

As part of the launch of the new Oxford University Postgraduate Certificate in Ecological Survey Techniques, we are trialling one of the new online modules called Field Techniques for Surveying Invertebrates, and I'd like to invite you to participate, free of charge.

Lindsay

Campbell (the new programme manager) and myself have set a date of Wednesday 12 October to Wed 16 November 2011. The course lasts 5 weeks and is divided into 10 Topics. The tutors are Dr Roger Key and Dr Ben Woodcock. I will be hovering in the background keeping an eye on things (it is a trial run of this new course). The course is run part-time and can be taken from anywhere in the world as long as you have internet access. The expectations are that students will contribute to all the discussion forums and undertake any of the activities. As the course is at the trial stage we don't have a webpage for it yet, so I have cut and paste the information that will exist for the course to give you some idea of how it is structured and run. You won't be taking the course for credit:

Overview

Field techniques for surveying invertebrates is a short, stand-alone training course that is taught entirely online. It can be taken from anywhere in the world and is international in its use of case studies. It will appeal to a variety of students and practitioners in conservation and management who want to improve their ability to conduct invertebrate surveys. The course can be taken for accreditation or non-accreditation.

Description

Each topic is covered via guided reading, online activities, and discussion forums. All the reading material is embedded into the course, but students additionally have access to the University's electronic resources and online journals, that they will need to use for some of the activities. Participants are expected to study on, and contribute to the course for 10-15 hours per week. Additionally, if the course is being taken for accreditation, participants will have to complete an assessment. There is a suggested calendar of activity that participants can use to assist them in completing the course within the allocated

five weeks.

Programme details

The topics covered in the course are:

- * Rationale & practicalities of invertebrate surveys
- * Before starting- planning & preparation
- * Field methods 1- active methods
- * Field methods 2- interception trapping
- * Field methods 3- responsive trapping
- * Sorting, identification & taxonomic considerations
- * Sampling strategies
- * Invertebrate habitat description & evaluation
- * Invertebrate survey for monitoring
- * The end result- specimens, data, analysis, interpretation & reporting

I do hope you will take up this offer by filling in the attached application form. If you would like to participate, please return the completed form to Lindsay Campbell at est@conted.ox.ac.uk . Places for the trial will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Best wishes,
Jocelyne

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