

IALE-Europe PhD course Landscape Ecology From pattern and process to people and action



Education in landscape ecology
Sharing knowledge and
experience

Course format and learning outcomes of the intensive PhD courses

IALE-Europe is organising intensive PhD courses in Landscape Ecology on a regular base:

- 2012 – Évora, Portugal – Agricultural landscapes responding to multiple drivers (in collaboration with APEP and University of Évora)
- 2013 – Manchester, UK – European Landscapes in transition: the interplay between local and global drivers
- 2015 – Copenhagen, Denmark – Cultural landscapes, sustainability and new modes of governance (in collaboration with Copenhagen University)
- 2017 – Ghent, Belgium – Landscape ecology: pattern and process meet people and action (in collaboration with Ghent University)
- 2019 – Milan, Italy – Meeting global challenges and exploring insights from landscape ecology

The overarching theme of these intensive PhD courses is in line with the baseline of IALE-Europe: From pattern and process to people and action. Landscape Ecology is the discipline studying the interaction between spatial pattern and processes in landscapes at various scales. It includes both the biophysical and societal aspects of landscapes and is inherent to an interdisciplinary domain. The theoretical discourses and paradigms in landscape ecology link natural sciences with related human disciplines. It offers the opportunity to integrate the fundamental scientific approach of landscape ecology with in planning and policy.

This documents gives an overview of the learning outcomes of the PhD courses.

General aims

- To contribute towards an innovative conceptual framework for studying landscape ecology (pattern and processes and people and action) and related topics;
- To gain insight in the development of landscape ecology and related disciplines;
- To gain insight into novel methodological approaches for studying and analysing landscapes from a landscape ecological perspective;
- To gain better understanding of the processes linking different scales (te local to the global) and spatial and environmental to socio-economic dimensions;

- From theory to practice/application (link with planning and participation);
 - To develop skills in reviewing participants' own and others research work, and how to successfully publish in peer reviewed journals;
 - To participate in networking and knowledge exchange with other environmental academics and professionals from different countries.
- More specific aims can be formulated in relation with the specific course theme.

Learning outcomes

On completion of this unit successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an interdisciplinary understanding of landscapes and their implications for landscape ecology and management;
 - Apply knowledge of landscape ecology and management in a field work location using case-study examples;
 - Undertake a critical self-reflection of academic work and better understand the paper writing and review process;
 - Network and integrate with academics and practitioners from a range of interdisciplinary backgrounds and from different countries;
 - Participate in and learn how to get the maximum benefit from attendance at an international congress (if the course is organised in addition to a congress).
- More specific learning outcomes can be formulated in relation with the specific course theme.

Teaching and learning methods

- The course will be delivered through a mixture of lectures, workshops, site visits and student directed learning.

Content

The course includes a mixture of lectures and small workshops to provide an interactive learning experience for participants, including lectures on:

- General: development of landscape ecology; interdisciplinary understanding of landscape ecology;
- Specific: depending on the course theme.

Workshops are centred on developing students' abilities as landscape researchers, including discussions on:

- A critical analysis of their research work from established academics;
- Developing coherent and professional approaches to presentation design and research publication;

The workshops are considered as mentor/coaching sessions for the students in their overall PhD process.

Learning hours

ACTIVITY	HOURS ALLOCATED
Preparation of poster and journal paper for review	40
Lectures	15
Tutorials / workshops	20
Field visits	5
Private study and development of paper	70
TOTAL HOURS	150
THE COURSE IS EQUAL TO 6 ECTS-CREDITS	

Assessment

- Students need to prepare a small poster to present their PhD research topic and approach very briefly.
- Students write a paper in advance, these papers will be reviewed by the tutors/lectures and discussed in depth on the course. After the course, the students can adjust the paper, resubmit it and based on the reviewed paper they will get the credits for the course.
- Active participation in the discussions and sessions.