

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION: FIELD COURSE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Membership and Terms of Reference (Updated January 2024)

Purpose

The University of Exeter's Transformative Education team, working with the Environment and Climate Emergency Education Advocates, has established a Task and Finish Group to understand how field courses on taught programmes can be **environmentally sustainable, accessible, and inclusive** for all of our students and colleagues. The Group will develop an **Ethic of practice** for academic and professional services to use as a decision-making tool when developing and amending existing field courses. This document will form the basis for proposed amendments to the UoE TQA manual.

Terms of Reference

The Task and Finish Group will:

- Review **existing data** and **generate new data** to understand the current situation in terms of field course coverage and characteristics (environmental sustainability, accessibility and inclusivity);
- Collate examples of **best practice** from within and beyond the University for developing environmentally sustainable, accessible and inclusive field courses;
- Consider the **current barriers** to developing environmentally sustainable accessible and inclusive field courses;
- Review **student experiences** of field courses and their understanding of the key sustainability, accessibility and inclusivity issues;
- Develop a set of **principles** for developing environmentally sustainable, accessible and inclusive field course experiences;
- Recommend the ways in which the **pedagogic benefits and student experience** of fieldwork can be incorporated into decision making about field course developments;
- Design and receive feedback on an effective mechanism (**Ethic of practice**) for field University leaders, Directors of Education and Student Experience, field course leaders and Professional Services colleagues to use as a decision support tool when developing and amending field courses on taught programmes.

Reporting

The Task and Finish Group will report to the Taught Programmes Faculty Board and Advocate Climate Taskforce (ACT) with recommendations for the adoption of principles and a decision-making support toolkit to the Dean for Students and Vice President and DVC (Education and Student Experience).

Timeframe and pattern of meetings

The Group will meet on a regular basis and aim to produce a draft Ethic of Practice outlining proposed considerations for further embedding environmental sustainability and EDI practices in to field course pedagogy at UoE. The following illustrates a timeframe for the group activities.

- Commissioning and membership confirmation: August 2022;
- First meeting: October 2022;
- Monthly meetings: October 2022 to September 2023;
- Ethic of Practice – draft principles for review: November 2023;
- Draft amendments to the TQA manual for review: April 2024
- Construction of a best practice guide for design and delivery of field courses (in conjunction with the Transformative Education Team): Autumn 2024.

Mode of working

All meetings will be held online to ensure the Group is accessible to colleagues from different campuses, without the need to travel.

Membership

Dr Ewan Woodley (Geography, Streatham) **chairs** the Group and brings extensive experience as former Director of Education and Student Experience and an experienced field course module convenor, having managed the transition to online field courses during the Covid-19 academic and now developing inclusive, low-carbon optional international field courses.

The Group has representation from the following stakeholders:

- **Academics** across relevant Faculties, with APVCEs being approached to nominate one or two representatives. This is particularly important for ESE, where carbon-intensive field course activity takes place. Academics should have experience in planning and running field courses (in person and virtual);
- **Professional Services**, incorporating: travel bookers, field course administrators, Procurement Team and Sustainable Travel Manager;
- **Students**, with an initial approach being made to sabbatical **officers from the Guild and Students' Union**;
- Ensure that there is a good balance between **campuses** in Devon and Cornwall.

Resourcing

The Group may require specific resource-intensive work (e.g. data mining and toolkit composition) and this could be commissioned from student projects and / or modules such as Green Consultants.

Group members

Dr Ewan Woodley - DESE (Geography, Streatham)

Dr Ian Ashton - (Renewable Energy, Penryn)

Prof. Stewart Barr – Education Climate Advocate (Geography, Streatham)

Prof. Camille Bonneaud (ESI)

Fraser Browning (until January 2024) - Technical Evaluator, Environment & Climate Emergency Team

Helen Cameron – Education Policy Team

Isabel Castle – Geography Administrator (Streatham)

Giovanni Currado - Sustainable Travel and Transport Manager

Sara Echeverri Duque (Teaching Quality Assurance and Enhancement)

Dr Susan Greaney (Archaeology)

Rachel Griffiths (Senior Education Developer)

Alison Hume (until September 2023) – Senior Education Partner (Faculty of Environment, Science and Economy)

Claire Lavers (Finance) Business School's Lead Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator and Member of the University's Disability Equality Group

Prof. Michael Leyshon (Geography, Penryn)

Nick Long (until November 2023) UoE Market Research Team

Rachel O'Nyons (Research and Insight Manager)

Sean Porter (Senior Education Developer, Transformative Education)

Steph Ralph (Archaeology)

Prof. Andy Russell (Biosciences, Penryn)

Prof. Nicki Saulsbury – Lead for Electives, Lead for Clinical Educator Development (Faculty of Health and Life Sciences)

Jess Steer (Geography undergraduate student, Streatham)

Bill Thompson (Field Trips Coordinator, Penryn)

Josie Turner (Senior Education Partner, Penryn)

Prof. Nicola Whyte – Co-Director of the Centre for Environmental Arts and Humanities

Lena Worwood – EDI Advisor (UoE)