



*Improving student awareness of
sustainable development and related
employability issues through
embedded course content*

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Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

- What is ESD?
- Why include ESD?





HEA Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Project

- Sustainability Mini Projects (2008-09)
- Links between employability and sustainability in the curriculum





HEA Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Project



- Approach
- Survey
- Preliminary findings
- Next steps

Approach

Modules with
SD embedded:

- Computer Science
- Career Management Skills



Survey



- Timing
- Structure
 - What does SD mean to you?
 - Professional relevance
 - Career and PDP
- Follow-up

Response

- Career Management Skills 50%
- Computer Science 27%

Have you heard the term 'Sustainable Development' before?

- Career Management Skills 38%
- Computer Science 55%

How would you define Sustainable Development?

'I'm not sure'

'A development that is environmentally friendly'

'The development of skills that are adequate for the job'

'anything that can make one survive through the life process'

'Development that meets the needs of the here and now without risking the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'

How would you define Sustainable Development?

'I don't know'

'development which leaves the environment unharmed'

'A way of having and maintaining a continuous supply of energy'

'planting trees where ever they get cut down'

'developing and using resources but not compromising the future, so that people in the future will be able to use the resources available'

Were you aware that as a professional practitioner you will be expected to take account of the social and environmental impact of your work?

- Career Management Skills 43%
- Computer Science 58%

Has the concept of sustainable development influenced your career planning?

- Career Management Skills 19%
- Computer Science <3%

Reflective submissions

For example:

'Since completing the task, I am now more aware of the changes to the world of work, and realise that to reduce your carbon footprint you need to go beyond the simple steps'

(paraphrased from CMS Student)

Next steps

- Postgraduate CMS course
- Follow-up
- Content analysis



Do you consider it appropriate to include content about sustainable development within modules you attend on your specialist subject?

- Career Management Skills 71%
- Computer Science 45%

Flexible Curriculum

- How easy was it to incorporate new ideas into the course?
- Was any discipline specific content lost as a result?
- On-line or face-to-face?
- Were students receptive to including these ideas in the course?

For more information on ESD.....



<http://www.hull.ac.uk/esd>

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