PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION	

1	**Awarding Institution**	Newcastle University
2	**Teaching Institution**	Newcastle University
3	**Final Award**	Master of Research
4	**Programme Title**	MRes Marine Ecosystems and Governance
5	**Programme Code**	4857F/P
6	**Programme Accreditation**	IMarEST
7	**QAA Subject Benchmark(s)**	None applicable to this programme
8	**FHEQ Level**	7
9	**Last updated**	April 2025

10 Programme Aims

1. To provide students with an excellent undergraduate academic record with advanced knowledge and understanding of marine environmental research
2. To enable students to gain a multidisciplinary understanding of marine environmental issues, their origins and possible solutions.
3. To undertake a marine based research project of their choice
4. To offer a means of entry into a research career in marine environmental science through involvement in the planning and conduct of an original investigation

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students will have gained:

A1. Understanding of the principal natural and anthropogenic processes maintaining and altering structure, function and ecosystem services of coastal waters.
A2. Insight into the key concepts and methodologies used in ecosystem, environmental management and conservation science.
A3. Understanding of theory, principles, concepts and practises in marine governance, including potential conflicts among stakeholders and roles of integrated management in sustainable use of coastal resources
A4. Detailed knowledge of a selected research topic in marine natural and/or social environmental science as an independent investigator
A5. Knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of different research methodologies and approaches within a specific discipline.

Teaching and Learning Methods

A1 will be derived from lectures, seminars and a project paper on the selected topics. Lectures, seminars, practicals and student learning from these and related practical exercises will provide the learning for A2, while understanding of A3 will come from lectures and seminars. A4 and A5 will be learnt from lectures, seminars and an essay, and supervisions together with the proposal, paper and other assessments.

Assessment Strategy

A1 and A2 will be assessed by a review paper and survey report, A2 also by an essay and report. A3 will be assessed by a report, while the thesis will provide the basis for assessing A4. A5 will be based on the proposal, formative oral presentation and research paper.

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

B1. Analyse environmental issues and transfer understanding across disciplinary boundaries
B2. Collect and analyse environmental, social, and economic information from a range of relevant sources including stakeholders, provide a coherent, balanced and integrated summary of a coastal system and communicate it.
B3. Identify possible coastal management solution and institutional barriers to effective governance and communicate them coherently.
B4. Extract, collate and synthesise information from the global research literature to prepare a focused project on a specific subject and be able to appropriately and fully contextualise the findings.

Teaching and Learning Methods

B1 will be learnt through seminars, role play and an essay. B2 is based on seminars and it and B3 on the essay and report. B4 is built on preparation of an applicable paper but is learnt especially through a project proposal and dissertation.

Assessment Strategy

B1 and B2 are assessed formatively in seminars and summatively in an essay and group presentation. B3 will be assessed in an oral presentation. B4 is assessed through the proposal and papers, all being subject to iterative formative assessment in class, through feedback and supervision and feedback.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

C1. Report information in both oral and written forms to address issues in marine science and assess it.
C2. Collect natural-resources information, analyse it statistically and manipulate it in electronic decision support systems.
C3. Comprehensively plan and manage an original piece of research on a selected topic.

Teaching and Learning Methods

C1 is learnt through dedicated seminars and in-course tasks across all four modules, while C2 is gained through seminars and in-course exercises. A proposal and thesis preparation with ongoing supervision and project implementation provide the foundation for learning.

Assessment Strategy

All the in-course tasks provide assessment of C1 skills, the C2 assessment relying on a statistical report and report. C3 assessment is based on the formative and summative assessment of the project proposal, and achievement of objectives in the paper and related oral and written presentations.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

D1. Work professionally under pressure as an individual and in a small multidisciplinary team
D2. Write a complete comprehensive research proposal including contingency planning for an original study.

D3. Comprehensively understand the research environmental, including funding schemes and policies, and conceiving, preparing for a project and making strategic and tactical decision about its achievement while under way
D4. Write and orally present a research paper

Teaching and Learning Methods

All modules provide the opportunity to learn the D1 skill through their in-course tasks. Skills D2-D4 are learnt through work on the research project, including supervisions, detailed scoping, proposal writing, attending to the many dimensions of project preparation and inception (e.g. scientific, methodological, safety, health, ethical, data, logistical considerations) and successful management of the project, its deliverables, and outputs.

Assessment Strategy

Major points of assessment in the in-course tasks for most modules are the means of assessing D1, while skills D2-D4 are assessed through the major tasks of completing the project proposal and thesis of which formative feedback is provided on drafts.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

Three taught modules in semester 1
Research project in semesters 2 and 3

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

A programme based on the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences' Ecology and Modelling Evidence and Policy academic groups. Substantial research achievements and impacts include research from UK and international coasts to deep seas and from polar regions to the tropics including both basic and applied research. Many projects link with local, regional partners to provide real-world solutions to better manage and conserve our marine environments.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

-R4857FP_ATAS_2526.pdf

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.
Generic Information

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.
Generic Information

Accreditation reports
Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (IMarEST)

Additional mechanisms

15 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

Generic Information

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/#subject

Degree Programme and University Regulations: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.