

MSc Sustainable Mountain / Rural Development

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www.perth.uhi.ac.uk

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Context

- Rapid changes in rural & mountain areas
 - environments, economies, societies
 - need for innovative, integrated approaches
- Demographic changes
 - need to keep younger generations
 - need to 'upskill'
- Sparse populations
 - value of education using ICT
 - interdisciplinary UHI BSc degrees from 1994

Rural and Mountain degrees

- Rural and Mountain areas
 - similar issues
- Rural students
 - practitioners in rural development (LAs, NGOs)
 - many have 'drifted' in: need for interdisciplinary expertise
- Mountain students
 - practitioners
 - educators
 - career shift
 - mountaineers
 - 'mountain people'

Rural and Mountain degrees

- 2004: initial validation: UK
- 2007: revalidation: Europe
- 2009: UNESCO Chair
- 2012: revalidation: Global
 - part of wider MSc programme including MSc Developing Low Carbon Communities / Sustainable Energy Solutions
 - new CPD award: Community engagement and co-production



Rural and Mountain degrees

- Specific core modules
 - Mountain: Environmental & social issues in mountain areas
 - Rural: People and Nature
- Other core modules : rural / mountain assessments
 - sustainable development (mountain core)
 - policy analysis (mountain core)
 - developing communities (rural core)
 - local economic development (rural core)
- Possible to leave with PG Certificate

Rural and Mountain degrees

- Optional modules: mountain/rural assessments
 - biodiversity management
 - developing potential through placement
 - environmental assessment
 - Geographical Information Systems
 - research methods and techniques
 - sustainable land use and energy in rural Scotland
 - sustainable tourism
 - water management
 - sustainable deer management
- Possible to leave with PG Diploma or continue to MSc (15,000 word dissertation)

Module tutors

- Mountain
 - Perth College UHI
- Rural
 - Lews Castle College UHI
- Other modules
 - Moray College UHI
 - Inverness College UHI
 - Orkney College UHI



Developing knowledge & understanding

- Virtual learning environment (Blackboard)
 - weekly academic foundations
 - discussion board
 - videos
 - lectures
- On-line resources
 - UHI: e-journals, e-books, etc.
 - available 24/7
 - student-located
- Students' experience

A scenic view of a mountain range with a lens flare effect in the sky. The mountains are layered, creating a sense of depth. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The text "Thanks for your attention!" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Thanks for your
attention!