



This module is a foreign field course for physical geographers. It is a compulsory part of the BSc Geography degree. The field course takes place in a Mediterranean environment; currently it is based in the city of Lorca in SE Spain. This is the driest part of W Europe with an average rainfall total of only 300mm so it semi-arid in characteristics.

The aim of the field course is to give students experience of a range of aspects of physical geography in a contrasting environment to that of UK. It examines all aspects of the physical environment – climate and meteorology, geomorphology, hydrology and vegetation. An essential aspect of the fieldwork and the reason why fieldwork is so essential is to see how all these components interrelate and how they vary both spatially and temporally.

The field course environment is mainly agricultural, with juxtaposition of upland and lowland. It is an area subject to several major natural hazards including floods, earthquakes, droughts, landslides and severe soil erosion. Major themes of the field course include water resources, flood management, land use, desertification, catchment management as well as major physical processes, dynamics and their impacts.