

Certificate in Environmental Studies (1 Year)

**In Collaboration with
Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL)
through Blended Learning Mode**



**XIM University, Bhubaneswar
India**

Certificate in Environmental Studies through Blended Learning Mode

by XIM University Bhubaneswar, India

"We must never forget that the natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone". Pope Francis

Title of the Program: Certificate in Environmental Studies

Background & Rationale

XIM University, as a Jesuit university, is committed to providing higher education to the people at the margins in collaboration with Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL). The university is dedicated to creating an equitable, inclusive and sustainable world. The University's Act mandates it to undertake online and blended learning educational programmes. In line with this mission, a 1-year **Certificate in Environmental Studies** is being proposed to provide students with a foundational understanding of environmental concerns and policy frameworks. Despite increased awareness, many potential students still face structural barriers to accessing high-quality education, particularly students from disadvantaged and marginalised groups. This disparity is due to several key factors, such as non-affordability for higher education, an admission system that targets the rich and privileged, less funding for higher education and the commercialisation of education by profit-driven institutions. This proposal addresses the urgent and universal need to increase diversity, inclusion and empowerment in higher education. This program is specifically designed for marginalised students, allowing them to address contemporary environmental issues from a multidisciplinary perspective based on field-based learning and academic rigour.

Blended learning and online learning approaches have effectively addressed these issues. The rise of online courses through learning management systems has increased access to leading instructors and content beyond the confines of traditional universities. It has enabled students to learn at their own pace from any location. Technological advances, as well as advancements in pedagogy and curriculum designs, have transformed the delivery and accessibility of education. These advancements in educational institutions have reduced the distance between professors and students. Now, some can easily learn from some of the world's leading teachers from the comfort of their homes or workplaces. The university can create a more equitable and sustainable future for all by embracing flexible learning pathways. In light of this, this proposal has been drafted and submitted. The proposal aims to leverage digital education to increase the university's reach and strengthen its inclusive and transformative learning mission.

Objectives

Today, environmental concerns play a significant role in public health, education, development, and international affairs. It is becoming increasingly necessary for citizens to understand environmental challenges such as pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable development. This one-year certificate program seeks to bridge the knowledge gap by providing students with a basic understanding of environmental systems, sustainable practices, and policy frameworks. The objectives of the program are:

- To develop practical knowledge and awareness about environmental issues and challenges
- To encourage multidisciplinary discussion of environmental issues from a social science perspective.
- To incorporate social and developmental perspectives into environmental issues.
- Participate and contribute as professionals in organizations engaged in promotion of sustainable development at community, state, national and global levels.

Target Group

- Higher Secondary Students: Students who have completed 10+2 in any discipline with a minimum of 50% marks.
- Undergraduates: Students who want to learn more about environmental studies and are currently enrolled in an undergraduate program such as a BA or BSc.
- Postgraduates: Recent graduates who are looking to advance their education and enhance their employability in the sustainability, development, policy, or environmental sectors.
- Workforce professionals: Corporate, government, or nonprofit sector employees involved in resource management, rural development, corporate social responsibility, the environment, or urban planning.
- Educators: Teachers who want to integrate sustainability and environmental awareness into their curricular or extracurricular activities.
- Members of civil society and NGOs: NGO and grassroots organization staff engaged in rural development, awareness campaigns, or community-based environmental projects.
- Startups and Entrepreneurs: Individuals engaged in green technology, climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, or eco-initiatives.
- Lifelong learners and the general public: Anyone interested in learning about environmental concerns, laws, and sustainable behaviour, regardless of educational background, can apply.

Admission/Eligibility Criteria: The following criteria will be followed for admission:

- a. Pass mark in 10+2 exam or its equivalence (minimum 50%).
- b. Should have completed 18 years of age.
- c. Certificate in English Language Proficiency in case of students who have studied in vernacular medium.
- d. Global English Language Course, if needed, and Lingua-Skill test of B2.
- e. Written Statement of Purpose (SOP) to assess environmental aptitude.
- f. Personal interview.

Medium of Instruction: English

Mode of Delivery

- Online / Hybrid (depending on institutional infrastructure).
- Classroom lectures, field visits, workshops, assignments, leadership talks, and project work.

Evaluation System

Both Continuous and Terminal evaluation systems will be used. Continuous evaluation will include assignments, quizzes, term papers, independent research projects and capstone projects. Terminal evaluation will be in the form of a final examination.

Duration

- One Year

Each Term is for 2 months (8 weeks). The details of the terms are as under:

Terms	Period	List of courses	Credits
Term 1	1 st & 2 nd month	1. Fundamentals of Environment Science 2. Climate Change	5 5
Term 2	3 rd & 4 th month	3. Sustainable Development Programs: Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting	5
Term 3	5 th & 6 th month	4. Natural Resource Economics	5
Term 4	7 th & 8 th month	5. Disaster Preparedness Relief & Response 6. Social Research Methods	5 5
Term 5	9 th & 10 th month	7. Waste Management for Sustainable Livelihoods	5
Term 6	11 th & 12 th month	8. Project	6
Total	1 year	7 courses and a project	41 credits

Expected Outcome

- Maximum participation of marginalized groups.
- Increases environmental literacy and sensitivity
- Promotes sustainable behaviour at the community level.
- Prepares students for careers or further education in environmental fields.
- Development of replicable models for other universities.
- Increasing XIM University's academic stand in inclusive education.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Feedback from faculty, students, and community partners.

Certification

- A certificate will be awarded upon successful completion, issued by XIM University.

Proposed date of launch: 25 August 2025
