

Six Tips to Embed ESD into Your Warwick Teaching

You don't need to be an ESD expert. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a pedagogical approach that empowers learners to make informed decisions and take responsible action for environmental integrity, economic viability, and social justice. These tips align with Warwick's 2030 Education and Student Experience Strategy commitment to embeds learning based on interdisciplinarity and sustainability for all students and help develop purposeful global citizens, equipped to achieve their definition of success.

1. Connect to Real-World Impact

Link your subject to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through real-world application that demonstrates how your discipline shapes policy and practice locally, nationally, and internationally.

Try this: Use climate data in statistics, explore gender pay gaps in economics, examine colonial legacies in history, or investigate environmental justice in sociology.

2. Engage with Community

Use campus and local community as living laboratories—fostering impactful collaboration with external partners whilst building strong connections and networks and moving students from understanding problems to designing and implementing solutions.

Try this: Science students audit campus energy use, design students collaborate with local councils on inclusive public spaces, or arts students partner with community groups on social justice campaigns.

3. Think and Act Critically

Combine systems thinking with experiential learning through current, inclusive, inspiring, and relevant curricula that encourages students to take risks and contribute to excellence and innovation.

Try this: Examine how food systems connect climate, labour rights, and health – then develop campus food justice initiatives or debate corporate sustainability claims.

4. Cross Disciplinary Borders

Foster interdisciplinary learning that develops students' confidence, agency, and agility whilst building diverse, inclusive communities across disciplines.

Try this: Pair engineering and social work students to design inclusive technologies, or bring together law and business students for social enterprise projects.

5. Centre Diverse Voices

Include diverse perspectives and knowledge systems that challenge assumptions and broaden understanding whilst recognising and developing the whole student experience and harnessing the diverse talents of our student and staff communities.

Try this: Feature diverse global authors, explore environmental justice with community members, or invite local activists as guest speakers.

6. Balance Hope with Action

Create authentic assessments that address real challenges whilst empowering students to engage in and be recognised for their leadership and contribution at Warwick and beyond.

Try this: Students develop policy briefs for councils, create community toolkits, organise campus campaigns, or design infographics for local organisations.

Want more practical ideas? Try our ESD Custom GPT for personalised advice on embedding ESD in your specific subject area: [SustainGPT: Embedding ESD at Warwick](#)

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