Postgraduate Programme Specification

Session	2025/26	**Last Modified**	23/03/25
Named Award Title	MSc Sustainable Technology MSc Sustainable Technology and Energy MSc Sustainable Technology and Environment MSc Sustainable Technology and Management		
Award Title for Each Award	MSc Sustainable Technology MSc Sustainable Technology and Energy MSc Sustainable Technology and Environment MSc Sustainable Technology and Management PG Dip Sustainable Technology (and pathway) PG Cert Sustainability		
Date of Approval	February 2025		
Details of Cohort Applies to	All students from session 2025-2026		
Awarding Institution	University of the West of Scotland	**Teaching Institution(s)**	University of the West of Scotland
Language of Instruction & Examination		English	
Award Accredited by		N/A	
Maximum Period of Registration		3 Years	
Duration of Study			
Full-time	Sept intake: 1 year Jan intake: 1.5 years May intake: 1 year	**Part-time**	Sept intake: 2 years Jan intake: 2-3 years May intake: 2 years
Placement (compulsory)	No		
Mode of Study	☒ Full-time ☒ Part-time		
Campus	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)

School	**Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences**		
Divisional Programme Board	**Engineering Physical Sciences**		
Programme Leader	C Rodriguez		

Admissions Criteria
Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements:

Appropriate Undergraduate Qualifications:
Applicants will typically possess a degree or equivalent. In the absence of a degree, where entry requirements do not conform to the general entry requirements, other evidence can be considered on an individual basis in line with Regulations 2.13 – 2.36 (Recognition of Prior Learning – RPL / Recognition of Credit).

MSc Sustainable Technology (and environment/management): 2:2 or above in an appropriate discipline from a United Kingdom University or an equivalent institution. MSc Sustainable Technology and Energy: 2:2 or above in an appropriate engineering discipline from a United Kingdom University or an equivalent institution

Other Required Qualifications/Experience
Non-standard Entry: entry to the postgraduate course may be open to holders of an HND or DipHE award in an appropriate discipline, or a professional qualification accepted as of equivalent status and usually at least three years' relevant experience. Candidates without formal qualifications who possess extensive professional experience deemed to equip the applicant with the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully complete the course (normally at least eight years) may also be admitted to the postgraduate programme. The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Guidelines will be followed.
Applicants may also be considered with other academic, vocational or professional qualifications deemed to be equivalent. We welcome applications from international students with equivalency of qualifications.

Further desirable skills pre-application
It is desirable that all entrants to SCQF level 11 have skills in the following areas: numeracy, communications (including report writing and presentations) and investigation techniques.

General Overview
The programme has been designed in line with guidance from UWS Regulatory Framework and Curriculum Framework making it student centred, flexible, simple, coherent, authentic and inclusive.
The MSc Sustainable Technology (and pathways) will produce graduates with the right skills for leading sustainability agendas within the engineering and technological sector. With a core of sustainability modules and pathways for specialisation, this programme offers a route for those wishing to upskill, retrain and specialize in this field. The graduates will have breadth and depth knowledge in the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the global context in which they operate including the challenges that face humanity during our 'climate emergency' in the areas of water, food, energy, environment and well-being, who strive to lead, influence and dare to make transformational changes while being ethically-minded, socially responsible, critically aware of the environmental and social impacts of their

decisions and actions, and culturally sensitive. The programme closely aligns with UN SGDs 7, 9, 12 and 13.
The programme aims to provide students with a critical understanding of different sustainable technological practices, while equipping them with excellent research, oral and written communication skills in order that they can convey complex and challenging topics to peers within the sector. Moreover, the programme aims to develop future leaders and champions within the sustainability sector. Through vocationally relevant material and research-based teaching, the students will develop an understanding of the principles of sustainability and how they apply to the growing sustainable technology sector including Net Zero, sustainable energy technologies, environmental protection and operations management for sustainability. This in turn opens up a range of employment opportunities including research, education and industry sectors and roles such as sustainability engineer, sustainability manager, sustainability consultant, carbon officer, energy manager and environmental manager.
The key academic aims of the programme are to:

- provide students with knowledge and a critical understanding of key concepts of the pillars (principals) of sustainability.
- develop a student's ability to plan their independent research in sustainable technology and to demonstrate originality in their thinking.
- allow students to develop and make judgements on complex sustainability issues that affect society, economy and the environment.
- provide students with the key skills to enter the workforce as sustainable engineers that can develop creative solutions to future challenges.

The proposed programme structure has been designed to directly align and meet these aims. Through a mix of core and optional modules, the programme is designed so that students get an overall grounded theory of sustainability and allow them to enter more technical pathways. The teaching and assessment methods are used to develop you as independent, critical thinkers who analyse problems and create innovative solutions as part of collaborative and individual learning activities. This programme takes a total approach that considers impact on society, economy and the environment. The programme not only develops technical knowledge in sustainable technology but also employability skills such as critical thinking, analysis, problem solving, communication, research and ICT skills.
The programme has 2 entry points (September and January) and an additional entry point in May for the MS Sustainable Technology and Management. The delivery of the modules is designed over two terms with an additional term for the dissertation. This design will suit both part-time and full-time students.

Typical Delivery Method

The programme will be delivered at the Paisley Campus.
The method of presentation of relevant material will consist of a blend of formal teaching sessions, seminars, tutorials, and group participation sessions. Self-directed learning, problem-based learning, international case studies and seminars will form part of this approach.
Students will typically be on campus 3 days a week for lectures and tutorials. Note: this will vary depending on modules chosen.
Assessment is undertaken through a mixture of written exam papers, challenging and stimulating coursework and practical exercises.
All teaching material and resources will be available to enrolled students on the virtual learning platform.

Any additional costs
None

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning
UWS' Graduate Attributes focus on academic, personal and professional skills and throughout the programmes that these skills develop competent and innovative graduates who are universally prepared, work-ready and successful. On completion of the MSc Sustainable Technology programme, you will gain the following Graduate Attributes:
• You will be a critical thinker working collaboratively with colleagues on research-minded projects.
• You will be an ambitious, motivated work ready professional, able to show future employers you are a problem solver and an effective communicator.
• Your research will be innovative and creative producing resilient solutions to current problems in a more sustainable world.
The programme develops critical thinking and analytical skills that develop your ability to deal with complicated world issues, helping you to become problem solvers who are innovative, autonomous, inquisitive, creative and imaginative.
The learning and teaching approaches encourage collaborative working, effective communication, resilience and perseverance, and development of research and inquiry skills. Generic skills that are transferable to many areas of employment are embedded throughout the programme and are detailed in the module descriptors.

Working with industry partners, you will be shown the real-world context of the theory, i.e. here's how it is done in the real world. Personal Development is built into this programme and through our partners and professional body networks, you will have the opportunity to develop the meta-skills of networking, employability preparing you for your future career. The programme will prepare graduates for local, national and international jobs (Universal), equipped with relevant knowledge and expertise for employment (Work Ready). The graduates will be at the forefront in driving sustainability for different sectors (Successful). The course will introduce students to a breadth of topics related to Sustainability which will be delivered by experts across the School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences. This will develop academic skills sets relevant to personal development (Academic). Assessment for the programme has been designed to be sustainable, and to enhance independent learning, critical thinking and analysis, with group work allowing students to develop skills in team building, leadership and communication (Personal and Professional).

UWS Graduate Attributes- https://www.uws.ac.uk/current-students/your-graduate-attributes/

Work Based Learning/Placement Details
While there is no specific programme of industrial placement, you will have access to business and industry and there is potential to carry out MSc research with case studies taken from local agencies and companies. The incorporation of current examples provide you with opportunities to contact regulatory agencies and businesses and independently enquire about potential for involvement. Further work-based learning is experienced virtually through a case-study approach and exposure to professional speakers.

Attendance and Engagement
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 programme, academic engagement equates to the following:

Students are expected to attend all timetabled sessions and to engage with all formative and summative assessment elements of all the modules that are included in the programme specification as core modules as well as any optional module when applicable.

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.

Aligned with the University's commitment to equality and diversity, this programme supports equality of opportunity for students from all backgrounds and learning needs. Using the VLE, material will be presented electronically in formats that allow flexible access and manipulation of content. The programme complies with university regulations and guidance on inclusive learning and teaching practice. There will be modules on this programme that have lab-based teaching or has site visits associated with it. In all cases you are advised to speak to the relevant Module Co-ordinator to ensure that specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice can be put in place, in accordance with the University's policies and regulations. More information on the University's EDI policies can be accessed at: https://www.uws.ac.uk/about-uws/uws-commitments/equality-diversity-inclusion/

Programme structures and requirements, SCQF level, term, module name and code, credits and awards (Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework)

Learning Outcomes

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Gain a critical understanding of the principles of sustainability (economy, environment, society) and the circular economy.
A2	Develop a deep knowledge of environmental issues and the scientific basis of major impacts of human activities on the environment.
A3	N/A
A4	N/A
A5	N/A
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Critically apply the skills needed for academic study, enquiry and synthesis of information.
B2	Apply strategies for the appropriate selection of relevant information from a wide range of sources and a large body of knowledge.
B3	Critically evaluate approaches to sustainability through current environmental legislation, research and case studies.
B4	Develop a thorough understanding of current practice, limitations, and knowledge of future likely developments.
B5	N/A
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Demonstrate advanced communication skills through appropriate written and oral methods to audiences of varying backgrounds, experience and expertise.
C2	Communicate effectively with peers, more senior colleagues and specialists to drive change.
C3	N/A
C4	N/A
C5	N/A
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Synthesis information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of theory and practice.
D2	Demonstrate advanced problem-solving skills to develop creative responses to problems and issues within sustainability and the circular economy.
D3	N/A
D4	N/A
D5	N/A
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	

E1	Working with others to understand and develop teamwork and leadership skills.
E2	Develop independent learning skills and to take responsibility for your own work.
E3	N/A
E4	N/A
E5	N/A

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules 1.							

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	CEWM11012	Sustainability Principles	20	☐	☐	☒	
11	ENGG11053	Sustainable Energy Sources and Storage	20	☐	☐	☒	
11	ENGG11055	Adv Heat Transfer and Energy Recovery	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	CEWM11008	Clean Technology and Resource Management	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	CEWM11001	Environmental Systems	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	QUAL11020	Managing Quality	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	QUAL11001	Operations Management for Sustainability	20	☒	☒	☒	
11	QUAL11026	Post-graduate Research Methods	20	☐	☒	☒	
11	CEWM11006	Pollution Control	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	ENGG11056	Process Sustainability and Safety	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	QUAL11013	Project Management Fundamentals	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	ENGG11057	Stakeholder Management & Governance	20	☒	☐	☐	

Level 11- Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) **Criteria for Award** *Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations*
1. Students who achieve 60 credits from the programme above will be eligible for the award of Pg Cert Sustainability.

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Develop a deep understand techniques for the analysis of environmental and sustainability controls.
A2	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the implication of global trends and governance for environment, society and the economy.
A3	Develop a sound understanding of industrial processes and technologies used to minimise environmental impact and enhance efficiency.
A4	Gain an extensive and detailed understanding of the principles and practices in development of clean technologies and sustainable engineering practices.
A5	N/A
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply the skills needed for academic study and enquiry into environmental and societal protection through waste reduction, treatment and disposal along with technologies relevant to industrial development and alternative energy sources.
B2	Apply strategies for the appropriate selection of relevant information from a wide source and large body of knowledge.
B3	Critically review current, relevant sustainable development practices.
B4	N/A
B5	N/A
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Apply statistical techniques for improvement and sustainable decision making.
C2	Use a wide range of ICT applications to support and enhance work at an advanced level.
C3	N/A
C4	N/A
C5	N/A
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Demonstrate advanced problem-solving skills with reference to industrial settings and complex issues in sustainability.
D2	Develop and demonstrate original and creative thinking and responses in dealing with complex or novel problems and issues related to the pillars of sustainability.
D3	Critically review, consolidate and extend knowledge, skills, practices and thinking within sustainability and the circular economy.
D4	N/A
D5	N/A
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Demonstrate leadership and good communication skills within a team, to resolve differences and manage conflict.
E2	Deal with complex ethical and professional issues in a business context and make informed judgements on issues not addressed by current professional and/or ethical codes or practices.

E3	N/A
E4	N/A
E5	N/A

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	ENGG11055	Adv Heat Transfer and Energy Recovery	20	☐	☒	☐	2
11	CEWM11008	Clean Technology and Resource Management	20	☐	☒	☐	1,3
11	QUAL11001	Operations Management for Sustainability	20	☐	☒	☒	4
11	CEWM11012	Sustainability Principles	20	☐	☒	☒	1,2,3,4
11	ENGG11053	Sustainable Energy Sources and Storage	20	☒	☐	☐	1,2,3,4

Footnotes for Core Modules

1. The specific named Pg Dip awards are comprised of the following core modules in addition to the optional modules identified below. PgDip Sustainable Technology: Sustainable Energy Sources and Storage; Sustainability Principles; Clean Technology and Resource Management.
2. Pg Dip Sustainable Technology and Energy: Sustainable Energy Sources and Storage; Sustainability Principles; Advanced Heat Transfer and Energy Recovery.
3. Pg Dip Sustainable Technology and Environment: Sustainable Energy Sources and Storage; Sustainability Principles; Clean Technology and Resource Management.
4. Pg Dip Sustainable Technology and management: Sustainable Energy Sources and Storage; Sustainability Principles; Operations Management for Sustainability.

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	ENGG11054	MSc Dissertation	60	☒	☒	☒	1,2,3,4
11	CEWM11001	Environmental Systems	20	☒	☐	☐	3
11	QUAL11020	Managing Quality	20	☒	☐	☐	1,4
11	CEWM11006	Pollution Control	20	☒	☐	☐	3
11	QUAL11026	Post-graduate Research Methods	20	☐	☒	☒	1,2,3,4
11	ENGG11056	Process Sustainability and Safety	20	☒	☐	☐	2
11	QUAL11013	Project Management Fundamentals	20	☒	☐	☐	4
11	ENGG11057	Stakeholder Management & Governance	20	☒	☐	☐	1,2,3,4

Footnotes for Option Modules

The specific named Pg Dip awards are comprised of the following optional modules in addition to the core modules identified above.

1. Pg Dip Sustainable Technology: Stakeholder Management and Governance; Managing Quality; Post-graduate Research Methods; Dissertation Module
2. Pg Dip Sustainable Technology and energy: Stakeholder Management and Governance; Process Sustainability and Safety; Post-graduate Research Methods; Dissertation Module
3. Pg Dip Sustainable Technology and environment: Stakeholder Management and Governance; Environmental Systems; Pollution Control; Post-graduate Research Methods; Dissertation Module
4. Pg Dip Sustainable Technology and management: Stakeholder Management and Governance; Project Management Fundamentals; Managing Quality; Post-graduate Research Methods; Dissertation Module.

Level 11- Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip)
Criteria for Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

1. Students who achieve 120 credits from the programme as outlined above, including all specific core and optional modules will be eligible for the award of:-
Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) Sustainable Technology
or
Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) Sustainable Technology and Energy
or
Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) Sustainable Technology and Environment
or
Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) Sustainable Technology and Management
2. Distinction will be awarded in line with University Regulations, no imported credit can

SCQF LEVEL 11 – Masters Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	A critical understanding and embedment of the main theories, concepts and principles of sustainability and the circular economy towards professional practice.
A2	Critically evaluate evidence from the most relevant science, policy and regulation in order to synthesis information and gain a coherent understanding of theory and practice.
A3	Extensive, detailed and critical knowledge and understanding of the importance of the role that a sustainability engineer plays in creating a more sustainable future.
A4	N/A
A5	N/A
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Independently, apply a range of research methods and techniques to collect appropriate data for the dissertation.
B2	Consolidate and integrate knowledge gained from the taught modules and provide practical experience in applying effective and creative strategies within sustainable engineering.
B3	Formulate and present a substantive written volume of work.
B4	Critically evaluate the limits of available technology and of the potential of new and emerging technologies in different geographical and socioeconomic environments.
B5	N/A
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Present a clear, concise and substantive written report which includes quantitative or qualitative critical analysis of research findings.
C2	Communicate effectively to a wide range of expertise including peers, specialists and senior colleagues.
C3	N/A
C4	N/A
C5	N/A
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Undertake skilled, competent, safe, evaluative and reflective sampling and critical analysis of relevant indicators within the principles of sustainability.
D2	Critically evaluate and interpret data, draw conclusions and make appropriate and original recommendations.
D3	Critically review, consolidate and extend knowledge and thinking in sustainable technologies and associated areas.
D4	Develop and demonstrate original and creative thinking and responses in dealing with complex or novel problems and issues within the sustainability agenda.
D5	N/A
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Manage time, prioritise workloads and recognise and manage personal emotions and stress.
E2	Take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development.

E3	N/A
E4	N/A
E5	N/A

Masters Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	ENGG11053	Sustainable Energy Sources and Storage	20	☒	☐	☐	1,2,3,4
11	ENGG11057	Stakeholder Management & Governance	20	☒	☐	☐	1,2,3,4
11	ENGG11056	Process Sustainability and Safety	20	☒	☐	☐	2,
11	CEWM11012	Sustainability Principles	20	☐	☒	☒	1,2,3,4
11	ENGG11055	Adv Heat Transfer and Energy Recovery	20	☐	☒	☐	2,
11	CEWM11008	Clean Technology and Resource Management	20	☐	☒	☐	1,3
11	QUAL11001	Operations Management for Sustainability	20	☐	☒	☒	4
11	QUAL11026	Post-graduate Research Methods	20	☐	☒	☒	1,2,3,4
11	ENGG11054	MSc Dissertation	60	☒	☒	☒	1,2,3,4

Footnotes for Core Modules

The specific named MSc awards are comprised of the following core modules in addition to the optional modules identified below.

1. MSc Sustainable Technology: Sustainable Energy Sources and Storage; Stakeholder Management and Governance; Sustainability Principles; Clean Technology and Resource Management; Post-graduate Research Methods; Dissertation.
2. MSc Sustainable Technology and Energy: Sustainable Energy Sources and Storage; Stakeholder Management and Governance; Process Sustainability and Safety; Sustainability Principles; Advanced Heat Transfer and Energy Recovery; Post-graduate Research Methods; Dissertation.
3. MSc Sustainable Technology and Environment: Sustainable Energy Sources and Storage; Stakeholder Management and Governance; Sustainability Principles; Clean Technology and Resource Management; Post-graduate Research Methods; Dissertation.
4. MSc Sustainable Technology and Management: Sustainable Energy Sources and Storage; Stakeholder Management and Governance; Sustainability Principles; Operations Management for Sustainability; Post-graduate Research Methods; Dissertation.

Masters Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

11	CEWM11001	Environmental Systems	20	☒	☐	☐	2
11	CEWM11006	Pollution Control	20	☒	☐	☐	2
11	QUAL11013	Project Management Fundamentals	20	☒	☐	☐	3
11	QUAL11020	Managing Quality	20	☒	☐	☐	1,3
11	ENGG11056	Process Sustainability and Safety	20	☒	☐	☐	1

Footnotes for Option Modules

The specific named MSc awards are comprised of the following optional modules in addition to the core modules identified above.

1. MSc Sustainable Technology: Process Sustainability and Safety; Managing Quality
2. MSc Sustainable Technology and Environment: Environmental Systems; Pollution Control;
3. MSc Sustainable Technology and Management: Project Management Fundamentals; Managing Quality

Level 11- Masters
Criteria for Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

1. Students who achieve 180 credits from the programme as outlined above, including all specific core and optional modules will be eligible for the award of:-
MSc Sustainable Technology
MSc Sustainable Technology and Energy
MSc Sustainable Technology and Environment
MSc Sustainable Technology and Management
2. Distinction will be awarded in line with University Regulations, no imported credit can be used. (Regulations 3.25 & 3.26)

Regulations of Assessment

Candidates will be bound by the general assessment regulations of the University as specified in the University Regulatory Framework.

An overview of the assessment details is provided in the Student Handbook and the assessment criteria for each module is provided in the module descriptor which forms part of the module pack issued to students. For further details on assessment please refer to Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework.

To qualify for an award of the University, students must complete all the programme requirements and must meet the credit minima detailed in Chapter 1 of the Regulatory Framework.

Combined Studies

There may be instances where a student has been unsuccessful in meeting the award criteria for the named award and for other more generic named awards existing within the School.

Provided that they have met the credit requirements in line with the SCQF credit minima (please see Regulation 1.21), they will be eligible for a Combined Studies award (please see Regulation 1.61). For students studying at Level 11, they will normally be eligible for an exit award of PgCert / PgDip / Masters in Combined Studies.

Version no: 1

Change/Version Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Following ILR in 2025 Changes to General Overview, Typical Delivery Method, progression and award sections to ensure consistency with other MSc programmes.	25/03/25	T Leslie