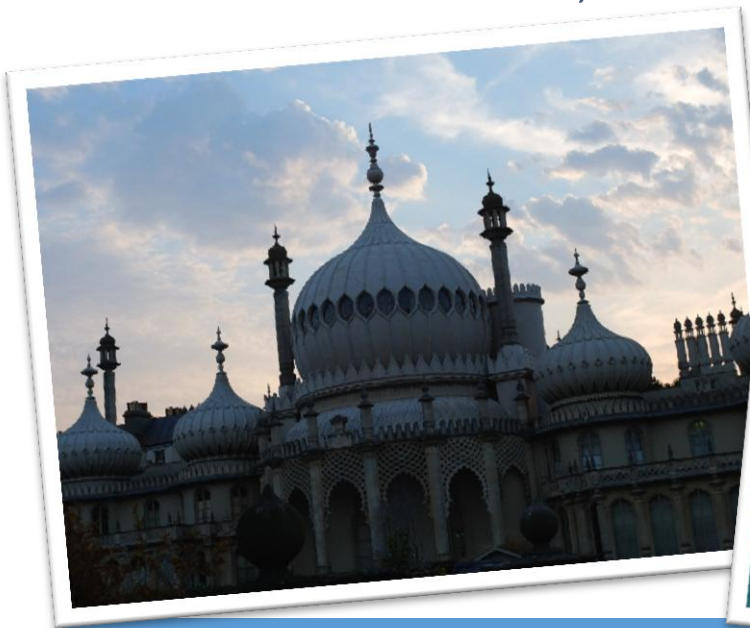




# Report on International Summer School of the University of Sussex – Field Biology

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JULY 20 – AUGUST 17, 2013



**Wu Yuk Faat, Frederick**

**AScES 2012-2014**



# Introduction

In the summer of 2013, I joined the International Summer School of the University of Sussex in the UK. I took a 4-week course “Field Biology” as it was related to the programme I am studying in CCCU, “Environmental Studies”.





# The University of Sussex

The University of Sussex is situated in Falmer, Brighton in the Southern England. It is a relatively new university comparing to the other universities in the UK yet it has a green campus, and the whole campus is surrounded by the South Down National Park which possesses a rich biodiversity. I am so glad that I got the chance to live in this



beautiful campus during my study in

there.

## Field Biology

The course I took was Field Biology and it was beneficial. The course duration was 4 weeks. In each week, students had to go on a field trip with the leading the professor. In every field trip, we visited a unique habitat in the Southern England.

### Week 1 – Ditches

In the first trip our class went to Railway Land Local Nature Reserve in Lewes to do a survey of two ditches which are man-made to assist drainage of the land and act as ‘wet fences’ for livestock. The survey was about the abundance of the aquatic flora and fauna species in two ditches.





## Week 2 – Chalk Grassland

The field trip site of the second week was a grassland in Mount Caburn National Nature Reserve. Our class learnt how to use a quadrat in survey, and we also identified a range of wild flower



### Week 3 – Ancient Woodland



In the third week our class visited two woods in Bedeland to distinguish an ancient woodland from one of them by identifying AWI (Ancient Woodland Indicators) and some desk-top surveys before

we go. Walking in the ancient woodland was fun yet relaxing, I also got to know more about different tree species such as oak, wild maple and hornbeam.





## *Week 4 – Coastal Habitats*

In the last week our class went to a seashore in Newhaven to study the habitats in the coastal zone. We observed various fauna and flora species in different tidal zones. It was so nice to work on the coast because we could actually see the tide coming up when we were doing our survey!



# Feelings

I have learnt so much from this course, including using different survey techniques in the field, identifying a range of species from each habitat surveyed and produce a scientific report on the ancient woodland field trip, using maps, aerial photographs and data collected in the field. During that 4 weeks, I went on 4 field trips which visited 4 different habitats namely ditches, chalk grassland, ancient woodland and coast in southern England.





Furthermore, the University of Sussex offered numerous different activities or trips during the sessions such as watching musical Phantom of the Opera in the Her Majesty's Theatre in London, countryside hiking in Sussex, visit to Oxford and Cambridge and etc. I am so glad that I received the chance to experience the UK and broaden my horizon!

