

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TITLE | Climate Change Ecology |
| TUTOR | Dr Anna Suchy |

Dear Student,

Thank you for enrolling on this Lifelong Learning course. This letter gives you some further information. If you have any questions, please contact either:

**The LLL Office**: learning@aber.ac.uk

**The Tutor:** Dr Anna Suchy aas17@aber.ac.uk

**The Co-ordinator:** Elin Mabbutt emm32@aber.ac.uk

We hope you enjoy the course.

Best Wishes,

**The Lifelong Learning Team**

**----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**GETTING STARTED**

**Aberystwyth University Student Account**

Before you can begin your course, you need to activate your **Aberystwyth University Student Account**. After you pay and enrol, you will be sent your **unique student number** by the Lifelong Learning Administrator. This will enable you to obtain your student username and set a password for your student account.

Having an account gives you many additional benefits such as access to the university library and online journals, an email address, and discounts for university services.

Please watch this [**video (link)**](https://aberystwyth.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Embed.aspx?id=8599b9f0-bb74-4e17-8a61-abb800c9c1b1&v=1) as it will give you all the instructions you will need to set up your student account.

Once you have completed this process login to your [Aberystwyth University email account here](https://login.microsoftonline.com/common/oauth2/authorize?client_id=00000002-0000-0ff1-ce00-000000000000&redirect_uri=https%3a%2f%2foutlook.office.com%2fowa%2f&resource=00000002-0000-0ff1-ce00-000000000000&response_mode=form_post&response_type=code+id_token&scope=openid&msafed=0&client-request-id=1a50f117-68e4-464d-b9c3-80fd788cb7e5&protectedtoken=true&claims=%7b%22id_token%22%3a%7b%22xms_cc%22%3a%7b%22values%22%3a%5b%22CP1%22%5d%7d%7d%7d&domain_hint=aber.ac.uk&nonce=637354312838097988.a0319ebd-6272-4475-a59a-e0b8afa5fbe1&state=Dcs7DoMwEEVRO1kJTTobf5lxgbKWNzBIUUCRkBK2HxfndtcaY-7drbOhx9CUKdeSY-LMoVFj9gg5NpXVTYmSK4WqQ21wGoSxoW6i0fZ3GD8Xxuep2I8ZoqfH4r_vx2-dL5UDr_0P)

**Online Learning Environment: Blackboard**

Once you have an active username and password you can login to our **online learning environment** called **Blackboard** by going to<https://blackboard.aber.ac.uk>. This is where you can access the learning materials for your course, interact online with your tutor and other students and submit your assignments. Here is a [**video (link)**](https://aberystwyth.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=d3b1a6e3-a555-4da3-be65-ac31007c1927) on how to access Blackboard and navigate the various pages and tools.

**Microsoft Teams**

Your course may include one or more live online learning webinars or seminars. If so, these will be held using the online platform **Microsoft Teams**. Like Blackboard, you can access Teams online by going to <https://teams.microsoft.com/> and logging in with your Aberystwyth University student username and password. Although not essential, we would recommend you download the Microsoft Teams software onto your desktop. Once you have logged in, you can do this from the Microsoft Teams homepage. Click on the circle in the top right-hand corner of the screen and select **Download the Desktop App.**

If an online meeting has been scheduled by your tutor you will receive an email to your **University Email Account** that will contain a link, which you can click on to join the meeting. Alternatively, if you go to your **Calendar** in Microsoft Teams, which is on the left-hand side of the screen, you will see a **Join button** appear by the meeting just before it begins, which you can click on.

If you haven’t used Microsoft Teams before I would recommend watching this one minute [**video (link)**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pauAUOl8v4) so you know what to expect.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

This module explores the impact of past and current climate changes on different levels of ecological organisation (populations, communities and ecosystems) and the interactions of biological systems with the climate system. It will also introduce ‘’climate-smart conservation’’ (a new vision of conservation in times of climate change), climate change innovation and best practices for a more sustainable future. Additionally, this course will help students develop the skills needed to critically assess scientific papers. On completion of the module, students should be able to apply ecological theories and critically evaluate the impacts of climate change on the conservation and management of resources.
This online, self-paced learning course will enable students to study from home and participate in an online community with other students. The module is delivered through Blackboard, our online learning environment and can be studied as a stand-alone course, but it is also a key module for the Certificate of Higher Education in Field Ecology at Aberystwyth University.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the effects of climate change on ecological systems.
2. Critically evaluate the impacts of climate change on the conservation and management of resources.
3. Critically identify the basic principles and key characteristics of ‘climate-smart conservation’.
4. Critically evaluate scientific writing.

**COURSE PROGRAMME**

Activities and tasks will be embedded into each unit so students can practise the techniques they have learned and develop their skills. Students will be encouraged to share their own work and participate in discussions on Blackboard. Alongside the learning materials on Blackboard the tutor will be on hand via email to answer any queries and provide guidance throughout the course. They will also participate in the online discussions.

Unit 1

The course will start with welcome webinar. The first unit will provide a foundation of basic knowledge of climate change ecology.

Unit 2

The impacts of past and current climate changes on different levels of ecological organization (i.e. populations, communities and ecosystems) will be broadly explained.

Unit 3

the concept of ‘climate-smart conservation’ and its key components will be introduced. The students will begin their reflective journals in respond to readings and key questions.

Units 4 and 5

Best practices for a more sustainable future will be studied. This unit will cover such areas as water and soils management, plant breeding and weed management, livestock management, ecosystem restoration, conservation of biodiversity and designing smart infrastructure.

Unit 6

 A range of different opportunities, ideas of how to help tackling climate change will be introduced. During the course, students will need to complete 2 assignments. These assignments will encourage critical thinking (written assignment) and discuss real world examples of climate change as well as climate-smart conservation and innovation. Final webinar.

ASSESSMENTS

1. Scientific Paper Review 1500 words (75%)
2. Climate Smart Reflective Journal 500 words (25%)

**Submission Policy**: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/lifelong-learning/virtual-student-centre/schemes_programmes/latesubmission/>

Find our full programme listings here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/lifelong-learning/courses/>

Are you interested in completing a Certificate in Higher Education? If you are, speak to your tutor or contact the co-ordinator: emm32@aber.ac.uk