

OES104

# Learning in Australian Landscapes

**School:** School of Education and Tertiary Access

2025 | Semester 1

UniSC Sunshine Coast  
UniSC Moreton Bay**BLENDED  
LEARNING**

You can do this course without coming onto campus, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.

*Please go to [usc.edu.au](http://usc.edu.au) for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.*

## 1. What is this course about?

### 1.1. Description

This course introduces you to Australian landscapes and the broad range of educational and ecotourism experiences that can be provided in these places. You will develop introductory knowledge and skills in a range of content areas and disciplines relevant to future outdoor leaders, teachers, and environmental interpreters. By participating in field trips to a selection of local Australian environments, you will gain first-hand experience of high-quality outdoor learning and ecotourism experiences.

### 1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
<b>BLENDED LEARNING</b>			
<b>Learning materials</b> – You are required to engage and interact with asynchronous materials and activities accessed through Canvas modules, course readings and required texts.	2hrs	Week 1	8 times
<b>Tutorial/Workshop 1</b> – There will be a series of 2 hour workshops throughout the semester. Attendance is a requirement at these workshop as they serve as preparatory work and development or required safety knowledge for the completion of fieldwork.	2hrs	Week 1	7 times
<b>Fieldwork</b> – Fieldwork trips - duration dependent on location. Students are required to complete associated fieldwork aligned to workshops. The fieldwork requires off-campus activities. Total number of days of fieldwork will be identified in Canvas.	8hrs	Refer to Format	6 times

### 1.3. Course Topics

Introduction to and application of theories of outdoor environmental education

Bushwalking leadership

Scientific observation and recording skills

Earth changing shape: Australia's unique and vulnerable flora and fauna

Ecological literacy

Flora and Fauna Adaptions

Ecological succession

Earth shaped by water and air: the changing coastlines of SE Queensland

Australian bushfire regimes

Sustainability as a cross-circular priority

Human and wild animal interactions

Field Journaling

## 2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

## 3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

## 4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING *
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Competencies from multiple Professional Bodies (see below) *
1 Demonstrate foundational knowledge and understanding for learning in outdoor environments	Knowledgeable Empowered Sustainability-focussed	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2 Describe and analyse outdoor fieldwork observations and experiences	Knowledgeable Empowered Sustainability-focussed	1, 2, 3, 3.3.1, 4, 4, 4.2.5, 5, 6, 6.2.3, 6.2.4, 7, 9.2.1, 13.2.5
3 Transfer practical and theoretical knowledge to interpreting and learning in Australian landscapes	Knowledgeable Empowered	3, 5, 7
4 Employ effective language, structure and text to communicate information and ideas	Empowered	7

\* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
ALTC THRESHOLD LEARNING OUTCOMES	
1	Outdoor educators create opportunities for experiential learning
2	Outdoor educators use pedagogies that align their program's purpose and practice
3	Outdoor educators are place-responsive, and see their work as a social, cultural and environmental endeavour
4	Outdoor educators advocate for social and environmental justice

CODE	COMPETENCY
5	Outdoor educators continue to develop their skills, knowledge and expertise
6	Outdoor educators understand safety and apply a strict aversion to fatalities
7	Outdoor educators routinely engage in reflective practice
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	
3.3.1	The learner is able to include health promoting behaviours in their daily routines.
4	Quality Education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
4.2.5	The learner is able to engage personally with ESD.
6.2.3	The learner is able to feel responsible for their water use.
6.2.4	The learner is able to see the value in good sanitation and hygiene standards.
9.2.1	The learner is able to argue for sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure in their local area.
13.2.5	The learner is able to recognize that the protection of the global climate is an essential task for everyone and that we need to completely re-evaluate our worldview and everyday behaviours in light of this.

## 5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [UniSC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

### 5.1. Pre-requisites

Enrolled in Program ED304, ED112, ED312

### 5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

### 5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

### 5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

First-Aid Certificate

## 6. How am I going to be assessed?

### 6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

### 6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Early feedback will be provided to students via feedback on Task 1, the online discussion forums and further assistance will be offered to students that require it. Formative assessment for Task 3 Journal will be provided in Weeks 5 and 9 and will enable students to gauge how they are progressing with the overall content.

### 6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Activity Participation	Individual	20%	Four primary posts - associated with the key readings or learning materials. Four secondary posts- associated with the key readings or learning materials.	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	Online Discussion Board
All	2	Oral and Written Piece	Individual and Group	30%	Equivalent to 1500 words, plus references and visual material.	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	In Class
All	3	Artefact - Professional, and Written Piece	Individual	50%	Booklet (approx 1500 words + references). Field journal- 5-page minimum for each field day.	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check and in class

#### All - Assessment Task 1: Online Discussion

<b>GOAL:</b>	Contribute to a series of online discussions with peers based on a selection of course readings and/or prompts related to course learning materials.					
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Activity Participation					
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Written posts on the discussion board. Primary and secondary posts should be approximately 250 words each.					
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>					<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Discussion content is related to core reading and learning materials.				1
	2	Effectively communicate and stimulate discussion using referenced material as supporting evidence.				3
	3	Secondary posts elaborate on and build upon previous discussions.				3
	4	Employ effective language, structure and text to communicate information and ideas				3 4
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>	Communication, Collaboration, Organisation, Information literacy					

### All - Assessment Task 2: Fieldwork trip report

<b>GOAL:</b>	In a small group, you will demonstrate your knowledge, research skills and ability to draw on the relevant literature to conduct and present an investigation of the natural environment.		
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Oral and Written Piece		
<b>FORMAT:</b>	In this task, you will conduct a series of research investigations in which you will record observations of the Australian natural environmental systems you encounter during your extended fieldwork trip. You will use field observation and texts - writing, drawings and diagrams - to communicate and present your observations and ideas. You will also be evaluated on your participation and professional practice as you conduct research and engage in the field trip. Submit: During the field trip.		
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>		<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Description and analysis of outdoor fieldwork observations and experiences.	1 2
	2	Knowledge and understanding of principles of earth and environmental studies	1 3
	3	Effective language, structure, text and communication skills to express information and ideas	4
	4	Knowledge and execution of professional conduct, OES fieldwork behaviour and safety culture.	1 2
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies, Information literacy		

### All - Assessment Task 3: Booklet and field journal analysis of outdoor learning in Australian landscapes

<b>GOAL:</b>	The goal of this task is for you to demonstrate your ability to draw on relevant literature to reflect on and showcase the value of outdoor learning experiences in Australian landscapes.		
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Artefact - Professional, and Written Piece		
<b>FORMAT:</b>	Booklet submission (20%) weighting due Week 13. Field Journal (30%) weighting due on the extended field trip.		
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>		<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Analysis of learning experiences on the practical field trip components of the course.	1 2
	2	Application of theory to the analysis of fieldwork experiences.	1 3
	3	Employ effective language, structure and text to communicate information and ideas	4
<b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies, Information literacy		

## 7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

## 8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

### 8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	Glyn Thomas, Janet Dymont, Heather Prince	2021	Outdoor Environmental Education in Higher Education	n/a	Springer

### 8.2. Specific requirements

OES104 is structured to provide you with a sequence of fieldwork experiences (including overnight) that equip you with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to meet industry-established safety standards. Therefore, the University and our industry partners expect you to participate in all of the fieldwork and directed study activities and demonstrate satisfactory proficiency in the safety-related activities required for safe participation in this course. Please note that field trip dates are subject to change because of adverse weather and other mitigating circumstances.

You are required to complete and gain 100% on the WHS quiz before the first practice session and wear appropriate clothing for fieldwork activities. Reasonable alternatives will be provided for students who cannot attend field trips because of circumstances beyond their control. You will need to provide the following items for the practical field trips components of the trip: a day pack with a waterproof cover, reusable water bottle, hiking shoes, broad-brimmed hat and rain jacket. You may be required to provide your own transport to and from field trip starting locations.

You will need to be aware of the course's physical components and location requirements. If you have a disability, medical condition or any concerns that may affect your mandatory participation in the practical components of the course, you are invited to discuss your options with the course coordinator or a UniSC Disability Advisor. Please note that a good level of fitness is required.

## 9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all field activities and low to moderate levels of health and safety risk exists. Moderate risks may include working in an Australian bush setting, working with people, working outside normal office hours for example. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

## 10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

### 10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

### 10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

#### Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- (a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

### 10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

Less than 15 minutes: No penalty

From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty

More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

### 10.4. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email [safe@usc.edu.au](mailto:safe@usc.edu.au).

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email [studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au).

### 10.5. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au).

### 10.6. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email [studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 1226.

### 10.7. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email [AccessAbility@usc.edu.au](mailto:AccessAbility@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 2890.

### 10.8. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

### 10.9. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

## 10.10.General Enquiries

### In person:

- **UniSC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **UniSC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **UniSC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **UniSC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **UniSC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **UniSC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

**Tel:** +61 7 5430 2890

**Email:** [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)