



## Certificate of Higher Education Courses 2014-15 Course Information Document

In this document you will find key information regarding the course's aims and learning outcomes, when the course takes place, the assessment involved, minimum course requirements for assessment and possible prerequisites and suggested preliminary reading.

You will also find information about which Certificates this course's credits count towards.

**Course Name: Marine Mammal Field Course**

**Course Tutor(s): Dr Dominic McCafferty PhD**

**Credits and Level: 20 credits at level 1**

These credits can be counted towards any of the following 120 Credit, Certificates in Higher Education:

- **Environmental Studies**

See our website for further details: [www.gla.ac.uk/courses/openstudies/certhe/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/courses/openstudies/certhe/)

### Introduction

This course will introduce you to the diversity, behaviour and ecology of seals, whales and dolphins. We focus on learning how to identify and record the behaviour of UK species and study how they are adapted to their aquatic existence. The course includes lectures, laboratory sessions and field work on research vessels in the Firth of Clyde on the west coast of Scotland. The course is residential (full board) and is based at FSC Millport, Isle of Cumbrae. This course involves part-time and full-time students from four participating UK universities.

### Aims

The aim of this course is to examine the diversity of seals and cetaceans encountered in UK waters and throughout the World. It concentrates on the identification and behaviour of marine mammals and examines ways in which these animals are adapted to their aquatic existence.

### Intended learning outcomes

At the end of this course students should be able to:

#### General

- \* recognise the main groups of marine mammals that include the seals (Pinnipeds), whales (Cetaceans) and manatee / dugongs (Sirenians) as well as other carnivore groups including the otters (Lutrinae) and polar bear (Ursidae)
- \* describe how marine mammals are anatomically adapted to an aquatic existence
- \* state the difference in thermal properties of water and air and explain the consequences for thermoregulation of marine mammals
- \* explain how marine mammals avoid the "bends" (aeroembolism) during diving
- \* state the main sites of oxygen storage in marine mammals and describe the main physiological changes during diving

#### Seals

- \* describe the evolutionary origins of the Order: Pinnipedia
- \* give the classification of the three families of Pinnipeds and state their main anatomical differences
- \* describe the diversity of Pinnipeds and their global distribution
- \* recognise the main anatomical differences between grey and harbour seals and give an account of their breeding behaviour and distribution

- \* describe the scientific methods used to record the movements and behaviour of pinnipeds at sea
- \* describe the trends in seal populations and outline the UK legislation protecting seals
- \* explain the consequences of disease outbreaks on UK seal populations
- \* give an account of the ways in which seals interact with fisheries and fish populations

#### Cetaceans

- \* describe the evolutionary origins of the Order: Cetacea
- \* give the classification of the baleen and toothed whales
- \* give an account of communication in the cetaceans and explain how this influences their social behaviour
- \* explain the scientific methods used to survey and study cetacean populations
- \* identify the common species of cetaceans encountered in UK waters
- \* give an account of the threats to cetacean populations and state the UK laws protecting cetaceans and the role of the International Whaling Commission (IWC)
- \* discuss the role of whale watching and its economic and conservation impact

#### Practical skills

- \* identify marine mammals from land and at sea
- \* conduct surveys of marine mammals using standard methodology
- \* undertake behavioural observations using scientific methods

#### Transferable skills

- \* develop skills in laboratory and field work, scientific report writing, independent research, communication and team working

**Prerequisites: none**

#### **What will I be expected to do to complete the course successfully?**

You will be expected to attend the field course from **11/07/2015** and finishing on **18/07/2015**.

The course is designed for students who want to undertake assessment to gain credit to use either as part of the Certificate of Higher Education, or another higher education qualification (see the brochure for more information on this). Students who choose not to undertake all or some of the assessment are welcome to attend, but should be aware that assessment forms a key part of the course.

**In order to achieve credits, students must complete at least 75% of the course summative assessment listed below:**

	Assessment Type	Percentage of final grade	Assessment Due:	
1	Field Journal	40%	7 August	0
2	Essay (1500 words)	20%	21 August	0
	End of Course Exam: Yes (60)	40%	TBC May 2015	

Some suggested preliminary reading: **You will be advised on any reading materials at the start of the course**

#### **The Centre for Open Studies**

**General enquires** 0141 330 1835

**Brochure requests** 0141 330 1829

Email [OpenStudies-CertHE@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:OpenStudies-CertHE@glasgow.ac.uk); [openstudies-enquiry@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:openstudies-enquiry@glasgow.ac.uk)

Web [www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/centreforopenstudies/](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/centreforopenstudies/)

## **How much will the course cost? What concessions are available?**

The full fee for the course includes tuition and membership of the University Library. For this session's fees, please see the 2014-2015 CertHE catalogue.

If you are on a low income, you may qualify for the Scottish Government's Individual Learning Accounts scheme, which can be used as part-payment for all Certificate of Higher Education (and language) courses (typically £200). For more details, and to open an account, please telephone 0808 100 1090, or see their website [www.myworldofwork.co.uk/content/ila-scotland-funding-for-you](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/content/ila-scotland-funding-for-you). Note that you must have set up your ILA before you can enrol on a course, and before the course start date.

If you plan to study CertHE courses totaling 30 credits or more in year 2014-15, you may be eligible to apply for the part-time fee grant (PTFG) which can contribute towards course fees. Students in receipt of certain state benefits or those who are earning £25,000 or less per year including any private and state pensions may be eligible. For further information visit [www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/centreforopenstudies/](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/centreforopenstudies/) and to download an application pack with completion guidelines please visit the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) website: [www.saas.gov.uk/part\\_time/ug/index.htm](http://www.saas.gov.uk/part_time/ug/index.htm) Or telephone: 0300 300 3137

**Please note you may have a balance to pay once the PTFG has been applied**

## **Prior credit**

It is possible to transfer credit from courses at higher education level studied elsewhere, such as those from the Open University, into the CertHE programme. For further advice on this, please contact the Guidance Officer, Irene Vezza.

Irene can be contacted at 0141 330 1823 or via email at [irene.vezza@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:irene.vezza@glasgow.ac.uk).

## **Note for undergraduate students**

Please be aware that Centre for Open Studies CertHE classes may be rather different in style to the classes you are used to in the full-time University programme. Our classes are typically small and mostly consist of part-time and mature students. Traditionally they are discussion-based classes rather than lectures, in which students are encouraged to contribute their own observations and questions under the guidance of the tutor. Undergraduate students are nonetheless very welcome to join.

## **Note for visually impaired students**

This course information sheet can be provided in larger type (please telephone 0141 330 1835 to request it). The information it contains can also be found on our website:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/centreforopenstudies/>

## **Additional support for students**

The Centre for Open Studies welcomes applications from students with particular study needs. In conjunction with the University's Disability Service, we will provide suitable help and support for students wherever practicable. Please let us know about your situation so that we can do all we can to help. You can take the opportunity to advise us of your requirements when you submit your enrolment form to us, but later notification is also invited. A first point of contact is our disability coordinator Irene Vezza (0141 330 1823 or [irene.vezza@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:irene.vezza@glasgow.ac.uk)).