

Syllabus

Subject

Subject / Group	11456 - Environmental Auditing in Tourism Firms / 1
Degree	Master's Degree in Tourism Management and Planning
Credits	3
Period	First semester
Language of instruction	English

Professors

Lecturers	Office hours for students					
	Starting time	Finishing time	Day	Start date	End date	Office / Building
Joan Josep Estrany Bertos joan.estrany@uib.cat	You need to book a date with the professor in order to attend a tutoring session.					

Context

This subject is intended to support the environmental improvement efforts of all actors in the Tourism Sector. It can be used by all organisations and stakeholders of the sector who seek for reliable and proven information to improve their environmental performance as well as for appropriate environmental performance indicators and benchmarks of excellence.

As a continuation of the Compulsory subject 11447-Environmental management for tourism firms, this Management subject pretends to develop it further, especially with respect to continuous environmental improvement measures and targets.

Through the application of Project-Based Learning and flipped classroom methods, the students will learn to design and implement an Environmental Audit considering ISO 14010-14015 in different tourism firms. Specific methods derived from the Environmental Impact Assessment will be learned in order to get in practice the knowledge for implementing this skills within tourism firms.

Requirements

Recommended

You can take a better comprehension of the contents with an advanced knowledge in the use of several software such as Excel spreadsheet, Power-point presentations. It is also recommended to have knowledge about the proper preparation and drafting of a technical document.

Skills

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Specific

- * CE10 - Ability to develop environmental audits, and assess the impacts that the tourism sector actions have on the environment. .
- * CE13 - Know the general legal framework of tourism activities (both in regards to aspects related to the territory planning, as to the management of tourism firms), to be able to plan and develop tourism activity. .
- * CE15 - Learn the techniques that allow the development of tourism destinations and organizations in an international, complex and dynamic environment, to achieve a sustainable, integrative and innovative tourism management and promotion. .

Generic

- * CG3 - Know how to apply quality and environmental, economic and social management systems. .

Transversal

- * CT4 - Information management skills. .
- * CT5 - Ability to define priorities in the achievement of objectives. .

Basic

- * You may consult the basic competencies students will have to achieve by the end of the Master's degree at the following address: http://estudis.uib.cat/master/comp_basiques/

Content

Project Based Learning is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to a complex question, problem, or challenge. The main of the subject is learning to design and implement an Environmental Audit in a tourism firm.

Range of topics

Theme 1. Environmental Audit: general premises and types

It is a management tool comprising a systematic, documented, periodic and objective evaluation of how the organization and management of environmental equipment issues are fulfilling the purpose of safeguarding the environment. It is a tool of assessment within a tourism firm, internally or through third parties, provided it is carried out by a technically trained staff and has no interest or preconceptions about it.

Environmental audit is a general term that can reflect various types of evaluations intended to identify environmental compliance and management system implementation gaps, along with related corrective actions. In this way they perform an analogous (similar) function to financial audits. There are generally two different types of environmental audits: compliance audits and management systems audits.

Theme 2. Ad hoc method for implementing an Environmental Audit

The whole process will be examined: from the moment in which the audit is requested, making clear their extent, until the conclusion reflected in the final report. This theme is imperative to learn those methods derived from the environmental impact assessment techniques which

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will serve to get in practice the knowledge for implementing the environmental audit in any tourism firm.

Teaching methodology

European credit or ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) is the unit of measurement of academic activity. This system includes the effort invested by each student in classroom activities (attending lectures, practicals, tutorials) and distance-work activities (preparation of lessons, practical work, exams). Considering that the main objective of this subject is to develop the "CE10-Ability to develop environmental audits, and assess the impacts that the tourism sector actions have on the environment", will be essential incite debate and participation of the students in terms of the different practical examples that can be applied in tourism firms as well as those specific activities related with the implementation of the Environmental Audit.

Therefore, we will discuss the concepts explained by applying project-based and flipped classroom techniques for engaging students to increasing the environmental compromise of the tourism firms.

In-class work activities (0.72 credits, 18 hours)

Modality	Name	Typ. Grp.	Description	Hours
Theory classes	Theory classes	Large group (G)	The teacher will provide a general draft for each theme with a contextualization of the theoretical and practical techniques, procedures and legal framework which compose the subject. The lessons will try to promote the interest of the students emphasizing the more practical aspects of Environmental Audit.	6
Seminars and workshops	Seminars	Medium group (M)	This teaching method will be centred on discussing and reinforcing different concepts explained during theory lessons. Previously, a flipped lessons through individual self-study (i.e., short readings, videos or other media resources) will be used to further develop these theoretical concepts by applying practical cases in tourism firms.	6
Practical classes	Practice classes	Large group (G)	During these sessions several methods and techniques for implementing an Environmental Auditing will be explained and applied using computers	6

At the beginning of the semester a schedule of the subject will be made available to students through the UIBdigital platform. The schedule shall at least include the dates when the continuing assessment tests will be conducted and the hand-in dates for the assignments. In addition, the lecturer shall inform students as to whether the subject work plan will be carried out through the schedule or through another way included in the Aula Digital platform.

Distance education tasks (2.28 credits, 57 hours)

Modality	Name	Description	Hours
Individual self-study	Individual self-study	It will be a part of the flipped classroom technique as a part of the reinforcement of the concepts and processes related with the theoretical and practical background of Environmental Audits. Therefore, different	22

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Modality	Name	Description	Hours
		readings and media resources will be used with Edpuzzle, an enable self-paced learning technique with interactive lessons.	
Group self-study	Group self-study	The implementation of an Environmental Audit will be performed in groups of two students applying the different methods explained in theory classes, seminars and practice classes.	35

Specific risks and protective measures

The learning activities of this course do not entail specific health or safety risks for the students and therefore no special protective measures are needed.

Student learning assessment

Frau en elements d'avaluació

In accordance with article 33 of Academic regulations, "regardless of the disciplinary procedure that may be followed against the offending student, the demonstrably fraudulent performance of any of the evaluation elements included in the teaching guides of the subjects will lead, at the discretion of the teacher, a undervaluation in the qualification that may involve the qualification of "suspense 0" in the annual evaluation of the subject".

Seminars

Modality	Seminars and workshops
Technique	Attitude scales (non-retrievable)
Description	This teaching method will be centred on discussing and reinforcing different concepts explained during theory lesssons. Previously, a flipped lessons through individual self-study (i.e., short readings, videos or other media resources) will be used to further develop these theoretical concepts by applying practical cases in tourism firms.

Assessment criteria

Final grade percentage: 10%with a minimum grade of 5

Individual self-study

Modality	Individual self-study
Technique	Short-answer tests (non-retrievable)
Description	It will be a part of the flipped classroom technique as a part of the reinforcement of the concepts and processes related with the theoretical and practical background of Environmental Audits. Therefore, different readings and media resources will be used with Edpuzzle, an enable self-paced learning technique with interactive lessons.

Assessment criteria After each flipped activity and before the related seminar, a short-answer test will be necessarily answered.

Final grade percentage: 40%with a minimum grade of 5



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Group self-study

Modality	Group self-study
Technique	Papers and projects (retrievable)
Description	The implementation of an Environmental Audit will be performed in groups of two students applying the different methods explained in theory classes, seminars and practice classes.
Assessment criteria	The environmental audit will be evaluated as a project compiled with the different methods applied throughout the period of study.

Final grade percentage: 50% with a minimum grade of 5

Resources, bibliography and additional documentation

Basic bibliography

Conesa-Fernández-Vitora V. et al. 1997. Auditorías medioambientales. Guía metodológica. Mundi-Prensa Libros, 552 pages.
Rodríguez-Ruiz J. et al. 2012. Auditoría Ambiental. Editorial UNED, 201 pages.

Complementary bibliography

Hunter C, Green H. 1995. Tourism and the environment : a sustainable relationship?. Routledge ed.
Jenkins I, Schroder R. 2013. Sustainability in tourism : a multidisciplinary approach. Springer Gabler.

Other resources

Journals

Environmental Policy and Governance. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291756-9338>

Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291535-3966>

Another links of interest:

Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA). <http://www.environmental-auditing.org>

ISO 14000 - Environmental management. <http://www.iso.org/iso/iso14000>

EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm

Calidad y Evaluación Ambiental Ministerio Medio Ambiente. <http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/calidad-y-evaluacion-ambiental/temas/sistema-comunitario-de-ecogestion-y-ecoauditoria-emas/documentos-y-guias-de-aplicacion-de-emas/>

