



Programme Specification

Geography [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs]

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Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Geography [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs]

Highest award: BSc (Hons) Geography

Interim award: BSc Geography

Interim award: DipHE Geography

Interim award: CertHE Geography

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Affiliated institutions: Not applicable

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: No

Year abroad: Yes

Sandwich year: Yes

Credit recognition: No

Department responsible for the programme: FET Dept of Geography & Environmental Mgmt, Faculty of Environment & Technology

Contributing departments: Not applicable

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies:

Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)

Royal Geographical Society

Apprenticeship: Not applicable

Mode of delivery: Sandwich

Entry requirements: For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website

For implementation from: 01 September 2022

Programme code: FF8923-SEP-SW-FR-FF89

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: This programme examines the physical environment and its management by society. It studies the structures present within the natural world and the processes responsible for shaping them. Based on this understanding of environmental structures and processes, this programme identifies human impacts upon the environment and ways in which these can be managed sustainably. Students face contemporary environmental issues from local to global scales, focusing on the strategies and agencies involved in appropriate environmental management.

Educational Aims: The programme has the following aims:

To develop knowledge and understanding of the structures and processes associated with the natural environment and how human actions impact upon these.

To encourage a critical understanding of theories and philosophies that are used to explain how the natural environment functions.

To foster geographical thinking with its appreciation of spatial enquiry, areal differentiation, scale and system dynamics.

To produce graduates that can make informed judgments on the most appropriate means of managing the natural environment.

To produce graduates who have the analytical and communication skills necessary to be successful in a range of graduate employment positions.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Knowledge and Understanding

- A1. Natural processes responsible for shaping different aspects of the physical environment
- A2. Challenges for how human society interacts with the natural environment
- A3. Issues and challenges encountered by a globalised society
- A4. How the natural environment, and the way it is managed by human society, varies over a range of temporal and spatial scales
- A5. Appropriate strategies and techniques for managing different aspects of the natural environment
- A6. Processes involved in performing research in physical geography
- A7. The skills and actions necessary to acquire graduate-level employment
- A8. Theoretical concepts behind the functioning of geographical information systems

Intellectual Skills

- B1. Organize and carry out data collection and analysis to solve problems related to geography
- B2. Construct arguments (using evidence from the academic geography community) capable of withstanding rigorous intellectual challenge
- B3. Analyse arguments logically, identifying any flaws in reasoning and contrasting their merits
- B4. Make informed decisions concerning appropriate environmental management techniques and strategies
- B5. Carry out rigorous and original research to produce reliable answers to scientific research questions
- B6. To think and learn creatively, prosecuting original ideas and identifying preferred learning styles

Subject/Professional Practice Skills

- C1. Collect data in a range of laboratory and fieldwork environments, using a range of equipment
- C2. Employ a range of techniques for analysing and interpreting data
- C3. Design and execute an original and rigorous research project
- C4. Make judgments on the suitability of different strategies and techniques for managing natural environments
- C5. Operate geographical information systems in an informed and critical manner
- C6. Write coherent and well supported academic essays
- C7. Write rigorous scientific research reports
- C8. Write appropriate environmental management reports
- C9. Effectively deliver presentations with a combination of verbal and visual media
- C10. Work in a range of natural environments with due regard for health and safety, risk assessment and ethics
- C11. Submit competitive applications for graduate employment positions

Transferable Skills and other attributes

- D1. Complete a range of, sometimes complex, tasks independently by thinking logically, demonstrating resilience and solving problems where necessary
- D2. Work effectively within groups, with an ability to respect and understand other people's perspectives
- D3. Effectively communicate knowledge through a variety of media including reports, essays and oral presentations
- D4. Extract, process and present qualitative and quantitative information for a given purpose
- D5. Demonstrate proficiency in transferable professional skills such as literacy, numeracy, graphicacy, computer literacy and cartography
- D6. Manage own time and workload

- D7. Take responsibility for own learning
- D8. Reflect on own performance and respond positively to feedback
- D9. Work flexibly across a wide range of topics
- D10. Develop a strong sense of self and the life-long learning skills to make an ongoing contribution to society

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGMA1-15-1	An Introduction to Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing 2022-23	15
UBGLYD-30-1	Dynamic Earth 2022-23	30
UBGLXD-30-1	Environmental Challenges 2022-23	30
UBGMVN-15-1	Field Study in Physical Geography 2022-23	15
UBGLXU-30-1	Geographies of Globalisation 2022-23	30

Year 2

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 45 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGMJ6-15-2	Professional Development 2023-24	15
UBGLYG-30-2	Researching Physical Geography 2023-24	30

Year 2 Optional Modules

The student must take 75 credits from the modules in Optional Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGMRR-15-2	Climate Change: Challenges for the 21st Century 2023-24	15
UBGMH3-15-2	Ecology 2023-24	15
UBGMWN-15-2	Meteorology 2023-24	15
UBGMWD-15-2	Sustainable Resource Management 2023-24	15
UBGMRA-15-2	Tectonic Processes and Landforms 2023-24	15
UBGMLE-15-2	Understanding Coastal Dynamics 2023-24	15
UBGMLV-15-2	Understanding River Dynamics 2023-24	15

Year 3

Students on the sandwich delivery can undertake a work placement year or a study abroad year. Students undertaking the work placement year take UBGLVX-15-3 Placement. Students undertaking the study abroad year take UBGLWC-15-3 Study Abroad

In accordance with University academic regulations, to undertake the work placement or study abroad year students must obtain a minimum of 200 credits, at least 90 of which are at Level 2 or above. To undertake a work placement year, the student must be in approved employment for a minimum of 1000 work hours. To undertake a study abroad year, the student must be in approved study at an international institution and be enrolled for a minimum of 30 ECTS. Both the work placement and study abroad years must be authorised in advance by the programme leader.

Students who take UBGLVX-15-3 or UBGLWC-15-3 must take UBGMD-15-3 (Independent Project) instead of the longer UBGMQD-30-3 Final Year Project.

Year 3 Compulsory Sandwich Year or Study Year Abroad Modules

The student must take 15 credits from the modules in Compulsory Sandwich Year or Study Year Abroad Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGLVX-15-3	Placement 2024-25	15
UBGLWC-15-3	Study Abroad 2024-25	15

Year 4

The student must take 105 credits from the modules in Year 4.

Year 4 Compulsory Project Modules

Students undertaking a placement must take UBGMVD-15-3 Independent project.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGMVD-15-3	Independent Project (DGEM) 2025-26	15

Year 4 Optional Modules

The student must take 90 credits from the modules in Optional Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGMJC-30-3	Advanced Geographical Expedition 2025-26	30
UBGMJT-30-3	Biogeography and Conservation 2025-26	30
UBGMSU-30-3	GIS and Remote Sensing Applications 2025-26	30
UBGMQR-30-3	Hazard and Disaster Management 2025-26	30
UBGMXD-30-3	Managing Rivers and Coasts 2025-26	30
UBGMME-30-3	Water and Energy Futures 2025-26	30

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

This programme examines the physical environment and its management by society. It studies the structures present within the natural world and the processes responsible for shaping them. Based on this understanding of environmental structures and processes, this programme identifies human impacts upon the environment and ways in which these can be managed sustainably. Graduates from this programme can make informed judgments on the most appropriate means of managing the natural environment and have the analytical and communication skills necessary to be successful in a range of graduate employment positions.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

The structure and content of this award have been informed throughout by a number of key reference points:

QAA Benchmark statement for Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies (2007)

This document provided guidance for articulating the nature of the programme and specifying learning outcomes. It was used to establish the academic standards of the award learning outcomes with specific reference to knowledge and understanding, discipline specific skills, intellectual skills and key skills. In addition, the teaching/learning assessment strategies adopted on the award are consistent with those defined within the benchmarking statement.

QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) (2008)

QAA Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Education: Students with Disabilities (1999)

University Teaching and Learning Policies: University of the West of England Learning and Teaching Strategy (2007-2010)

Disability Discrimination Act (1999)

Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (SENDA - 2001)

Institution of Environmental Sciences: accreditation guidelines

Geography in the National Curriculum

Environmental issues have been embraced by the National Curriculum as geography teaching has evolved from pure thematic content towards application. Understanding key problems in the natural environment today and making informed judgements about its use and stewardship have become increasingly sophisticated as the curriculum progresses. This award provides the opportunity for students to develop further their understanding of the physical environment and to heighten their sensitivity to environmental issues.

Staff research interests and expertise

Programme content is founded upon the strengths of active staff research. This has allowed emphasis to be placed upon contemporary issues in physical geography. These include natural hazards and their management, modeling and managing environmental change, and assessing environmental criticality and marginality through cultural-physical geography.

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.