

Case study

Sustainability lectures at University of Leeds

Students find reading the standards tedious but the discussions and lectures are useful

- Who is this programme for?

I teach about 60+ sustainability related standards to Masters students wanting either to work as sustainability management consultants or work in sustainability/CSR departments in large companies. On completion of this module, students should be able to demonstrate a broad understanding of the environmental management and understand the various standards and guidelines.

- How do you teach this course?

Standards are grouped into 10 areas or topics . Some of them include: environmental management systems such as ISO14001 and EMS, sustainable management, life cycle assessment.

Students read 2 standards from each group and answer discussion questions in class. I lecture on how it is used in practice and research findings on the success or not of the standards. There are also guest lecture from BSI on the development of standards.

- What has feedback been like?

Students find reading the standards tedious but the discussions and lectures are useful. Overall they see the module as essential for their future careers.

- How do students benefit?

Knowledge of sustainability related standards are essential for students going to work in sustainability related areas in consultancies or large companies.

- Do you benefit as well?

It is one of the areas of my research and I am member of some BSI standard development committees. Teaching helps recruit students to the MSc programmes.

- Which tools and resources do you use?

I use BSOL British Standards Online (through library subscription) as well as websites of 20 other standards organisations websites. Most other standards are available free on the latter organisations websites.

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