

Education for Sustainable Development – Increasing Students’ Awareness of Contemporary Consumer Issues related to the Sustainable Development Goals

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The final year Contemporary Consumer Issues module for the Consumer Management & Food Innovation degree programme encourages students to critically analyse the controversial and unresolved nature of the reported associations between food and consumer issues, policies and behaviours.

Our students debate globalisation and sustainability via lectures and seminars dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – notably, *No Poverty*, *Zero Hunger*, *Good Health and Well-Being*, and *Responsible Production and Consumption*.



In our *Food Policies, Practices and Procedures* lecture, students learn about the major themes of the global food crisis and food sustainability, security and health policies and the key players involved.

In our *Sustainability and Fairtrade* lecture we discuss how many key players within the food supply chain are pledging their commitment to Fair Trade in support of sustainable development.

Our *Global Food Crisis* lecture considers how the world food system feeds all of us as healthily as possible; with as little damage to nature as possible while ensuring that future generations can feed themselves.



Our *Food Security* lecture discusses the human right to food and coordinated policy responses required to achieve this. This is an exemplar of embedding research-informed teaching in our practice given our research reputation and notable outputs in this area, including the Food Research Collaboration briefing [Is it appropriate to use surplus food to feed people in hunger? Short-term Band-Aid to more deep rooted problems of poverty](#), Palgrave Pivot series book [The Economics of Emergency Food Aid Provision: A Financial, Social and Cultural Perspective](#), and *Encyclopedia of the United Nation’s’ Sustainable Development Goals’* chapter on [Food Poverty: Zero Hunger and the Right to Food](#).

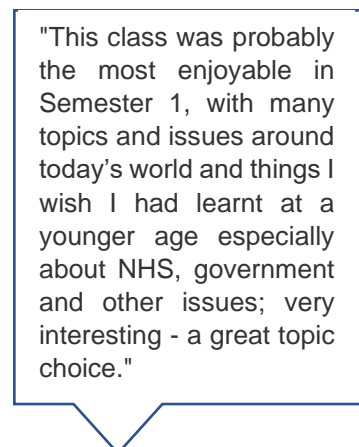
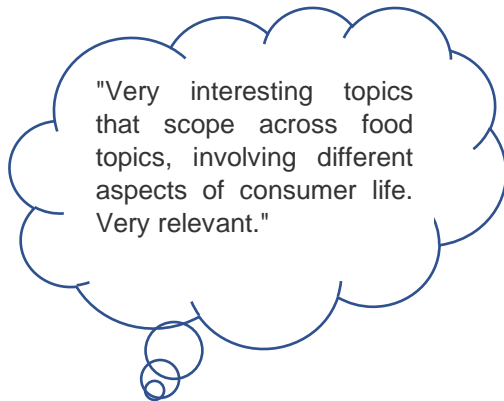


In our *Promoting Sustainable Practices* lecture we review the many initiatives and policies which are being implemented by retail multiples to become more sustainable and introduce students to the concept of the circular economy and the challenge of managing and regulating food waste practices.



In exploring the Good Health and Well-being SDG, students consider our health service and examine its effectiveness and relevance in today's society. Students also debate the structures, cost of provision and ethical issues relating to care of vulnerable adults in the community alongside how public authorities co-operate to ensure the physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

Module evaluations demonstrate how positively the students engaged with the opportunity to discuss meaningful and interesting topics across food and world issues that managed to be both engaging and applicable to today's society. The ability to share and discuss opinions openly contributed to students' learning, reflection and knowledge of current affairs in a way and to an extent that they had previously not had the opportunity to do.



We look forward to continuing to embed *Education for Sustainable Development* in our learning and teaching practices...