Eco-guides have an important role augmenting tourists’ understanding and enjoyment of their travel experience. In an ecotourism environment there are considerations beyond standard guiding activity that are part of tourists’ expectations. Guides not only need general knowledge, but also an understanding of sustainability, cultural and environmental awareness. They also need a range of skills to be able to effectively transfer this knowledge to visitors.

This subject aims to develop students who, based on the principles of ecotourism, can lead in the development of effective guides. It will provide insight into how guides create value within ecotourism products. Using the TORE model students will develop a solid understanding of the skills and characteristics of an effective guide. This subject also requires application of this knowledge, as students will design a guide experience as part of deeper learning about requirements of successful interpretation.

Students will be required to critically analyse professional guide commentaries. Using experiential learning techniques they will also design their own guide presentation, and refine this through reflective practice and group analysis.

Distinguish priority skills and requirements for face-to-face interpretation when compared to media based interpretation, using TORE and other models.

Evaluate and critique face-to-face interpretative presentations in order to recommend ways to improve design and delivery.

Appraise the way that a given tourism experience integrates face-to-face interpretation and media-based interpretation, and consider how these two forms can together create a more memorable and informative experience.

Apply theory and skills to deliver a thematic interpretive face-to-face ecotourism experience