OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

for the award of

MSc in Environmental Assessment and Management

Managed by the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment

delivered by School of the Built Environment

Date approved:	Date approval confirmed, on recommendation of University validation panel or other authorised body.
Applies to students commencing study in:	September 2018

RECORD OF UPDATES

Date amended*	Nature of amendment**	Reason for amendment**
July 2016	**Transferred to new template**	**CMA Compliance**

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awarding body:	Oxford Brookes University
Teaching institution and location:	Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus
Language of study:	English
Final award:	MSc
Programme title:	Environmental Assessment and Management
Interim exit awards and award titles available:	PG Diploma PG Certificate
Brookes course code:	PL83
UCAS code:	P015395
JACS code:	K400
HECoS code:	100469
Mode of delivery:	Full-time (face to face/on-campus) Part-time (face to face/on-campus)
Mode/s and duration of study:	Full time: MSc: 12 months, PGDip: 9 months Part time: MSc: 24 months, PGDip: 21 months
QAA subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:	There are no benchmarks for postgraduate programmes. However this programme's aims and outcomes conform to the QAA descriptor qualification at descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 7 set out in the QAA-FHEQ http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf
Professional accreditation attached to the programme:	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (http://www.rics.org) Royal Town Planning Institute (http://www.rtpi.org.uk) - provides partial exemption from the educational requirements of Membership to the RTPI.
University Regulations:	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/

SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

The MSc in Environmental Assessment and Management (EAM) programme critically examines the principles, procedures and methods of environmental assessment and management against the background of British and European policy and regulations. Although the Programme's main emphasis is on environmental assessment, it considers management in two senses: management of the environment and project co-ordination. The Programme adopts an integrative approach to demonstrate the complementary roles of natural resource management and planning. The Programme is designed to equip students with a critical understanding of the techniques and skills necessary to undertake the effective environmental assessment and management of major development proposals.

The Programme aims to:

- provide students with an understanding of the principles, procedures and methods involved in Environmental Assessment and Management (EAM)
- make students aware of the complementary roles of natural resource management and planning in promoting sustainability
- enable students to develop research skills required for the collection, analysis and presentation of information in the context of environmental impact assessment
- enable students to co-ordinate an environmental impact assessment programme
- enable students to analyse critically the content of an environmental impact statement
- provide students with an opportunity for specialised study of an aspect of EAM
- contribute to students' opportunities for employment and further study

Please refer to the following link to view the staff profiles within the School of the Built Environment:
http://planning.brookes.ac.uk/staff/index.html

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY

1. review critically the issues affecting the development and effectiveness of environmental assessment and management, particularly in the European Union and the United Kingdom;
2. outline the major impacts of human development on the environment and the principal causes of such impacts, with particular reference to project, programme and policy-specific factors;
3. utilise the key concepts, disciplines and tools of environmental assessment and management and understand their relationship and relevance to environmental impact assessment.
4. design and employ the methodology and methods used in environmental assessment and management
5. identify the role of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment within the spatial planning system
6. demonstrate specific understanding of key components of the environmental impact assessment process, notably noise, landscape and visual, socio-economic and ecology
7. apply the accepted review criteria currently applied to the environmental statements resulting from the environmental impact assessment process, thus contributing to the continued development of the EIA professional in the workplace

3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY

1. employ techniques for sampling, measuring and analysing environmental, ecological and socio-economic data
2. structure and carry out an independent research project and write a substantive piece of work (*MSc*)
3. critically appraise research methods and research design employed for the investigation of environmental assessment and management issues

3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY

1. formulate and adopt a strategic, analytical and creative approach to problem solving
2. demonstrate time management, particularly in relation to multi-task initiatives
3. set personal objectives and relate the Programme content to students' longer term career objectives
4. recognise the role in the environmental assessment process of such skills as negotiation, mediation, and advocacy and the importance of team-working, often with other professionals, in an inter-disciplinary context.

3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

1. appraise new approaches and technology as they apply to the environmental impact assessment process
2. work effectively as both an individual or as a member of a team, using a range of academic skills which centre upon enquiry, research, analysis and information dissemination
3. present environmental information effectively (oral, written and graphic)
4. employ team work, negotiation and problem-solving within groups

3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

1. recognise the importance of stakeholder involvement and public participation in the environmental impact assessment process and of engaging and communicating with (by appropriate and varied means) a diverse range of interests, including local residents and community groups, business people, commercial developers, politicians and protest groups.

2. appreciate and respect diversity of cultures, views and ideologies, and understand how that respect can be applied in environmental impact assessment and management through the pursuit of equal opportunity, social inclusion and non-discrimination (on the grounds of wealth, gender, age, race, disability, religion and culture).

SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status	Coursework: Exam ratio
P38303	Principles of Environmental Assessment and Management	20	7	Compulsory: MSc, PGDip, PGCert	100:0
P38306	Procedures and Methods for EIA	40	7	Compulsory: MSc, PGDip, PGCert	100:0
P37642	Research Methods	10	7	Compulsory: MSc	100:0
P37699	MSc Dissertation	50	7	Compulsory: MSc	100:0
P38305	Ecosystem Degradation and Management	20	7	Optional: MSc/PGDip	100:0
P38073	Environmental Management Systems	20	7	Optional: MSc/PGDip	100:0
P37602	Spatial Planning in Action	20	7	Optional: MSc/PGDip	100:0
P38162	Globalisation, Environment & Development	20	7	Optional: MSc/PGDip	100:0
P37906	International Transport Planning	20	7	Optional: MSc/PGDip	100:0
P38350	Strategic Environmental Assessment	20	7	Optional: MSc/PGDip	100:0
P38333	GIS & Environmental Modelling	20	7	Optional: MSc/PGDip	100:0
P38088	Environmentally Sustainable Business	20	7	Optional: MSc/PGDip	100:0
P38388	Independent Study Module	20	7	Optional: MSc/PGDip	100:0

4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

The Postgraduate Certificate (60 level 7 credits) comprises module P38303 (S1, 20 level 7 credits) and P38306 (S2, 40 level 7 credits).

The Postgraduate Diploma comprises 120 level 7 credits that must include modules P38303 (S1, 20 level 7 credits) and P38306 (S2, 40 level 7 credits), plus a choice of 3 x 20 credit optional modules drawn from the following array: P38305; P38073; P37602; P38162; P37906; P38350; P38333; P38088; P38388

The MSc comprises 180 level 7 credits that must include the compulsory modules P38303 (S1, 20 level 7 credits), P38306 (S2, 40 level 7 credits), P37642 (S1, 10 level 7 credits) and the MSc Dissertation (P37699, 50 level 7 credits), plus a choice of 3 x 20 credit optional modules (drawn from P38305; P38073; P37602; P38162; P37906; P38350; P38333; P38088; P38388).

4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The MSc Environmental Assessment and Management is accredited by the RTPI and provides partial exemption from the educational requirements of Membership to the Institute. The full educational requirements for membership of the RTPI are satisfied when a student has combined the MSc in Environmental Assessment and Management with the University's BA (Honours) City and Regional

Planning or who has who has graduated with an MSc in Environmental Assessment and Management and goes on to complete the Department of Planning's Postgraduate Diploma in Spatial Planning.

The Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma exit awards do not carry RICS or RTPI accreditation status.

SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

Information about the learning experience is provided in the course entry. Include information here about:

- typical contact/independent study mix across the programme – how student time is divided between different teaching and learning methods;
- how the assessment strategy is informed by the Brookes Assessment Compact, and how it has been designed to enable students to achieve the programme learning outcomes;
- an indication of the typical mix of coursework/examinations students will experience across the programme.

Teaching and learning methods reflect the wide variety of topics and techniques associated with environmental assessment and management. Whilst most modules have a lecture 'core', this is also normally supported by directed reading, smaller group teaching and learning in seminars, and project and workshop sessions as indicated in the Assessment Compact. Some modules also include site visits and fieldwork, which provide students with direct experience of the more practical and current issues in environmental assessment and management practice. A wide range of staff are involved in teaching the programme, drawn primarily from the Department of Planning and the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences, but with some contributions from staff drawn from Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment and the wider University community. Visiting lecturers from organisations such as environmental consultancies, local authorities, research bodies and the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management (IEMA) provide case studies and explain how the techniques learned in the programme are applied in practice. A variety of materials and resources, including student experience, are used to provide a varied educational experience and a teaching and learning environment appropriate for graduate students.

The assessment strategy for the EAM Programme has been designed to combine academic rigour and integration of theory and practice, with an emphasis on continuous development, and reflection on student learning. The assessments are designed to develop the breadth, depth and application of student knowledge. Modules are assessed separately by methods which may include essays, seminar papers, tests, written examinations, workshops and simulations, practical and project work and may involve oral as well as written presentations. In keeping with the Programme's applied and post-graduate emphasis, most of the assessment is on the basis of coursework. The assessment methods aim to test not only knowledge, but also skills such as research, analysis, prescription, group co-ordination and management.

The five Specific Graduate Attributes are met through the Learning Outcomes associated with the subject compulsory and elective modules: Academic Literacy will enable graduating students to acquire the knowledge and skills associated with environmental assessment and management, Research Literacy will enable graduating students to undertake research relating to environmental issues, Critical self-awareness and Personal Literacy enable graduating students to reflect on the role of the environmental assessment and management professional in society, Digital and Information Literacy will enable graduating students to obtain and acquire relevant and critical information associated with environmental issues from a range of sources, Active Citizenship will enable graduating students to reflect on and evaluate the differing cultural and international approaches to environmental assessment and management.

SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Prior qualifications necessary for entry to the programme, including English language requirements.

The MSc in Environmental Assessment and Management (EAM) attracts students from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences, including ecology, environmental science, planning, geography, landscape architecture, management and chemistry among others.
Some students may already have experience in environmental assessment, whilst others have management experience outside this field and are seeking a more significant change of career direction. This wide mix of interests and skills is especially suitable for a topic such as EAM, which is inherently interdisciplinary. Many of our students are from overseas, and bring a wealth of experience and perspectives.
Admission to the programme is normally open to applicants who fulfil one of the following requirements:

- hold a good undergraduate honours degree (second-class honours degree or equivalent) or other professional qualification relevant to EAM
- have appropriate professional experience in environmental assessment and management.
- See the university's general entry requirements: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/how-to-apply/entry-requirements/postgraduate-courses/

English language requirements
If your first language is not English you will require a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 overall with 6.0 in all components.
OR
An equivalent English language qualification acceptable to the University. See the university's general English language requirements: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/international/applying-to-arriving/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/

SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Previous graduates have gone on to develop careers such as:

- Environmental consultancy and environmental planning practice e.g. working for companies such as Amec, Environ, Golder Associates, Nicholas Pearson Associates, Parsons Brinkerhoff, ERM, RPS Group, Savills Ltd, Pegasus, Waterman Group, WSP Environment amongst many others
- Environmental managers and EIA / SEA / Sustainability officers with regulatory agencies such as the Environment Agency and SEPA, local authorities, and government departments such as DEFRA
- Environmental officers within industry e.g. the mining sector, power generation
- Officers with non-statutory bodies and NGOs such as wildlife trusts

The Environmental Assessment and Management Programme has strong links with employers through:

- visiting speakers from consultancy, industry, regulatory bodies, and professional organisations e.g. IEMA
- site visits and field trips
- work placements opportunities e.g. with RSPB
- many of our research and consultancy contracts our completed in partnership with leading planning and environmental consultancies