
**MN4266 – NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOs):
CONTEXTS, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND CHALLENGES**

MODULE TYPE/SEMESTER: Senior Honours/**Option** (20 Credits)/Semester 1

PRE-REQUISITE(S): Successful completion of second year modules

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AIM: The aims of the module are:

1. To provide an introduction to Third Sector organisations;
2. To examine key issues in the management of these organisations;
3. To develop critical awareness of Third Sector organisations;
4. To develop strong competencies in independent learning on the part of students.

BACKGROUND

NGOs and other Third Sector organisations are highly significant actors within society, the democratic polity, and the economy. They are diverse, spanning everything from think-tanks to globe-straddling international NGOs to community-based voluntary organisations that are at the heart of their communities. They are also distinctive organisations, defined as being neither public sector organisations nor commercial enterprises.

The module will examine the nature and significance of these organisations in development, domestic and humanitarian contexts. It will review the key contributions they make in these contexts, as well as the opportunities and challenges with which they are engaging. A central component to the research will be a practical engagement with NGOs as cases, and the management difficulties they encounter in project management systems, communications, fundraising and governance.

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING: The teaching format encompasses a mix of lectures, student-led round-table discussions, class plenaries, case studies, workshops and clarification sessions. Students are expected to supplement these with private study periods. There may be opportunities to hear from guest speakers, including senior managers of national and international charities. A two hour lecture will take place weekly supplemented by three one hour workshops.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of the module students are expected to have achieved the following outcomes:

Relevant knowledge and understanding:

- awareness of the scale, scope, and significance of NGOs;
- appreciation of the contributions NGOs can make; and
- practical familiarity the strategic management challenges confronting NGO managers

Skills and Personal Qualities:

It is anticipated that the module will facilitate the development of the transferable skills and personal qualities identified below. Clearly, the extent to which it does this is heavily dependent upon the effort and commitment of individual students.

- self-motivation;
- personal organisation;
- groupwork skills and
- independent learning

INDICATIVE TOPIC OUTLINE: Themes with which the module may engage are expected to include:

- An **overview** of the sector, its significance and diversity and its contested relationship with leading management theories
- Key **contributions** that NGOs make, from delivering essential services to driving policy and political change
- Key **strategic challenges** they face in balancing conflicting stakeholders and maintaining the commitment to their mission
- Key **practical challenges** in crucial management areas such as communications, fundraising and project management

NB. Topics may change as significant new issues arise.

Weekly contact

1 x 2 hour lecture (x 11 weeks), 3 x 1 hour workshops/clarification sessions, and 2 optional consultative hours (x 11 weeks).

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment will be in two parts:

1. Written assignment – groupwork management review of real NGO (50% of module mark).
2. Written assignment – essay (50% of module mark).

There is no exam for this module.

Students should refer to the module Teaching Timetable for the submission dates and times. Please note that if the assessments are not submitted by 12pm on the due date the submission will be considered late and points will be deducted as set out in the Honours Handbook.

Students should also note that assessments are subject to plagiarism checks.

READING LIST: A detailed list of weekly reading and resources for this module will be available via the University of St Andrews' online Resource List. This is accessible via <http://resourcelists.st-andrews.ac.uk/index.html>

The Harvard style of referencing must be adhered to in all formal written work associated with this module.

**Organisation of courses may be subject to change without notice.*