



CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

Making a Difference



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MODULE INTRODUCTION

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Module Overview

The primary aim of this module is to build a sense of belonging to a common humanity and help you to become a responsible and active global citizen.

The project-based nature of the learning aims to empower you to assume an active role to face and resolve global challenges and to become a proactive contributor to a more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive and secure world.

Throughout the module you will develop core competencies that allow you to actively engage with the world and help to make it a more just and sustainable place. You will be an active participant in projects that address global issues of a social, political, economic, or environmental nature through a multidisciplinary approach.

Multidisciplinary learning is a “whole” or “comprehensive” method that covers an idea, topic,

or text by integrating multiple knowledge domains. It is a very powerful method of learning that crosses the boundaries of a discipline in order to enhance the scope and depth of learning.

Multidisciplinary students stand out to employers because of the rich view of the world they develop. The wide range of perspectives you will have encountered during your studies, and the combination of subject areas you have studied could offer more flexible career choices.

In fact, many vacancies don't specify the subject knowledge required for the role; it's the skills you have developed in your studies as well as your other life experiences that employers are interested in. Studying more than one subject, therefore, helps you to develop important transferable skills, which are continually developing at all stages of life.

Some examples of the transferable skills you will develop through the course of this module:

Critical Thinking	Critical thinking skills are used and developed as you look across disciplinary boundaries to consider other viewpoints and also begin to compare and contrast concepts across subject areas.
Adaptability	Different subjects may need to be viewed through different lenses, which means you will develop the skill of being able to switch to the appropriate lens at the appropriate time for whichever subject they are looking at. It requires careful self-management to be able to do this.
Analysis and Problem-solving	By studying across different subject boundaries and by studying a wider range of subjects, you will develop deeper skills of evaluation as you learn a number of different logical and methodical approaches and are able to select the best one to use for particular circumstances. For example, you can draw on your range of academic or subject knowledge to identify solutions of a practical or technical nature.
Communication and Literacy	Your written and verbal communication skills will be developed across different methods as you learn the appropriate communication style for a particular subject area. For example, you might encounter a range of different assessment methods, including essays, reports, blogs, vlogs and examinations, as appropriate to different subject areas.
Application of Information Technology	Using technology across a range of subjects means that you can be more practised in displaying and presenting information in a range of ways.
Flexibility	The ability to adapt to different contexts and environments is a strong skill gained from multi-subject study as you will be switching from one subject to another.
Synthesis of Ideas	You will begin to consolidate learning by combining ideas from many perspectives and consider alternative ways of acquiring knowledge.

Module Structure

The module consists of 4 units each containing 10 hours of online learning, which will be supplemented with approximately 8 hours of virtual lecture/tutorial sessions.

The four units are:

Unit 1. Visions of the Future

Unit 2. The Future is Human

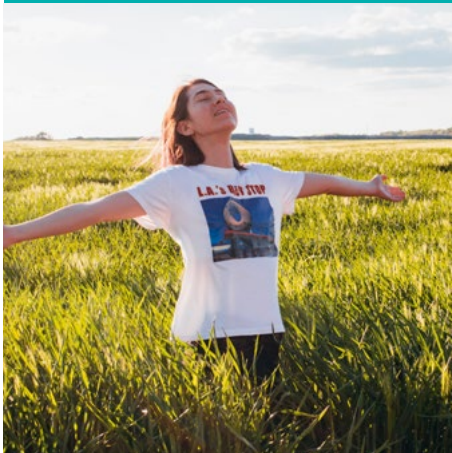
Unit 3. Change by Design

Unit 4. Problem Solving Challenge

This module incorporates project-based learning and as such you will be expected to undertake group work to meet the learning outcomes of the module.

Unit 1 Visions of the Future

This unit introduces you to some of the contemporary challenges that affect every citizen of the world and will have far reaching impact on the future of humankind.



Topic 1:

An Inconvenient Truth

Climate change and extinction.

Topic 2:

Blindspotting

Inequality and how history has shaped our view of the world.

Topic 3:

Health, Wealth and Happiness

Physical and mental wellbeing, including the impact of technology on sedentary behaviour and self-image.

Topic 4:

The Rise of the Machines

The future of work and societal implications, including the redistribution of wealth.

Unit 2

The Future is Human

In this unit you will focus on developing the uniquely human skills which will allow you to remain relevant in the future of work, in the face of increasing automation.



Topic 1:

Bursting the Bubble

Critical thinking, including the concepts of echo chambers and individual bias.

Topic 2:

Getting to Yes

Negotiating and influencing.

Topic 3:

Why Are We Yelling?

Effective conflict management.

Topic 4:

The Red Pill or the Blue Pill?

Making effective decisions in complex situations.

Unit 3

Change by Design

Here you will be introduced to the concept of Design Thinking and its application in solving all kinds of problems.

Design Thinking is a process used for creative problemolving applicable to any discipline.



Topic 1:

Introducing Design Thinking

What it is and how it can help generate solutions to complex problems.

Topic 2:

Investigating a Problem

The first stages in the process, empathise and define.

Topic 3:

Generating Problem Solutions

Ideate, prototype and test stages of the process.

Topic 4:

Applied Problem Solving

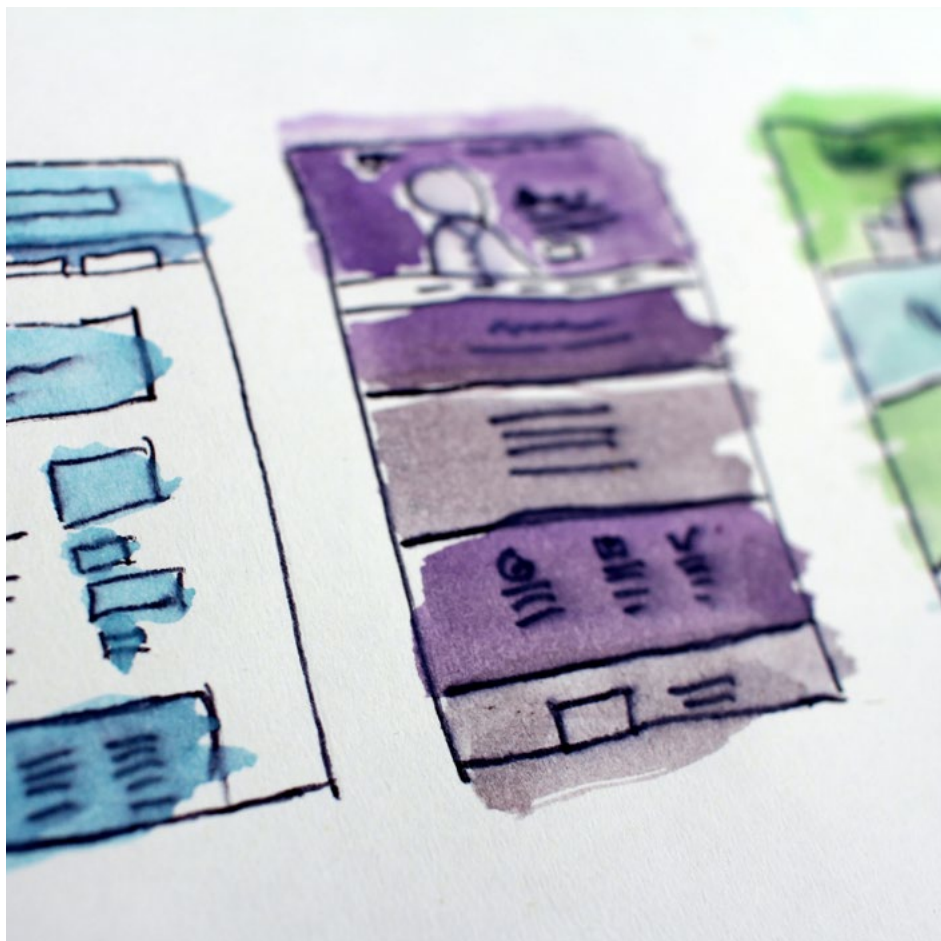
A problem simulation game in which you get to practice the application of design thinking.

Unit 4

Problem-Solving Challenge

Across the module you will be asked to consider how you can make changes that will contribute solutions to the contemporary challenges facing humankind, even if only in a very small way. The culmination of this module is a problem-solving

challenge, in which you will work as a member of a team to come up with a conceptual solution to one of these challenges by applying the design thinking process and using the skills you have developed during the module.



Module Assessments

The module will be assessed via 2 components:

Assessment 1.

Mode of Assessment	Volume	Weighting
E-Portfolio	Equivalent to 2,000 words	50%

Assessment 2.

Mode of Assessment	Volume	Weighting
Group Presentation with supporting material	Each individual in the group to contribute 2 minutes to the presentation and each individual to contribute 1000 words to the supporting materials (max 6 in a group)	50%

Further details of the assessment will be provided in the module handbook.

Navigating Through the Module

On the Moodle page you will find a number of tiles containing resources to support your learning on the module.

As you work through the module you should keep a look out for the following icons:



Clicking on this icon will reveal helpful information and guidance relating to the content of the slide.



This icon indicates and approximate amount of time it should take you to complete a session or activity.



This icon opens a link to an external resource in a new browser window.



When you see this icon you **MUST** complete the indicated activity in order to complete the topic and gain module credits.



This icon indicates you should take notes using your chosen method or as directed in the activity description.



When you see the Level-Up icon you are directed to additional material or stretch activities related to the module topics.

Completion of activities will earn you marks towards the participation element of the assessment.

You can check your progress via the completion bar on the module tile and by looking out for the green tick next to Moodle activity.



This icon indicates you have completed an activity you have been directed to do. Completing specified several activities will earn you badges as you progress through the module. Collect all of the badges to get full marks for the participation element of the assessment.

There are 19 badges to collect in association with completion of specific activities.

Here are some examples of the badges you can collect:



The discussion badge is awarded for participating in the group forum discussions. To earn this badge you must contribute to discussions and comment on the contributions of others.



The blog badge is awarded for completing blogging activities.



The engagement badge is awarded for your level of engagement with the module content. To earn this badge you must work through the learning materials on the Moodle page.



The Global Citizen Badge is awarded for completion of the learning in Unit 1. There are 3 other unit badges to collect and 2 end of module badges.

Collecting all 19 badges will signify you will be awarded full marks for the participation element of the assessment. Don't worry if you don't manage to collect the badges, you will still be awarded some marks based on your level of contributions to the module activities.

Everything you need you will find in the Moodle page for the module, where you will also find a question and answer forum to raise any concerns you have when progressing through the materials.

You are now ready to start your learning.

Good Luck!



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