Due: **5 December 2014**

Weighting: **15%**

During your internship, you will record observations and thoughts about your learning and experiences and present the top five for assessment. This assessment requires reflective practice.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Collect and analyse appropriate information to assess how a specific activity at a host institution impacts on the environment
- Identify and rank any obstacles to change to a nominated activity at a host organisation
- Provide reflections on the key elements of successful teamwork

Evaluation

Due: **5 December 2014**

Weighting: **10%**

Your host supervisor will complete an evaluation which will assess your performance and project output.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Collect and analyse appropriate information to assess how a specific activity at a host institution impacts on the environment
- Identify and rank any obstacles to change to a nominated activity at a host organisation
- Effectively communicate recommendations to a host organization of how the sustainability of a nominated activity might be best improved, while maintaining key functions of that activity/workplace

Delivery and Resources

Technologies used and required:

Power point presentation is used throughout the course. All resources will be provided during class time. Information pertaining to the unit will also be included on iLearn.

You may be required to bring in a laptop device for the environmental audits and group presentation.

Lecture and tutorial times:

BIOL392 is delivered in block mode over two weekends: 15-17 August and 29-31 August,

commencing 9am each day and concluding by 5pm Fridays and Saturdays, earlier on Sundays.

Teaching and Learning Strategy:

BIOL392 is a PACE unit. PACE units provide an academic framework through which students can engage with the community, learn through participation, develop their capabilities and build on the skills that employers value. By completing a PACE unit, students develop all these skills and capabilities, and also gain academic credit towards their degree.

This is a pass/fail unit, with most assessment tasks taking place during class time and during the internship. It is an interactive class, where students will participate in many activities.

Information:

iLearn can be accessed through traditional channels. Check for the BIOL392 code.

Changes since last offered:

None

Other material:

All will be provided during class.

Unit Schedule

This unit is offered in block mode over two weekends in Semester two of 2014.

Block mode 1 in room W6B 357:

9am - 5pm Friday 15 August 2014

9am - 5pm Saturday 16 August 2014

9am - 1pm Sunday 17 August 2014

Block mode 2 in room W6B 357:

9am - 5pm Friday 29 August 2014

9am - 5pm Saturday 30 August 2014

9am - 1pm Sunday 31 August 2014

Due to the participatory nature of the Green Steps unit, you are required to attend each day in order to gain the required learning for the internship associated with this PACE unit.

The internship is a 10 day placement with an organisation of your choice. The way in which you undertake the internship is negotiated between you and the organisation to ensure the days you work suit each party. For example, you may prefer to work 2 weeks straight or choose to only work 1-2 days per week until the 10 days are completed. The block mode will set you up early in the semester to complete the internship prior to the end of the semester, though special consideration to complete the internship outside of normal semester times will be considered.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Outline the importance of enhancing the environmental sustainability of workplaces
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- Enhance project planning and problem mapping skills

Assessment tasks

- Environmental Audit
- Group presentation
- Internship report
- Evaluation

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Outline the importance of enhancing the environmental sustainability of workplaces

Assessment task

- Learning journal

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Outline the importance of enhancing the environmental sustainability of workplaces
- Collect and analyse appropriate information to assess how a specific activity at a host institution impacts on the environment
- Identify possible ways in which a nominated activity might be modified in order to enhance environmental sustainability

Assessment tasks

- Environmental Audit
- Internship report

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to

have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Outline the importance of enhancing the environmental sustainability of workplaces
- Collect and analyse appropriate information to assess how a specific activity at a host institution impacts on the environment
- Identify possible ways in which a nominated activity might be modified in order to enhance environmental sustainability
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Assessment tasks

- Group presentation
- Internship report
- Learning journal

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Outline the importance of enhancing the environmental sustainability of workplaces
- Collect and analyse appropriate information to assess how a specific activity at a host institution impacts on the environment
- Identify possible ways in which a nominated activity might be modified in order to enhance environmental sustainability

- Enhance project planning and problem mapping skills

Assessment tasks

- Environmental Audit
- Group presentation
- Internship report
- Learning journal

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Outline the importance of enhancing the environmental sustainability of workplaces
- Collect and analyse appropriate information to assess how a specific activity at a host institution impacts on the environment
- Identify possible ways in which a nominated activity might be modified in order to enhance environmental sustainability
- Identify and rank any obstacles to change to a nominated activity at a host organisation
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- Develop key soft skills associated with influencing, communication and behaviour change

Assessment tasks

- Individual Presentation
- Internship report
- Learning journal

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Outline the importance of enhancing the environmental sustainability of workplaces
- Collect and analyse appropriate information to assess how a specific activity at a host institution impacts on the environment
- Identify and rank any obstacles to change to a nominated activity at a host organisation
- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of alternative options for enhancement of sustainability
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Assessment tasks

- Group presentation
- Individual Presentation
- Internship report
- Evaluation

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Outline the importance of enhancing the environmental sustainability of workplaces
- Collect and analyse appropriate information to assess how a specific activity at a host institution impacts on the environment
- Provide reflections on the key elements of successful teamwork
- Develop key soft skills associated with influencing, communication and behaviour change

Assessment tasks

- Individual Presentation
- Learning journal
- Evaluation

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Outline the importance of enhancing the environmental sustainability of workplaces
- Collect and analyse appropriate information to assess how a specific activity at a host institution impacts on the environment
- Identify possible ways in which a nominated activity might be modified in order to enhance environmental sustainability
- Identify and rank any obstacles to change to a nominated activity at a host organisation

Assessment tasks

- Environmental Audit
- Group presentation
- Individual Presentation
- Internship report
- Learning journal
- Evaluation