

Master of Science

Year 3 – Marine Spatial Planning Project (SUR821 – 60 credits)

To obtain an MSc Qualification, students are required to complete advanced study under supervision within a specialised area. Your university supervisor will help you develop the initial project idea, which can be based at your place of work. The project module aims to extend the experience of the student in the practice of scientific investigation and to develop the intellectual skills of recognising and using subject specific theories, concepts and principles, analysing, synthesising and summarising information critically, collecting and interpreting several lines of evidence to formulate and test hypothesis and applying knowledge and understanding to address familiar and unfamiliar problems. The student, by making an original contribution to their field, develops the skills of postgraduate, independent research, commensurate with an MSc.

The Online Environment

To take this course via the internet, you will need to access to a computer with a fast internet connection. The course uses the Blackboard learning environment – this is one of the largest online education software providers in the world. You will automatically get access to this when you become a registered student with the University of Ulster.

You will find that this course is much more flexible than traditional on-campus university courses as you can study using your own computer and the internet, study at your own pace, any place and any Time (within given timeframes). Communication occurs via four methods: e-mail, discussion boards, online chat and telephone. The extent to which each of these methods is used is determined by the individual lecturer. A lot of people mistakenly assume that they will feel isolated in an online course. To their surprise, most find that the course actually provides a high degree of personal contact as the online format facilitates communication in way that would be impossible in other situations.

The course assessment is 100% by coursework. This can include practical reports, essays, lit reviews, online tests and presentations.

As a distance learning student with the University of Ulster, you can:

- Submit work quickly and easily using the Blackboard internet technology.
- Email your lecturer or e-tutor with queries or problems as they arise and receive fast, useful feedback to ensure successful progression.
- Liaise with other students by email or through discussion forums and use shared ideas and information.
- Use the University's extensive online resources of licensed electronic access to journals, books and Websites.



PGDip/MSc

Marine Spatial Planning

Fully online – distance learning



www.ulster.ac.uk/es

If you have any queries relating to the course, please contact:

Dr. Wes Forsythe (Course Director)
School of Environmental Sciences
University of Ulster,
Coleraine,
Northern Ireland, United Kingdom
Email: w.forsythe@ulster.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)28 7012 4042
Fax: +44 (0)28 7012 4911

Mrs Linda Allen (Course Secretary)
School of Environmental Sciences
University of Ulster,
Coleraine,
Northern Ireland, United Kingdom
Email: l.allen@ulster.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)28 7012 3264
Fax: +44 (0)28 7012 4911

Information on fees, course structure
and application is available from
following the links for postgraduate at:
www.ulster.ac.uk/es

This leaflet is prepared in advance of the academic year to which it relates. The University of Ulster offers the information contained in it as a guide only. While we make every effort to check the accuracy of the factual content at the time of drafting, some changes will inevitably have occurred in the interval between publication and commencement of the relevant academic year. We reserve the right to make changes to programmes when such action is reasonably considered to be necessary in the context of our wider purpose.

© University of Ulster, June 2012

www.ulster.ac.uk/es

PGDip/MSc Marine Spatial Planning

The Programme:

This programme provides advanced education in the principles and practice of marine spatial planning. The award is intended to provide students with an appreciation of the scientific basis underpinning the management of coastal land and water resources and to enable those successfully completing the course to operate at a professional level in the emerging field of marine governance, planning and management. The course is offered in part-time online mode and suits people already working in the environmental field or those wishing to pursue a career in this area.

Specific Objectives:

The specific objectives of the course are to develop an understanding of:

- The significance of coastal and marine resources across space and time.
- Contemporary approaches to marine and coastal zone management, planning and governance.
- The patterns of, constraints on, and opportunities for, sustainable human exploitation of the marine and coastal resource.
- The information necessary to inform appropriate planning, management and intervention in the marine and coastal environments.
- Ways of engaging and working with communities and key stakeholders in the private, public and voluntary sectors.

Study for a Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) or a Master of Science (MSc) Degree:

The PgDip is made up of four taught modules (30 credits per module). There is one module in each semester (15 weeks) of a two semester University year, with one semester starting in late September and another in late January (you can start the course in September or January). The four modules accumulate to the award of PgDip in Marine Spatial Planning (120 credits). At this stage you can accept the PgDip Award, or continue studying for the MSc (a further research module over 2 semesters, 60 credits) and receive the full MSc.



Entry Requirements and Progression

Entry to the PGDip:

Applicants should normally possess one or more of the following:

- An honours degree in an appropriate subject or combination of subjects (e.g. science subject or spatial planning subject or other appropriate discipline).
- A professional qualification of equivalent standard to degree, postgraduate certificate, graduate certificate or graduate diploma or an approved alternative qualification
- Substantial and significant experiential learning, demonstrating graduate qualities

English language requirements:

If English is not your first language, we recognise a number of language tests designed to measure the proficiency of non-native speakers. The majority of international students will submit scores in either British Council IELTS or the American TOEFL test.

The minimum acceptable scores in these tests are as follows:

IELTS 6.0 (minimum score of 5.5 in individual bands)

TOEFL 550 (or equivalent in the computer or internet-based tests)

Entry to the MSc:

Students initially register for the Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip). Students who complete the PgDip with an overall mark of 50% or higher can proceed to the MSc programme. Students successfully completing the research project and with an overall pass mark of greater than or equal to 70% will graduate with an MSc in Marine Spatial Planning with distinction. Those who obtain an overall pass or greater than or equal to 50% but less than 70%, will graduate with an MSc in Marine Spatial Planning.

Fees & Study Costs

Course fees are calculated on a credit point basis depending on the number of modules you study. There is a price per credit point and this is multiplied by the number of credits for a particular module. You pay for the modules you study in each academic year (September to August), and payment for each year can be spread over 5 equal payments by recurring card payment.

You can find out more detailed information on the applicable fees at: www.ulster.ac.uk/es

Further study costs are kept to a minimum. Online text books and scientific articles needed for study are available free when you start each module.

Typical Course Structure (The order in which modules are taken varies with the start date – see online course description for details)

Marine Spatial Planning (SUR820 – 30 credits)

This module aims to integrate knowledge and practical understanding of the governance and regulatory dimensions underpinning effective, efficient and inclusive planning of the marine resource with an environmental understanding of coastal management. It draws on experiences of the use and management of the terrestrial resource and spatial planning practices.

Management of Coastal Land Resources (EGM808 – 30 credits)

This module examines processes and patterns of coastal variability; geomorphology and physical characteristics of beaches, tidal flats, salt marshes, dunes, cliff/shore-platform coasts. It explores the ecology of coastal lands examining foodwebs, interaction with physical environment and human exploitation. Human use and human alteration of coastal lands is evaluated as well as management approaches to coastal lands (voluntary/legislative, participatory/prescriptive approaches) through past and current practice and recent initiatives.

Management of Coastal Water Resources (EGM809 – 30 credits)

This module will provide knowledge and skills necessary to understand geomorphology, oceanography and processes of coastal water systems (deltas, estuaries, lagoons, inner continental shelf). Also mapping and monitoring techniques for assessing coastal water systems, ecology of coastal waters; human use of coastal waters- patterns of utilisation, conflicts and regulation. It looks at the effectiveness of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in coastal waters: its mechanisms, legal/administrative structures and approaches.

Research Methods (SUR819 – 30 credits)

The rationale for this module is to support students to identify, synthesize, critically review and present information from a range of academic, research and practice based literatures. Students are supervised by research active staff in order to acquire insights into empirical research methods. This enables them to demonstrate a critical and analytical approach to knowledge acquisition focusing on specific marine spatial planning topics. The module provides a systematic framework for the study of desk based research and the presentation of relevant data and information.