FSC Scotland

In 2002 FSC began operation of the Scottish Field Studies Association (SFSA) centre at Kindrogan in the Highlands which was then gifted to FSC in 2010. Since then over £1m has been invested in upgrading the facility to create the Highland’s leading environmental education centre.

Early in 2014 FSC took ownership of the University Marine Biology Station at Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae following the decision by the University of London to close the facility. With the generous support of the Scottish Government, North Ayrshire Council and Highlands & Islands Enterprise, FSC has begun re-establishing the centre’s reputation as the UK’s premier site for coastal research.

Field Studies Council (FSC) is an environmental education charity providing informative and enjoyable opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to discover, explore, and understand the environment.

Founded over 70 years ago to help children from inner cities understand more about the natural world, the charity now has a network of UK locations. Each year FSC provides high quality fieldwork courses at all ages to over 3,000 groups from across the UK. Working to open the minds of young people to the awe and wonder of their environment through first-hand experiences is as important today as it was in 1943 when FSC started.

FSC believes that the more we know about and take inspiration from the world around us the more we can appreciate its needs and protect its diversity and beauty for future generations.
Why choose FSC?

**High quality teaching**

FSC Scotland has a team of gifted field teachers with a real passion for the outdoors. They teach full time, all year round and also create the course content ensuring they fully understand and link to Curriculum for Excellence requirements.

**External recognition of quality**

FSC has been delivering outdoor learning for over 70 years. Centres have been awarded the Quality Badge by The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, by demonstrating that they provide quality teaching and health and safety. Kindrogan also holds the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) badge. This means you will have less paperwork to complete when visiting our Centres.

**Proven health and safety record**

FSC codes of practice exceed Government and Local Authority guidelines. Field teachers are fully trained in first aid and group management and carry dedicated first aid equipment. A qualified first aider is available at the Centre 24 hours a day. All our field sites have been carefully surveyed and risk assessed and we can provide copies of these to reduce the paperwork you need to do.

**Fully organised trip**

We take care of every aspect of your visit, from when you arrive to when you depart. This means a course matching your learners’ needs, comfortable accommodation, tasty food and all the equipment required. With the logistics arranged this leaves you free to help support your students and join in with the fun!

**Good value**

FSC field courses represent good value when you consider everything that is included within the fee (see page 15) and the cost of sourcing these independently, especially if you are prepared to visit in less busy periods.

**Accessible and inspiring locations**

Our Centres are less than two hours from the central belt, so if you are travelling from Glasgow or Edinburgh you can be out and about in the field by lunchtime on your first day at one of the dramatic sites around our Centres.

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*Lizzie Phipson, Assistant Head of FSC Scotland*

I have long had a passion for the outdoors, stemming from family holidays spent in the Lake District and the Scottish Highlands. Gaining a BSc in Geography from Durham University, I spent the first years of my career teaching Geography in inner city London. But having taken many fieldtrips I was led to consider a career teaching in the outdoors, and in 2008 I joined the Field Studies Council working to become Assistant Head of FSC Scotland. In 2014 I received one of two Ordnance Survey Awards from the Royal Geographical Society for Excellence in Secondary Geography. My favourite fieldwork site in Scotland is also home to one of my favourite pastimes! Studying the effects of the ski industry on Glenshee enables students to piece together the social, economic and environment impacts of tourism on a rural community as well as an upland habitat. I am a keen skier and find this environment pretty inspiring, meaning any visit there is always a little bit special.
Outdoor learning and Curriculum for Excellence

Outdoor learning is a key element of Curriculum for Excellence and a visit to an FSC Centre is a great opportunity to integrate and benefit from outdoor learning both within geography, and across other areas of Curriculum for Excellence.

FSC has carefully developed geography courses which directly meet Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes. Courses also help to build learner’s four capacities, encouraging learners to discover a new place, develop relationships, gain a sense of adventure, build confidence and reflect on their time and learning; all key elements of becoming effective contributors, responsible citizens, confident individuals and successful learners.

FSC residential courses integrate Learning for Sustainability throughout the course. This is embedded into the experiences of students and teachers alike, as we cover topics like climate change, sustainable development, global citizenship and biodiversity.

FSC can help teachers to embed outdoor learning in their school with outreach projects, support from field teachers before and after courses and publications (see page 14).

“Scotland has a long history of engaging children and young people with the outdoors and the value placed on outdoor learning within Curriculum for Excellence is encouragement to continue, and build upon, that history. Education Scotland”
We are convinced that outdoor learning offers unique opportunities to extend the potential of our children and young people.

Outdoor Connections Advisory Group, Scotland

Education Scotland: Curriculum for Excellence through outdoor learning

> The journey through education for any child in Scotland must include opportunities for a series of planned, quality outdoor learning experiences.

> Learning outdoors can be enjoyable, creative, challenging and adventurous and helps children and young people learn by experience and grow as confident and responsible citizens who value and appreciate the spectacular landscapes, natural heritage and culture of Scotland.

> The core values of Curriculum for Excellence resonate with long-standing key concepts of outdoor learning. Challenge, enjoyment, relevance, depth, development of the whole person and an adventurous approach to learning are at the core of outdoor pedagogy.

> Outdoor learning offers many opportunities for learners to deepen and contextualise their understanding within curriculum areas, and for linking learning across the curriculum in different contexts and at all levels.
Visiting FSC Scotland

FSC Scotland has two Centres in fantastic and contrasting locations.

Kindrogan is at the gateway to the Highlands near Pitlochry in beautiful grounds, with breathtaking scenery and wonderful wildlife to enjoy.

Millport is set metres from the fantastic shoreline of the Isle of Cumbrae in the Firth of Clyde, only an eight minute ferry ride from the mainland at Largs yet offering an exciting and different island experience.

Both Centres are within two hours of the Central belt meaning 94% of the population of Scotland are within two hours from one or both of our locations. The Centres are also both served by good public transport links.
FSC Centres provide the teaching facilities, specialised field equipment and support materials required for your course. Both residential Centres in Scotland have comfortable accommodation for up to 120 people in a mixture of twin, shared and dormitory rooms. Teachers usually have their own room.

The Centres also have:
- Dining rooms serving plenty of good food with vegetarian and other dietary options
- Spaces for staff and students to relax both in and out of doors
- Wireless internet access
- Well-resourced natural history libraries
- Aquarium (Millport)
- Ropes courses (Kindrogan)
FSC Scotland residential courses are ideal for transition from P7 to S1 and beyond. Learners will experience adventure and team building activities, and learn more about the environment and their place in it. Everything takes place outdoors making the most of the wonderful natural surroundings of each Centre.

**Environmental Adventure and Exploration**

Develop learners’ relationships with each other, themselves, and the world around them with FSC. Through a variety of challenges and activities they will discover what shaped the landscape, what lives there now and consider future scenarios.

Both Centres offer a wide range of activities such as team building, conservation, mammal trapping, bushcraft and campfires as well as some specific to the Centre and its local environment. All our courses explore social
studies topics in engaging and practical ways, with outdoor learning sessions linking to people, past events and societies and people, place and environment.

Sessions at Kindrogan include:
> Navigating the on-site ropes courses for adventurous challenges
> Investigating river characteristics
> Exploring post glacial features and how the climate might be changing now
> Measuring the weather 495m above sea level on Kindrogan Hill

Sessions at Millport include:
> Going on a boat trip or trying out water sports
> Discovering the history of Millport and how it influenced the town
> Investigating coastal defences
> Taking a cycle ride around the whole island

S1-S3 students will be fully engaged and active throughout their visit. Activities all link directly to Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes and will also help to build confidence, independence, relationships with others, themselves and the world around them, developing their four capacities.

We bring our students because we know they will get excellent instruction and gain confidence to do their own study.

Hermitage Academy
National 4 and 5

FSC Scotland can help you to deliver the latest National 4 and 5 requirements with up-to-date, specifically-created course content.

Learners of all abilities will gain an improved knowledge and understanding of geographical enquiry skills, their application and analysis. The residential fieldwork experience integrates the development of health and wellbeing, and builds on learners’ four capacities.

Geography courses

Our bespoke residential courses for National 4 and 5 Geography provide the framework and skills for young people to learn content from Physical Environments, Human Environments and Global Issues. The hands-on approach supports students’ understanding of the subject while also developing their investigation and enquiry skills.

FSC always uses natural environments to bring to life what you have been studying in the classroom. There are a wide variety of environments on our doorsteps including coastlines, rivers and streams, upland landscapes, woodland and urban areas. Field sites are either in the Centre grounds or a short journey away.

Sessions include:

> Upland River Study: investigating downstream changes or a comparison of characteristics of straight and meander river sections. Geographical inquiry process will be followed.

> Land Use and Change: identifying factors affecting rural or urban land use including rock type, climate, influence of humans.

> Weather – Highland Climate: predicting and investigating how climatic variables will change with relief, including temperature, humidity, and wind speed.

> Coastal Study Sea Defences: discussing changing climates and future implications, cost-benefit analysis of sea defences.

> Team Challenges: students will complete a set of challenges which are designed to strengthen their communication, collaboration and co-operation skills.
FSC Scotland has a long history of research at Millport and Kindrogan and therefore has a wealth of resources to support Higher and Advanced Higher courses, including large equipment stores and well-stocked libraries.

FSC prides itself in using natural landscapes to bring to life what you have been studying in the classroom. There are a wide variety of environments on our doorsteps including valleys carved by glaciers, rivers, coastlines and soil catenas. Field sites are either in the Centre grounds or a short journey away.

There is also the option of including adventure activities such as water sports or ropes courses to provide a varied and exciting experience for learners.
**Higher Geography**

Linking to Physical Environments possible investigations students can undertake include:

> The hydrosphere
> Soil properties and formation
> Landform mapping and glaciation
> Rural land use
> Post glacial environments
> River systems

Investigations into flooding and human and urban change link into Human Environment topics. Sessions can also be undertaken during which students write up a geographical investigation, in preparation for the geographical assignment, ensuring students have completed much of the course before they leave the Centre.

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**Advanced Higher Geography**

21% of Advanced Higher Geography students visited FSC Scotland last year to undertake fieldwork, so our field teachers are experienced in creating and delivering course content that links fully to the curriculum and are tailored to your requirements.

Our Advanced Higher Geography courses provide the framework for students to develop and demonstrate their knowledge and skills, covering Physical and Human Geographical Methods and Techniques in a variety of environments, visiting and investigating environments studied in the classroom. Each investigation follows the structure of a Geographical Study and is planned carefully, involving learners in decision making to ensure they fully understand the process. This course gives learners the expertise and transferable skills to plan and conduct their independent geographical study.

Topics covered can include:

> Downstream river changes
> Urban study e.g. Glasgow or Perth
> Rural land-use or geomorphological mapping
> Impact of tourism at Glen Shee
> Soil catena investigation

Days are very full with evening sessions used for data analysis and planning the following day’s fieldwork.

“I was very impressed with the quality of teaching and the structure and pace of the course. It was excellent.”

Dornoch Academy
Supporting teachers and learners

**OPAL Scotland project**
Carry out short outdoor surveys in your local green space. Survey packs for your group and a visit from an OPAL scientist are free to arrange.
www.field-studies-council.org/opalscotland

**Financial support for individual students**
FSC Bursaries are awarded to schools with individuals within their groups who are unable to attend a course due to financial disadvantage.
www.field-studies-council.org/bursary

**Subsidised teacher training**
FSC offers professional training opportunities in fieldwork and the environment for trainee and experienced teachers.
www.field-studies-council.org/professional

**Publications**
A wide range of publications are available from FSC to help aid learning outdoors, some of which are specifically designed for secondary geography. FSC also offers a growing library of free resources for teachers and students.
www.field-studies-council.org/publications
Fees and booking

Fees vary depending on time of year, arrival and departure days/times and course content. FSC prides itself on being flexible; the course content can be tailored to meet your needs. Alternatively, we can work with you to create a fully bespoke course to meet your exact requirements.

Choose the time you would like to go, and then check the fees. The fees listed below are for standard length courses and include some teaching on the arrival and departure days. For pricing of a bespoke course, please get in touch.

Course fees include:

- Expert tuition by fully trained staff from arrival to departure, including evening sessions
- Rigorous and proven health and safety procedures including 24 hour emergency cover
- Access to risk assessments
- Full board (residential visits)
- Specialist equipment and exclusive access to specially developed resources
- Free places for visiting staff in a ratio of 1 to 12 students
- E-mail support before and after the course and online resources
- Personal and travel insurance

Please remember travel to the Field Centre and to fieldwork sites is not included in the course fee. Some activities incur an additional cost e.g. high ropes, water sports.

Our minimum group size is usually 10 but if you have a smaller number please get in touch and we will try to arrange for two or more small groups to visit together.

The fees below are based on arriving and departing at lunchtime, and include an afternoon session on the arrival day and morning session on the departure day.

### Advanced Higher and Higher

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Prices are correct at the time of print but subject to change.
Contacting us

Telephone: 01475 530581
Email: enquiries.sco@field-studies-council.org

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PH10 7PG

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KA28 0EG

FSC is a Limited Company, reg. England and Wales No. 412621, and a Charity No. 313364 in England and SC039870 in Scotland.
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www.field-studies-council.org/scotland