

The IAPETUS2 PG Certificate in Environmental Research

Durham University

L7K514

The PG Cert in Environmental Research is a programme of four postgraduate modules (15 credits each). The modules map on to the four domains of the Vitae Framework:

- Domain A: Knowledge and intellectual abilities: The knowledge, intellectual abilities and techniques to do research.
- Domain B: Personal effectiveness: The personal qualities and approach to be an effective researcher.
- Domain C: Research governance and organisation: Knowledge of the professional standards and requirements to do research.
- Domain D: Engagement, influence and impact: The knowledge and skills to work with others to ensure the wider impact of research.

IAPETUS2 students are expected to undertake around 60-70 days of training through their PhD. The programme is designed to be a light touch approach to certify this training.

PG Cert modules:

	Credit value
Perspectives on Research in Environmental Science GEOG56115	15
Becoming an Effective Environmental Researcher GEOG56215	15
Governance and Organization of Environmental Research GEOG56315	15
Engagement, Influence and Impact of Environmental Research GEOG56415	15

Registering for and re-enrolling on the PG Cert

Each summer, the IAPETUS2 DTP Manager will contact students in the incoming cohort to guide them through the process of registering for the PG Cert at Durham University.

Each summer, the Durham University student system will send all students registered on the programme automatic emails to re-enrol for the following year. Students must follow these instructions to remain registered.

You will receive a Durham University username and password. You will need these each year for re-enrolling and for uploading your training responses.

Undertaking and Registering Training

Students are registered on to each of the four modules for the duration of their PhD, so they can add to any of the modules at any stage.

Following any training, whether it be IAPETUS training, institutional training, external training etc, students should upload a Training Report to gain credits for one of the modules. One credit is approximately one day of training or 10 hours. The Training Report includes a reflective summary. The length of the reflective summary should correlate with the length of training (so a one-week training course should have a longer reflection than a day's training

course). Reflective summaries should not simply be a description of the content but a reflection of what has been learnt. For example, for a short course on conducting analyses using general linear models, it is inadequate simply to list the course content; rather, a more reflective approach would be to identify what aspects were novel to you and how you might be able to apply them in your work. For a longer course on communication, you could – again – identify the more novel and rewarding aspects and note how you might be able to build aspects of what you've learned into your own communications, both formal and informal. In general, you should reflect upon the experience, selecting and identifying relevant examples and exploring why they are interesting and what you have learnt from them. Your reflective summary will be considered by members of the IAPETUS2 management committee, who will be keen to see evidence of an appropriate degree of reflection to warrant the relevant number of credits.

Once you have completed the 60 credits across the four modules, an exam board at Durham University will confirm the outcome of each module and decide the award of the Certificate.

Support for Students on the programme

Management Committee will consider Training Reports annually and you will receive confirmation that Training Reports have been approved or whether further information is needed. This feedback will enable you to assess your progress through the programme. There will be three opportunities throughout the year to have face-to-face meetings with the Director during the cohort events (typically in November, January and May) to discuss progress and queries.

FAQs

- **I have forgotten my Durham University username and password, what do I do?**

If you have forgotten your username, please contact IAPETUS at contact.iapetus@durham.ac.uk and the DTP Manager will send you your username. If you have forgotten your password, you must have it reset through the Durham University IT Service Desk. Please call them on 0191 33 41515 and they will reset your password for you. Please note, that you will need your username to access the IT Service Desk.

- **I have undertaken training that I have not reported on to the PG Cert form, can I still add it?**

Yes, as long as you have undertaken the training, you can add a Training Report for any training undertaken throughout your PhD whilst registered as a PhD student, though it is probably best to upload the Training Report shortly after the training as the reflective summary will be easier to write.

- **Where can I find the form to upload my Training Report?**

The Training Report form can be found at www.iapetus2.ac.uk/resources

- **I haven't written a reflective summary before, are there any guidelines for this?**

Yes, please see:

- <https://www.ed.ac.uk/reflection/reflectors-toolkit/producing-reflections/academic-reflections/general-tips>
- <https://www.theclassroom.com/how-to-write-a-reflective-summary-12530411.html>
- <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/libraryservices/library/asc/documents/public/short-guide-reflective-writing.pdf>

- **I wanted to discuss my progress, or training opportunities for the PG Cert with someone, can I arrange this?**

Yes, the Director will be holding an afternoon of face-to-face meetings for any students who want to discuss their progress on / training for the PG Cert at the Annual Induction and Development event in November, the cohort training event in January and the Student Conference in May. Outside of these times, it is possible to reach out for advice and guidance via email.

- **Is the PG Cert mandatory?**

No, the PG Cert is not mandatory though IAPETUS encourages students to take the opportunity to register on the programme as students are expected to undertake the same amount of training regardless of whether they are registered on the PG Cert. The PG Cert is merely a qualification to certify this training.

- **What qualifies as training for the PG Cert?**

Most training you undertake through your PhD qualifies for the PG Cert. Training organised by IAPETUS, any training courses you undertake through training providers at your host organisation, and any external training that you do. In some cases, training led by supervisors or other academic colleagues within your department can be used, but it is best to check if you are in doubt.

- **Can I use conference attendance and presentation as training?**

Yes, if you present at a conference, this can be included as training. Please be sure to consider the preparation for the conference when considering the length of the training.

- **If I attend a training course that has training relevant to two of the modules, can I report two modules for the training?**

You cannot be credited twice for the same training. However, you can split the training between modules. For example, a four-day training event in which two days were relevant to Module 1 and two days were relevant to Module 3, would merit two separate Training Reports, each for two days' training. Please make it clear on the Training Report (in the "Any Other Information Field") that it is a four-day event, two being relevant for this module, so it is clear to Management when reviewing that you are not reporting twice for the same training.

- **Do you have any examples of training that might be included for each module?**

Here is a list of examples of possible training for each module. Please note this is not in any way an exhaustive list, but just examples to give you an idea:

- **Perspectives on Research in Environmental Science**

This module is for training containing the knowledge and intellectual abilities needed to be able to carry out excellent research. It includes areas such as Knowledge Base, Cognitive Abilities and Creativity.

Training Examples:

- Reviewing Literature
- Meta analysis
- Quantitative skills
- Programming
- Statistics
- Graphics
- Critical Thinking
- Argument
- Innovation

- **Becoming an Effective Environmental Researcher**

This module is for training containing the personal qualities, career and self-management skills required to take ownership for and control of professional development. It includes areas such as Personal qualities, Self-Management and Professional and career development.

Training Examples:

- Assertiveness
- Time Management
- Speed reading
- Work life balance
- Networking
- Career Management

- **Governance and Organization of Environmental Research**

This module is for training containing the knowledge of the standards, requirements and professional conduct that are needed for the effective management of research. It can include areas such as Professional conduct, Research management and Finance, funding and resources.

Training Examples:

- Funding and financial management
- Project planning
- Ethics
- Health and Safety

- **Engagement, Influence and Impact of Environmental Research**

This module is for training containing the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to engage with, influence and impact on the academic, social, cultural and

economic context. It can include areas such as Working with others, Communication and dissemination and Engagement and impact.

Training Examples:

- Teaching
- Enterprise
- Global Citizenship
- Communication
- Publication
- EDIA
- Leadership, supervision and mentoring
- Team working