# **Centre for Law & the Environment UCC**

# **Digital Badge in Climate Law and Governance for Engaged Citizenship**

**2020/21**

**Assessment Format and Research Topics**

**Introduction**

Performance in the assessment will determine whether a participant has met the Learning Outcomes criteria for award of the Digital Badge.

Feedback will be provided on each piece of work submitted.

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this short course students should be able to:

1. Identify and explain the key elements of Irish climate law and governance.
2. Assess critically the current framework of Irish climate law and governance and identify its shortcomings.
3. Engage in an informed and articulate manner in putting forward proposals as to how the current framework of Irish climate law and governance might be strengthened.
4. Develop strategies for cultivating their own ability to engage in active citizenship in the context of the ongoing development of climate law and governance.

**Assessment formats**

You have a choice of assessment formats:

1. **A 1,500-word report** (the report topic, reasonable footnotes or endnotes, and any Bibliography / list of references, do not count towards the word limit; reports should be typed and presented in at least 12-point font and double spaced; the writing style adopted should be the style that you usually follow for a piece of academic writing as part of your degree programme); **You must state the word count on the first page of your report.**

**Or**

1. **A 10-minute video in MP4 format** (you are free to determine the style of your video; for example, you may decide to use slides and to record audio over the slides, or you may decide to record material and provide audio commentary etc. The choice is yours).

**Research Topics**

As regards the **topics** for the report or video, participants may choose from **one** of the following:

1. Critically examine **any one aspect** of the decision of the Supreme Court in Climate Case Ireland that you found particularly interesting.
2. Critically evaluate how the public, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs) can influence developments in climate law and policy.
3. Critically evaluate the draft Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2020 (the new draft climate legislation which proposes to amend the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015).
4. Critically evaluate whether the recognition of a constitutional right to a healthy environment would make a significant difference in delivering better environmental protection in Ireland.

**or**

Participants may seek approval from the Course Co-ordinator to write on a proposed topic of their choice relating to material covered in this short course. Approval **must** be sought from Áine Ryall **in advance** by email.

**Applications for approval of a proposed topic will be accepted up to 5pm on 15 January 2021 only.**

**Word court / time limit is strict**

**Deadline for submission of assessment**

In order to ensure that the assessment for this short course does not interfere with the assessment in the modules that you are studying in Semester 1, the deadline for submission of the assessment will be **Friday, 29 January 2021, 5pm**.

Submission will be via Canvas.

**General points to keep in mind if preparing a report**

* Reports should have a clear structure including an Introduction and Conclusion. Use headings and/or sub-headings as appropriate.
* Spelling, grammar and syntax are important elements of good writing.
* Redrafting and refining are vital aspects of good writing and it is important not to submit a first draft of a report.

**Recommended approach to preparing your report or video**

* Demonstrate good powers of synthesising material. You cannot cover everything, so you will have to be selective and tailor the content of your report/video to the word count/time limit.
* Demonstrate that you have read and understood the relevant material.
* Distil your research into the word limit (report) or time limit (video).
* Analyse the material and draw your own conclusions.
* Avoid using emotive language.