



Module Descriptor

Title	Applied Aquatic Ecology		
Session	2025/26	Status	Published
Code	BIOL10004	SCQF Level	10
Credit Points	20	ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	10
School	Health and Life Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator	Kath Sloman		
Summary of Module			
<p>This module deals with some general and some detailed concepts in aquatic ecology with emphasis on applied aspects.</p> <p>The module begins with a review of freshwater resources and potential anthropogenic impacts. We consider the decline in wild fish catches, increases in aquaculture production and associated environmental problems, ocean acidification and invasive species.</p> <p>Aquatic contamination is explored through the study of a variety of contaminants including metals, endocrine disruptors, pharmaceuticals and microplastics. The use of aquatic bioassays is explored including toxicity testing using whole organisms, embryo bioassays, and the use of biomarkers as indices of pollution.</p>			

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus¹ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hybrid² <input type="checkbox"/>	Online³ <input type="checkbox"/>	Work -Based Learning⁴ <input type="checkbox"/>		
Campuses for Module Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Ayr <input type="checkbox"/> Dumfries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lanarkshire <input type="checkbox"/> London <input type="checkbox"/> Paisley	<input type="checkbox"/> Online / Distance Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)			
Terms for Module	Term 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Term 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

² The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

³ Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

⁴ Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Delivery						
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 2 – Term 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3 – Term 1	<input type="checkbox"/>

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Critically evaluate the concept of water as a resource and discuss issues related to global water use.
L2	Give detailed examples of the ways in which biological knowledge can be used to determine or monitor water quality.
L3	Review and critically evaluate the ways in which man has applied technology in the exploitation of aquatic resources.
L4	
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	SCQF 10 Developing general and integrated understanding of historical experience and current research as applied to use of water as a resource for humans and their environment.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF 10 Applying scientific knowledge to solve practical problems.
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF 10 Appreciating the dilemmas inherent in the exploitation of water resources for the benefit of humans while at the same time preserving natural habitats.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF 10 Abstracting relevant information from databases.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	SCQF 10 Working independently. Facilities are also available for students to share resources and engage in debate.

Prerequisites	Module Code	Module Title
	Other No specific prerequisite modules; however some background in environmental biology is expected.	
Co-requisites	Module Code	Module Title

Learning and Teaching
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.

On-campus learning events focus on providing active and interactive learning, supported by readings, resources and other activities for students to prepare (pre-learning event) and consolidate learning (post-learning event).

Learning Activities	Student Learning Hours
During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	(Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	36
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
Independent Study	150
Personal Development Plan	2
n/a	
n/a	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Recently published journal articles.

Relevant sections of textbooks held in library and accessed through the module reading list.

(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the [Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure](#), Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

The university is committed to providing a supportive learning environment that actively facilitates student success. In this module, there is a high degree of student-led flexibility. You are academically engaged if you are regularly engaged with scheduled live sessions on-campus and online, including engaging with online learning activities in your own time, course-related learning resources, and with timely completion and submission of assessments.

Whilst we understand that there may be times when conflicting priorities make participation challenging, for you to gain the most from this module it is recommended that you participate in all scheduled live classes and complete your self-directed learning activities in a timely manner.

It may be difficult to pass the assessment associated with this module if you are not regularly engaging with the module work and live classes. We may reach out to check how things are going and offer support if we observe that you have not been attending sessions or completing online activities.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: [UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code](#).

In line with current legislation (Equality Act, 2010) and the UWS Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights Code, our modules are accessible and inclusive, with reasonable adjustment for different needs where appropriate. Module materials comply with University guidance on inclusive learning and teaching, and specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations. Where modules require practical and/or laboratory based learning or assessment required to meet accrediting body requirements the University will make reasonable adjustment such as adjustable height benches or assistance of a 'buddy' or helper.

(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	Biological Sciences Health
Overall Assessment Results	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass / Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graded
Module Eligible for Compensation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.
School Assessment Board	Biology
Moderator	James Turner
External Examiner	J Spicer
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Changes / Version Number	2

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

Assessment 1

Class test (written) (60%) of final mark

Assessment 2

Coursework (40%) of final mark

The coursework associated with the module will consist of a portfolio of work carried out in workshops.

Assessment 3

(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed.

(ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when

assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Class test (written)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	60	3

Component 2

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Portfolio of written work	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	40	0

Component 3

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Combined total for all components						100%	3 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who