MSc Coastal and Marine Resource Management

Programme Specification

Primary Purpose
Course management and quality assurance.

Secondary Purpose
Detailed information for students, staff and employers. Current students should refer to the related Course Handbook for further detail.

Disclaimer
The University of Portsmouth has checked the information given in this Programme Specification. We will endeavour to deliver the course in keeping with this Programme Specification; however, changes may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, review and update of units and courses. Where this activity leads to significant changes to units and courses, there will be prior consultation of students and others, wherever possible, and the University will take all reasonable steps to minimize disruption to students. It is also possible that the University may not be able to offer a unit or course for reasons outside of its control, for example; the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible. Where appropriate, the University will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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Course Details

1. Named Awards
MSc Coastal and Marine Resource Management

2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable)
C0025F/P

3. Awarding Body
University of Portsmouth

4. Teaching Institution
University of Portsmouth

5. Accrediting Body
RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors)

6. QAA Benchmark Groups
Geography

7. Document Control Information
June 2018

8. Effective Session
2018/19

9. Author
Dr Jonathan Potts

10. Faculty
Science

11. Department
Geography

Curriculum

12. Educational Aims

- To provide a systematic, coherent and balanced education to Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma and Masters Degree levels within the curriculum of Coastal and Marine Resource Management.
- To provide a range of routes by which knowledge, understanding and skills concerned with the management of coastal and marine resources can be developed at postgraduate level.
- To develop the intellectual abilities, critical faculties, transferable skills and knowledge of postgraduate students so as to contribute to their personal development and career
enhancement and, thus, to contribute to bodies concerned with the management of marine and coastal resources.

- To develop an interdisciplinary understanding of the resources in coastal and marine environments and of the need for and approaches to their management.
- To develop critical awareness of marine and coastal policy contexts affecting the management of coastal and marine resources.
- To provide opportunities for specialist investigations of management techniques, approaches or policy applicable to a wider range of marine or coastal resources/issues.
- To provide a learning environment and a foundation within which students can extend their intellectual and practical skills and move progressively towards wholly independent study and research in this area of study.

**The RICS involvement with the Surveying Programme:**

- These courses will conform to the Partnership arrangements between the University of Portsmouth and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.
- The course will conform to RICS Quality Standards
- Access will relate to RICS threshold standards
- An annual partnership development meeting will be held between the UoP and the RICS
- External Examiners will be appointed against UoP guidelines but are also subject to approval by the RICS

13. Reference Points

- University of Portsmouth Curricula Framework Document
- The scholarship and research expertise of academic members of staff
- QAA Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Education
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- National Qualifications Framework
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies. The Department is in partnership with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors who accredit this programme on an annual basis.

14. General Learning Outcomes

**Level 7**

Master’s degrees/Postgraduate Certificates/Postgraduate Diplomas are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice
- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship
- originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline
- conceptual understanding that enables the student:
  - to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline
  - to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:
• deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
• demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
• continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level

And holders will have:
• the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
  • the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
  • decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
• the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

15. Learning Outcomes

1. To develop an understanding of the need for and principles of resource management.
2. To develop an appreciation of coastal and marine resources and their exploitation
3. To develop an understanding of different approaches to the valuation of resources and to be able to apply various evaluative methods.
4. To develop an awareness of physical and decision making processes affecting marine and coastal areas.
5. To develop understanding of aspects of policy formulation and implementation related to coastal and marine environments.
6. To develop skills concerned with the management of resources.
7. To develop critical current awareness of issues topical on the coast or to do with the sea.
8. To enhance the development of particular management skills, including the critical appreciation of policy, through the study of appropriate options.
9. To enable students to research at Masters level a topic which has potential for extension and development as a research degree.

A. Knowledge and Understanding of:
A.1 The concepts and theories of Coastal and Marine Resource Management in general.
A.2 Relationships between legislation and philosophies of Coastal and Marine Resource Management as promoted by governmental and professional bodies through key publications.
A.3 Law and legal liability, and the role of management functions.
A.4 Specific coastal and marine legislation, and the responsibilities of the key duty holders.
A.5 Appreciation of value.
A.6 Assessments for the long term sustainability of the coast and marine areas.
A.7 The role of development control.
A.8 The evaluation of coastal management systems.
A.9 Location and understanding of all sources of information relevant to Coastal and Marine Resource Management.
A.10 Quantitative and qualitative research methods and development of special research techniques for Coastal and Marine Resource Management.

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) Skills, able to:
B.1 Analyse and critically examine different forms of discourse.
B.2 Assimilate complex information from diverse sources, and integrate and organise that information in relation to defined goals.
B.3 Demonstrate capacity for independent judgement, critical reasoning and imaginative response.

B.4 Deploy information and argument effectively and in a self-reflective manner, and to evaluate alternative perspectives or points of view.

B.5 Understand, interrogate and apply different theoretical positions, and to develop an awareness of their applicability in different contexts.

B.6 Plan and execute assignments in consultation with tutors.

B.7 Critically evaluate published research, identify further research needs and current opportunities, and select suitable research methods to pursue them.

B.8 Collate and analyse scientific data and site evaluation to prepare written reports on research programmes.

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) Skills, able to:

C.1 Assess and monitor the need for coastal and marine management strategies.

C.2 Diagnose the need for strategies.

C.3 Formulate management plans for action.

C.4 Carry out literature reviews.

C.5 Analyse case studies to determine best practice.

C.6 Formulate and design marine strategies.

C.7 Present results to both academic and professional audiences.

C.8 Employ skills gained from other units (particularly valuation).

C.9 Analyse institutional frameworks.

C.10 Prepare and create a wide range of documentation, including Management Plans, Project Specifications and other reports.

C.11 Initiate and maintain successful working relationships with individual and corporate clients in the private, public and voluntary sectors, and with administrative authorities and other relevant bodies.

D. Transferable (Graduate and Employability) Skills, able to:

D.1 Communicate effectively in writing, speaking and in appropriate forms of presentation.

D.2 Read and understand documents related to software products and systems.

D.3 Use information technology to handle data, simulation and assist with design and testing.

D.4 Assess problem domains and formulate appropriate problem solving strategies.

D.5 Build on previous experience in order to generalise.

D.6 Ability to work in teams to achieve goals but nevertheless be distinctively individual.

16. Learning and Teaching Strategies and Methods

Opportunities to develop cognitive skills are identified at an induction course and by guidance and study material sent to new students (LO B1-B8). They are further developed by directed private study and by exchanges between students and their assignment tutors when assessed work is in preparation (LO B1-B8).

Opportunities to develop practical skills are identified at an induction course and by guidance and study material sent to new students (LO1-11). They are further developed by directed private study and by the exchanges between students and their assignment tutors when assessed work is in preparation. Workplace based lectures and seminars are also used (LO1-3, 5). Students taking the
Dissertation unit each present an unassessed verbal plan, then write an assessed project plan and are then supervised in its implementation (LO1, 2, 4, & 7).

Advanced information about the subject areas (LO 1-6) is conveyed through a combination of lectures, seminars and tutorials.

17. Assessment Strategy

It is deemed appropriate at Masters level to emphasise the use of continual coursework assessment. This is presented in a variety of formats, from extended essays, seminar / verbal presentations to project work. The emphasis is on individual work, with some formative group work, where appropriate to the unit's subject area.

The variety of coursework styles are used to test LO B1-B7. In completing these assessments students are expected to demonstrate interrogation, critical evaluation, analysis, and synthesis appropriate to level 7 achievement.

Where students are expected to incorporate an element of case study material into their assessed coursework, they will be encouraged to draw upon their own experiences and interests. Thus, a piece of coursework will specify clearly defined requirements in terms of the topic and task to be undertaken, but will allow students to draw on empirical evidence of their choice. For example, an extended essay requiring an evaluation of a coastal area management strategy would allow students to select from a country and area of their choice. Similarly, a coursework assignment comprising the evaluation of a resource management project would allow students to draw on enterprises with which they were familiar or in which they had been involved (LO B3–B5).

The variety of assessments incorporated within the core units has been specifically designed to develop a broad range of defined skills in the students. The assessments have a crucial role in the development of transferable and subject-specific skills in the students. First, students are encouraged to develop both their reading and analytical skills in the preparation and delivery of seminar papers in some of the core units in semester one. It is intended that students returning to studying after an extended period will find the emphasis placed on analysis of secondary published material in this way useful in re-acquiring and further developing their literacy and analytical capabilities. In the same way, students making the transition from undergraduate to postgraduate studies will need to be guided carefully in the need for more extensive, in depth and critical reading of published works (LO 1-6).

Formative and summative assessment is undertaken for the Dissertation Project Proposal. This enables students to explore and plan their individual research project early (LO B1-B8).

The Dissertation is assessed in parts, in a way, which is designed to help the student develop his/her project and receive feedback from assessment during the course of its execution. The full specification for the Dissertation assessment is contained within the Dissertation unit specification (LO B1-B8)

Opportunities to develop skills are identified at an induction course and by guidance and study material sent to new students. They are further developed by directed private study and by the exchanges between students and their assignment tutors when assessed work is in preparation (LO 1-11).

Opportunities to develop transferable and key skills are identified at an induction course and by guidance and study material sent to new students. They are further developed by directed private study and by the exchanges between students and their assignment tutors when assessed work is in preparation (LO1–6).

A range of assessment methods including essays, reports and presentations are used to assess students' achievement of LO 1-6.
18. Course Structure, Progression and Award Requirements

See Unit Web Search\(^1\) for full details on the course structure and units

The Masters degree level comprises of a minimum of 180 credits. One credit is equivalent to 10 hours of learning. Taught units are offered as 30 credit units. Students take four taught units for a total of 120 credits. The dissertation is a 60 credit unit. The course is offered on a 12 month time-scale in full-time mode and 24 month in part-time mode, dissertations being studied, written and submitted after the four taught units have been successfully completed.

Standard University rules apply - the regulations must be consulted for a full description of exit awards.

Post Graduate Certificate (PgCert) – 60 credits
Post Graduate Diploma (PgDip) – 120 credits
MSc – 180 credits

The inter-disciplinary, inter-faculty nature of this course allows maximum benefit to be derived from various areas of strength in the University. By integrating the economic/evaluative aspects with the principles of resource management and policy formulation in the contextual framework of coastal and marine environments, students develop a broad and deep understanding of the management and exploitation of coastal and marine resources. Overall comprehension and appreciation of coastal and marine management issues are developed so that a more strategic approach to management problems can be developed. Students are introduced to different management techniques, transferable to a wide range of contexts, allowing them to derive solutions to unfamiliar problems. The course encourages self-development and independent learning from a variety of sources and in a variety of contexts, rather than providing simply for the acquisition of factual information. The subject matter for the management of coastal and marine resources is vast, encompassing a range of natural and human aspects which must be understood before appropriate management decisions can be made. Rather than cover such a wide scope at a superficial level, the course concentrates on particular analytical frameworks which are explored in depth in the core units, leaving the student to develop those areas of greatest interest through the choice of options and through independent study and research at the Masters level. Generally, material is presented in 30 credit units. The course has been designed to allow the development of students' knowledge, understanding and skills through the progression of the course so that students will progress from taught material to independent study as they progress from the course. The dissertation allows students to demonstrate their skills in project definition, survey, analysis and synthesis, organisational skills and communication while pursuing an original topic of interest in conflict resolution or resource allocation in the coastal and/or marine environment.

Within the taught units, two main inter-linked themes are developed: humankind's use and its valuation in different ways of the resources of coastal and marine environments and the management of resources and formulation/implementation of policies to achieve management objectives. These are supported by contextual information vital to understanding the management of such resources. This level is based on the need for understanding the principles of management and for the appreciation of the resources of the marine and coastal environments and their exploitation and valuation.

The Masters degree in Coastal and Marine Resource Management was accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in 1995, extended in 1998 and re-accredited in 1999. Students graduating from this course follow the postgraduate route to membership.

19. Employability Statement

Coastal and Marine Resource Management (CMRM) is a well-established but still growing field (especially in the UK with the recent Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009), of employment for postgraduates. The CMRM Masters degree curriculum has been designed in consultation with a range of employers to ensure that students leave with the skills they need in the workplace. Opportunities exist for students to carry out many unit assessments and their dissertation work with companies and organisations, such as The Crown Estate, the Marine Management Organisation,

\(^1\) www.port.ac.uk/unitwebsearch
the Environment Agency, Langstone Harbour Board and WWF, often enabling students to develop their dissertation topic in consultation with CMRM professionals.

Careers education, information and guidance are embedded within the teaching of the degree’s constituent units through the discussion of practical, ‘real-world’ examples. The curriculum develops a range of skills that are relevant to employability. All units include visits to or from commercial and governmental organisations so that students may see CMRM approaches and initiatives firsthand and experience how these fit into their host organisations. The interdisciplinary nature of CMRM means that students have to engage with a variety of tasks ranging from preparing for traditional academic artefacts to developing and managing practical and applied project work. Undertaking these varied tasks requires self-management as well as the management and collaboration of others.

Career management skills are delivered informally (not credit rated) through the personal tutorial system and within all units. The tutorials provide students with an opportunity to become increasingly self-reflexive and think of career options and specific employers open to them and reflect on the skills and experiences they could develop. In collaboration with Purple Door the students are taught CV, application and interview skills. A 'mock interview' scenario is offered where the students select an advertised professional job and then submit a covering letter, CV and application form. Subsequently, the individual student is interviewed and detailed feedback provided.

Furthermore, students will acquire a wide range of discipline specific and transferable skills relating to their potential careers and workplaces through the following:

1. The Course Leader and other members of staff are active consultants in coastal management and will share his experiences and past projects with students. This will include numerous "Careers in Coastal Science and Management" sessions at which students will gain an understanding of what it’s like to work in the sector, the opportunities commonly available and the resources available for researching the sector.

2. Extensive use is made of case studies, field visits to key sites and use of documentation from operating authorities and consultants.

3. A variety of external industry and practice-based speakers contribute to the unit - which provides highly topical issues to be addressed as well as access to potential work experience, a broad range of industry contacts and potential future employment positions.

4. The summative coursework projects aim to develop self-management, thinking and reflective skills, writing, research and problem-solving skills.

5. Formative assessment will address reading, observation, oral communication, information literacy and problem-solving skills.

6. The presentation will address self-management, reflective, research and reading skills as well as the acquisition and communication of technical knowledge.

7. The course incorporates latest policy and guidance of responsible government departments and operating authorities as well as covering their historical development and changing approaches. The course provides a vision of the discipline as it is currently practiced in the UK and international workplace.

**Course Management**

**20. Support for Student Learning**

- The Course is managed by a Course Leader.
- Extensive induction programme introduces the student to the University and their course.
- Each student has a personal tutor, responsible for pastoral support and guidance.
- University support services include careers, financial advice, housing, counselling etc.
- The Academic Skills Unit (ASK).
- The Additional Support and Disability Advice Centre (ASDAC).
• Excellent library facilities.
• The University of Portsmouth has consistently been awarded an excellent rating for student support and guidance in a number of Quality Assurance Agency inspections.
• Student course and unit handbooks provide information about the course structure and University regulations etc.
• Feedback is provided for all assessments.
• Personal Development Planning (PDP) for all awards.

21. Admissions Criteria

A. Academic Admissions Criteria

Standard University rules apply and this will normally mean that candidates are in possession of an honours degree with at least a classification of 2.2 and in a relevant discipline. All other qualification or experience presented must be forwarded to the Head of Department for a University of Portsmouth decision.

For students where English is not their native language, English language proficiency is required at a minimum of IELTS band 6.5 with no component score below 6.0.

B. Disability

The University makes no distinction in its admissions policy with regard to disability and will endeavour to make all reasonable adjustments in order to make it possible for students to study at Portsmouth on a course of their choice.

22. Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

A. Mechanisms for Review and Evaluation

• Course Leader’s Annual Standards and Quality Evaluative Review.
• Head of Department’s Annual Standards and Quality Evaluative Review.
• Unit and Course Level student feedback considered at Board of Studies.
• Unit Assessment Board consideration of student performance for each programme.
• Annual Standards and Quality Reports to Board of Studies, including consideration of Subject and Award External Examiner Reports.
• Periodic Programme Review.
• Student Representatives and Student/Staff Consultative Committees.
• National Student Survey.
• Staff Performance and Development Review.
• Peer Review and Development Framework.
• Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee.

B. Responsibilities for Monitoring and Evaluation

• Unit Co-ordinators for unit content and delivery.
• Course Leader for day-to-day running of course.
• Board of Studies with overall responsibilities for operation and content of course.
• Head of Department.
• Associate Dean (Academic).
• Associate Dean (Students).
• Quality Assurance Committee.
• Unit, Award and Progression Board of Examiners.

C. Mechanisms for Gaining Student Feedback
• Student Representation on Board of Studies.
• Student Staff Consultative Committees.
• Unit and Course level student feedback questionnaires.
• University participates in external student surveys, e.g., National Student Survey (NSS), Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) and International Student Barometer (ISB).

D. Staff Development Priorities
• Academic staff undertake activities related to research, scholarship, teaching and learning and student support and guidance.
• Annual staff performance and development reviews match development to needs.
• Managers undertake a variety of management development programmes.
• New academic staff required to undertake appropriate University of Portsmouth learning and teaching programmes.
• All academic staff encouraged to seek Higher Education Academy membership.
• Academic staff new to teaching required to undertake Initial Professional Development Programme (iPROF).
• Support Staff are encouraged to attend short courses in areas such as minute taking, and specific IT packages.

23. Assessment Regulations
The current University of Portsmouth academic regulations will apply to this programme (see Assessment and Regulations2).

24. Role of Externals
Subject External Examiners who will:
• Oversee unit assessment and usually attend Unit Assessment Boards
• Review unit assessment strategy
• Sample assessment artefacts
• Present report to Unit Assessment Boards

Award External Examiners (usually also a Subject External Examiner) who will:
• Oversee and attend Award/Progression Boards
• Scrutinise and endorse the outcomes of assessment
• Ensure that the standard of the award is maintained at a level comparable with that of similar awards elsewhere in the United Kingdom

25. Indicators of Standards and Quality
A. Professional Accreditation/Recognition
The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors – annual review

B. Periodic Programme Review (or equivalent)
A Periodic Programme Review in March 2018 provided confirmation of fitness of purpose of the curriculum and of the effectiveness of annual monitoring and review processes.

2 www.port.ac.uk/departments/services/academicregistry/qualitymanagementdivision/assessmentandregulations/
C. Quality Assurance Agency

QAA Higher Education Review, March 2015, judgements about standards and quality meet UK expectations (for full report see Higher Education Review of the University of Portsmouth, March 2015).

D. Others

None.

26. Further Information

Further information may be found in:

- Student Handbook
- University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Document
- University of Portsmouth Prospectus
- University of Portsmouth and School/Department websites

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4 www.port.ac.uk/
5 www.port.ac.uk/department-of-geography/