FSC

BRINGING ENVIRONMENTAL UNDERSTANDING TO ALL

FSC Outdoor Classroom for Scotland
Higher Programmes

FSC programmes are fixed length courses with clearly stated outcomes and links to SQA Arrangements.

Geography: Physical Environments
3 days

Please visit
http://www.field-studies-council.org/outdoorclassroom/higher
for alternative Higher programmes

OVERVIEW

This three day programme is designed to meet the needs of the *'Physical Environments'* unit of the Higher geography Arrangements and will cover many of the fieldwork techniques that students have to master for their examination.

Students will leave with a greater understanding of practical fieldwork and its role in 'bringing alive' their geographical theory, in the real world. They will bring back to school primary data which can be analysed further.

PROGRAMME LENGTH

3 Days (2 nights with 6 teaching sessions)
Start days: Monday, Wednesday or Friday
Groups would normally arrive in time to be taught in the afternoon of the first day and would then be taught on that evening and for one full day subsequently. Groups depart immediately after the morning session on the day of departure.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Arrive Afternoon & evening sessions	Morning, afternoon & evening sessions	Morning session Depart after Lunch

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Includes:

- Introduction to the geographical approach and sampling techniques
- Data collection – observation, measurement and recording - using a range of maps and field measurement and recording techniques
- Data analysis - presentation of data (creating maps and diagrams) and its interpretation

ARRANGEMENT LINKS:

Unit: Physical Environments

b) Hydrosphere

1. Hydrological cycle
2. Fluvial Landforms and landscapes

c) Lithosphere

1. The development of regional landscapes
2. The influence of structure, rock type, erosionand deposition upon relief forms and patterns on the regional scale

d) Biosphere

2. Vegetation- the evolution of vegetation communities as ecosystems to climax stage

TIMETABLE

DAY	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
1	**Arrival** (approx. 12 - 1pm) **Welcome and outline the challenges ahead** Tour of centre Settle into rooms Allocate kit (i.e. waterproofs) **Introduction to Fieldwork** Introductory discussion to explore: • The importance of fieldwork • Geographical sampling methods- including random, systematic and stratified sampling • Aims of the three day course	**Ecosystems Investigation** Students undertake an investigation into two ecosystems, grassland and forest to: • Review features of ecosystems • Introduce fieldwork sampling techniques and equipment including frame and point quadrats, and plotless sampling • Compare and contrast the two grassland and forest ecosystems	**Follow up session** Using the data collected in the previous sessions students will: • Collate and graphically analyse the groups results • Discuss methodologies and their limitations
2	**Highland Fluvial systems study** Students are introduced to fluvial systems and then undertake a river investigation to: • Test the classic river model • Collect width, depth, bedload, and velocity data at river site • Observe a range of river landforms	**Follow up session** Students will use data collected in the previous session to: • Calculate Cross Sectional Area, velocity, construction. • Complete land-use maps and discuss changes that may effect the fluvial system	**Follow up session 2** Students will use data collected and the statistical analysis in the previous two session to: • Calculate velocity using flowmeter and orange, and compare techniques • Discuss methodologies and their limitations
3	**Landscape evolution and fieldsketching** Students will walk to the summit of Kindrogan hill/around valley floor to gain an overview of Strathardle to: • Identify factors effecting landscape evolution – including structure, rock type, geology, geomorphological process, climate, sea levels, drainage patterns, soils and human factors • Develop fieldsketching techniques	**Lunch and Depart**	

Please note: to ensure safe and quality learning experiences for students the timetable may alter depending on weather conditions and local factors at centres.

FSC KINDROGAN

Located in rural Perthshire, at the edge of the Cairngorms National Park FSC Kindrogan is 11 miles from Pitlochry's mainline train station and close to the A9. The Centre itself is set in wooded grounds on the banks of the River Ardle and lies within easy reach of some of the most inspiring landforms in the Scottish Highlands and a rich range of wildlife habitats.

KD	Kindrogan	Tel: 01250 870150

TO BOOK THIS PROGRAMME, SIMPLY:

1. Choose the time of the year you would like to attend
2. Check availability online or contact FSC Kindrogan

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The FSC prides itself on being flexible. If you can't find a programme to meet your exact requirements a course specifically tailored to meet your needs can be developed. To discuss this, contact the centre of your choice. Fees will depend on what time of year you would like to visit and your length of stay but will be more expensive than FSC programmes at peak periods.