



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
Summer School

Introduction to Learning for Sustainability

8 June- 26 June 2015

University of Edinburgh

Since 1583 the University of Edinburgh has been changing the world. We're consistently ranked as one of the top 20 Universities in the world, with 96% of our academic departments producing world-leading research.

We came to global prominence during the Scottish Enlightenment when thinkers such as Joseph Black, James Hutton and Charles Darwin were transforming received ideas about the world. The quality of our staff and students over the last 500 years has confirmed our reputation for excellence and innovation.

Social Programme

To enhance your experience at the University of Edinburgh Summer School, a variety of social and cultural activities will be organized to allow you to explore and discover the history, traditions and beauty of Scotland whilst meeting people from across the world.

Activities include visits to the iconic Edinburgh Castle, Palace of Holyrood and Scottish Parliament, as well as guided hikes in the countryside, movie nights, quizzes and sports.

Course facts:

Course Organiser: Betsy King

Subject area: Education

Credits: 10 credits/5 ECTS /2 US

Credit level: 10

Academic eligibility: 2 years of undergraduate study

Language requirements: IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 5.5 in each component) or equivalent

Location: Edinburgh, Scotland

Course length: Three weeks

Fees: £1725

Description

That in the relatively brief period that Homo sapiens has been the dominant species on the planet we have had a dramatic impact on the fabric and functions of the planet is irrefutable, as is the evidence that this is leading to further and perhaps irreversible effects on planetary systems and climate, loss of biodiversity, ecological impacts of manufactured chemicals, inequality, and related concerns of human well-being and economic stability.

This course aims to critique aspects of the scientific evidence and social context of the above situation and our responses to it. In so doing participants will consider educational responses to the contested concept of 'sustainability'. This will involve participants considering the breadth and complexity of concepts of 'sustainability', and necessarily challenging and partially re-grounding their present understandings and practices by comparing these with the internationally diverse set of practices that sail beneath the 'flag of convenience' that is "Learning for Sustainability", "Education for Sustainable Development" and their variants.

The ways in which theory and policy inform practice is a dominant theme of the course. This is reflected in the teaching and, in particular, the three forms of assessment – all of which are inter-linked. The presentation and the essay both require students to draw on sustainability and learning literature and national / state education policy documents.

Teaching

A variety of teaching and learning approaches will be used, including lectures, discussion seminars, workshop tasks and outdoor activities. In this course, participants will work with and interrogate the breadth and complexity of the policies and practices that are understood to be Learning for Sustainability and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Aspects of the course content are driven by students' exploration of their own attitudes and perspectives on sustainability and learning.

- Students will be expected to complete relevant readings and assignment tasks in their own study time.

Students will be expected to keep a personal reflective journal – elements of which they should be prepared to share with their tutor and submit for assessment.

The teaching contact time is 36 hours over three weeks. This comprises lectures, seminars, workshops and fieldwork.

