

Assessment Brief 2025-26

How you'll be evaluated?

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Summative Assessment Brief

This Module covers the following courses:

- MSc/MRes Applied Ecology & Geospatial Techniques
- MSc/MRes Biodiversity Conservation
- MSc/MRes Endangered Species Recovery & Conservation
- MSc/MRes Equine Performance, Health & Welfare MSc/MRes Smart Agriculture

Formative Assessments

Your formative opportunities are related to the development of your workbook and sharing of this development with module leader and colleagues.

Share your Workbook

You must not be shy or embarrassed to share your workbook. Nobody will judge you. We are all learning!

Type of Assessment

Your Summative is to produce an dynamic document (i.e. a simple Quarto document) containing an analytical workflow for a given dataset where critically interpret the results and draw your conclusions.

Step 1 - Context

You will be given a context of a scientific problem. This context will introduce you to a real-world problem that is going to be used as a background for the data that you are going to analyse.

Step 2 - The dataset

You will have access to a pre-built dataset in a `.csv` format that will contain all the data and metadata needed for your analyses. The data is the same for everyone and I am not providing data on your specific subject of studies.

Step 3 - Your Workbook

You are going to work on the assessment using your **Quarto workbook** constructed over the course of the whole module. This is going to be your submission. I'll collect your exams using a NOW Dropbox where you can paste the link to your published workbook.

Note

The **dataset** and **context description** for the Summative exam will be shared by the end of the module sessions (probably in the last week of classes).

Transferable skills developed in this assessment

Analytical workflow

- Create and attach to an analytical workflow that is reproducible
- Generate good quality graphs and tables
- Comment and understand R code
- Identify core results within a set of exploratory analyses.
- Interpret and generate conclusions based on data analysed

Specific tasks

- Design an experimental design
- Describe methods for reproducibility
- Create a analytical workflow
- Comment on the R codes in your **workbook**

Assessment Guidance

- Analytical workflow (15%)
- R code commented (15%)
- Exploratory analysis (20%)
- Quality graphs and tables (25%)
- Interpretation of results (25%)

Further information

- [Extenuating circumstances](#)

Grading Matrix

Cri- te- ria	Fail		Pass	Commen- dation			Distinc- tion Exceptional
	Low Mid	Marginal Fail		Low Mid High	Low Mid High	Distinction High	
	Low	Mid		High	Low Mid		
An- a- lyt- i- cal work- work-flow flow	No clear find; mixed analytical approach in search for any significant p-value	Workflow not easy to reasonable but with excess of flaw analyses and lack of a logic sequence that goes from 1) preparation; 2) data wrangling; 3) Exploratory analyses; 4) Core analyses	Workflow relatively but hard to reproduce because crucial steps were either omitted or non com- mented.	Clear workflow but hard to reproduce because crucial steps were either omitted or non com- mented.	Very good workflow with clear guidance for repro- ducibility	High quality workflow, fully reproducible and extensively commented	
R code to no com- com- mented on coding	Little Comments provided but non meaningful for crucial steps	Comments provided but non meaningful for crucial steps	Codes mostly commented but crucial steps are not understood	Codes mostly commented but not excessively, and helping repro- ducibility.	Codes fully commented but not excessively, avoiding visual pollution	Codes fully commented and not affecting visual inspection of the script and allows full repro- ducibility and explanation in key steps	
Ex- ploratory anal- analy- y- ses sis done	No ex- ploratory anal- analy- y- ses sis done	Insufficient exploratory analyses	Enough exploratory analyses but not commented or justified	Good ex- ploratory analyses but poorly com- mented and little justified	Very good exploratory analyses, commented and justified	World-class and fully justified exploratory approach to data	

Cri- te- ria	Fail			Commendation		
	Low Mid		Marginal	Pass	Low Mid High	Distinction High
	Low	Mid	Fail	Low Mid High	High	Distinction Exceptional
Qual-Poor ity graphs, graphlacking and crucial ta- ele- bles ele- ments such as axis title and cap- tions	Poor graphs and tables with some elements present but poorly explained while other elements are missig	Graphs and tables present with most elements, but some missing components preclude full understanding of the info presented	Graphs and tables of accept- able quality with all elements present but not clearly de- scribed	Good quality graphs and tables that could be accepted for publication in any serious scientific journal	Outstading graphs and tables with graphical abstracts and schematic figures. All elements present and fully explained.	
In- ter- pre- ta- tion of re- sults the found	Poor interpretation of the critical results and misuse of statistical concepts and wrong translation of tests and graphs	Deficient in- terpretation of the critical results and misuse of statistical concepts and wrong translation of tests and graphs	Results are just reported with no critical interpretation or further discussion	Results correctly reported and critically inter- preted but excessive specula- tion is present	Results are fully reported in a correct manner with string attachment to the proposed workflow and are discussed without much speculation	Excellent in- terpretation, creative and fully connected with scientific hypotheses