

## 2025 AHSS International Summer School

**Programme Topic:** Sustaining Our Shared Existence

**Academic Leads:**  
Dr Amanda Slevin &  
Prof. John Barry

**Dates:**  
23 June – 3 July 2025

### Topic Summary

This two-week module will take you on an inter-disciplinary journey to better understand multiple aspects of sustaining life on Earth. You will have the opportunity to engage with leading academics to discuss topics spanning the smallest atom to the largest universe and how these impact on human communities, societies, culture and our future. Experts with specialised knowledge of sustainability from multiple perspectives including climate science; impacts, adaptation and vulnerability; multi-level climate action; community work, climate politics and policies; technological and nature-based mitigation; and the connections between people and planet will guide you on your journey.

### Intended Learning Outcomes

- Gain an enhanced understanding of the working of the universe and our solar system.
- Discuss how our atomic level understanding of materials has, and will continue to, impact human development.
- Develop critical insights into society-environment interactions and consequences like the Triple Planetary Crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- Explore key aspects of climate change, how we will adapt and its mitigation.
- Gain an increased knowledge of the key characteristics of culture and society and how it adapts to change.
- Explore specific technologies which are being developed to provide society with clean energy and understand their interaction with nature.
- Evaluate multi-level approaches to climate action and sustainability, including community-based innovations, climate policies and politics
- Consider positive pathways for socio-ecological transformation using creative methods.



<b>Monday 23 June 2025</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session/Activity</b>	<b>Academic Lead</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>9.30am - 11.00am</b>	<b>Introduction to the Triple Planetary Crises: Tackling wicked problems through interdisciplinarity</b>	<b>AHSS &amp; EPS Joint Session</b>	
<b>11.00am – 11.30am</b>	<b>Break</b>		
<b>11.30am – 1.00pm</b>	<b>Our place in the Universe: Planetary systems &amp; how they support life</b>	<b>Maths &amp; Physics</b>	
<b>1.00pm – 2.00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
<b>2.00pm – 3.30pm</b>	<b>Planetary Boundaries &amp; finite resources – How physics impacts what we have and what is possible</b>	<b>Maths &amp; Physics</b>	



<b>Tuesday 24 June 2025</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session/Activity</b>	<b>Academic Lead</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>9.30am - 11.00am</b>	<b>Introduction to climate science</b>	<b>Natural &amp; Built Environment</b>	
<b>11.00am – 11.30am</b>	<b>Break</b>		
<b>11.30am – 1.00pm</b>	<b>Climate risk and mitigation</b>	<b>Natural &amp; Built Environment</b>	
<b>1.00pm – 2.00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
<b>2.00pm – 3.30pm</b>	<b>Climate adaptation &amp; resilience</b>	<b>Natural &amp; Built Environment</b>	



<b>Wednesday 25 June 2025</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session/Activity</b>	<b>Academic Lead</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>9.30am - 11.00am</b>	<b>Public and Planetary health</b>	<b>MHLS</b>	
<b>11.00am – 11.30am</b>	<b>Break</b>		
<b>11.30am – 1.00pm</b>	<b>Development and urbanisation: Challenges and opportunities</b>	<b>Natural &amp; Built Environment</b>	
<b>1.00pm – 2.00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
<b>2.00pm – 3.30pm</b>	<b>Designing sustainable cities and communities</b>	<b>Natural &amp; Built Environment</b>	



<b>Thursday 26 June 2025</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session/Activity</b>	<b>Academic Lead</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>9.30am - 11.00am</b>	<b>Designing sustainable cities and communities</b>	<b>Natural &amp; Built Environment</b>	
<b>11.00am – 11.30am</b>	<b>Break</b>		
<b>11.30am – 1.00pm</b>	<b>Sustainability: Concepts and practices</b>	<b>Schools of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics (HAPP), &amp; Biological Sciences (SBS)</b>	
<b>1.00pm – 2.00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
<b>2.00pm – 3.30pm</b>	<b>Conflict transformation and just transitions</b>	<b>HAPP &amp; SBS</b>	



Friday 27 June 2025			
Time	Session/Activity	Academic Lead	Location
9.00am – 5.00pm	<b>Field trip to North Coast</b> Students will join their peers from other programmes on a trip to the North Coast, including a visit the ruins of the medieval Dunluce Castle and the famous Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site.		



<b>Monday 30 June 2025</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session/Activity</b>	<b>Academic Lead</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>9.30am - 11.00am</b>	<b>Gender, class, race and unsustainability</b>	<b>HAPP</b>	
<b>11.00am – 11.30am</b>	<b>Break</b>		
<b>11.30am – 1.00pm</b>	<b>Decolonisation and decarbonisation</b>	<b>HAPP</b>	
<b>1.00pm – 2.00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
<b>2.00pm – 3.30pm</b>	<b>Post carbon energy futures</b>	<b>HAPP</b>	



<b>Tuesday 1 July 2025</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session/Activity</b>	<b>Academic Lead</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>9.30am - 11.00am</b>	<b>Introduction to Renewable Energies</b>	<b>Professor David Rooney</b>	
<b>11.00am – 11.30am</b>	<b>Break</b>		
<b>11.30am – 1.00pm</b>	<b>Technologies for decarbonisation</b>	<b>Professor David Rooney</b>	
<b>1.00pm – 2.00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
<b>2.00pm – 3.30pm</b>	<b>Sustainable transport</b>	<b>Natural &amp; Built Environment</b>	





<b>Wednesday 2 July 2025</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session/Activity</b>	<b>Academic Lead</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>9.30am - 11.00am</b>	<b>Global climate decision-making: Preparing for World Climate Policy Simulation</b>	<b>HAPP, SBS &amp; School of Law</b>	
<b>11.00am – 11.30am</b>	<b>Break</b>		
<b>11.30am – 1.00pm</b>	<b>World Climate Policy Simulation</b>	<b>HAPP, SBS &amp; Law</b>	
<b>1.00pm – 2.00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
<b>2.00pm – 3.30pm</b>	<b>Polices for tackling actually existing unsustainability</b>	<b>HAPP &amp; SBS</b>	



<b>Thursday 3 July 2025</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session/Activity</b>	<b>Academic Lead</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>9.30am - 11.00am</b>	<b>Climate Activism and theories of change</b>	<b>HAPP</b>	
<b>11.00am – 11.30am</b>	<b>Break</b>		
<b>11.30am – 1.00pm</b>	<b>Radical Hope and Sustainable Futures</b>	<b>HAPP</b>	
<b>1.00pm – 2.00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
<b>2.00pm – 3.30pm</b>	<b>Envisioning our sustainable future: Arts-based methods for sustainability</b>	<b>HAPP &amp; SBS</b>	