

Changes in Earth Surface Processes

ENVS163

The module uses a lecture and fieldwork-based problem-solving approaches to explore some of the fundamental physical and chemical processes underlying physical geography. It is designed to provide a foundation for physical geography modules in the second and third years, and a Year 1 core training in field methodologies and procedures. The module comprises a series of 12 lectures covering earth surface process and environmental change in different environments of the Earth, each introducing the core processes governing functioning and sediment/landform dynamics in global environments.

Specifically, the global distribution of geomorphological zones and earth surface process environments are introduced, with specialist-led lectures on primary weathering and nutrient dynamics, glacial, fluvial, Aeolian/dryland, coastal, slope and lacustrine environments. The final four lectures given a perspective on changing geomorphology through time covering how processes environment in northwest Europe evolved across Pleistocene: glacial/interglacial cycles, across the during the last glaciation, during the last deglaciation, and in postglacial times with increasing human influence on the earth surface.

The module culminates with a 6 day field class in the English Lake District, based in the Langdale-Grasmere area. The field programme will enhance our understanding of process, rates of change, sediment dynamics, erosion and deposition and environmental change. The focus will be on glacial, periglacial, fluvial, slope and lacustrine environments. The approach is project based and practical hands-on experience, you will work in small groups completing daily exercises, accompanied by good food and excellent Lakeland ales.

