PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**MSc Geography** **PG Dip Geography** **PG Cert Geography** (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Dip Geography PG Cert Geography
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Social Sciences
Location of delivery	Central London, online, flexible
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) October
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	MSc: TMSGEOIP_C - on-campus study TMSGEOON_C - online study TMSGEOMX_C - flexible study PG Dip: TPDGEOIP_C - on-campus study TPDGEOON_C - online study TPDGEOMX_C - flexible study PG Cert: TPCGEOIP_C - on-campus study TPCGEOON_C - online study TPCGEOMX_C - flexible study
HECoS Code	100409 geography
Start date of programme	Autumn 2016
Date of programme approval	Summer 2016
Date of last programme amendment approval	June 2025
Valid for academic entry year	**2025-26**
Programme Director	TBC
Date of last revision to document	30/06/2025

Admissions requirements

Usually a second-class honours degree (2:2 or above), or equivalent professional experience.

Applications are reviewed on their individual merits and your professional qualifications and/or relevant work experience will be taken into consideration positively. We actively support and encourage applications from mature learners. On your application form, please list all your relevant qualifications and experience, including those you expect to achieve.

Course aims

The Department of Geography offers a range of Masters level programmes but some students would like greater flexibility in their choice of modules and to choose modules from across existing MSc programmes. The MSc Geography offers this flexibility drawing on existing expertise and teaching within the department. It is a flexible, yet coherent, programme which would enable anyone wanting to study geography at postgraduate level at Birkbeck to build a course which would suit them.

- To provide students with a flexible postgraduate programme in Geography which can be tailored to their individual interests and aptitudes
- To provide students with detailed and sophisticated knowledge about a range of social and environmental processes relevant to the contemporary world
- To provide students with up to date knowledge about the academic discipline of geography and how knowledge is created within the discipline.
- To equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to carry out robust independent research at postgraduate level
- To provide a range of learning experiences and teaching approaches that enable students to gain confidence, work independently and gain work-relevant skills.
- To provide access to postgraduate geography study to students with a wide range of backgrounds and professional experiences
- To develop self-reliance and self-confidence through working independently and with others.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
MSc Geography, Full-time – 1 year					
7	SSGEO83Z7	Research Methods Training	0	Compulsory	T1-3
7		30-credit option modules from across the full range of modules offered by the Geography subject group. (see below)	120 (4 x 30)	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7	SSCEO61D7	Dissertation Environmental MSc	60	Core	T2-3
MSc Geography, Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
7		Two 30-credit option modules from across the full range of modules offered by the Geography subject group. (see list below)	60 (2 x 30)	Option	T1, 2 or 3

Year 2					
7		Two 30-credit option modules from across the full range of modules offered by the Geography subject group. (see list below)	60 (2 x 30)	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7	SSGEO83Z7	Research Methods Training	0	Compulsory	T1-3
7	SSCEO61D7	Dissertation Environmental MSc	60	Core	T2-3
PG Dip Geography, Full-time – 1 year					
7		30-credit option modules from across the full range of modules offered by the by the Geography subject group. (see below)	120 (4x30)	Option	T1, 2 or 3
PG Dip Geography, Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
7		Two 30-credit option modules from across the full range of modules offered by the Geography subject group. (see below)	60 (2 x 30)	Option	T1, 2 or 3
Year 2					
7		Two 30-credit option modules from across the full range of modules offered by the Geography subject group. (see below)	60 (2 x 30)	Option	T1, 2 or 3
PGCert Geography. Part- time – 1 or 2 years					
7		Two 30-credit option modules from across the full range of modules offered by by the Geography subject group. (see below)	60 (2x30)	Option	
Indicative Geography Options					
7	SSGE010S7	Climate Change: Science & Mitigation *	30	Option	T1
7	SSGE125S7	International Development & Social Justice *	30	Option	T1
7	SSGE115S7	Geospatial Programming & Spatial Machine Learning	30	Option	T1
7	SSGE025S7	Environmental Science For Environmental Management *	30	Option	T1
7	SSGE126S7	Urban Sustainability *	30	Option	T1
7	FDDV002S7	Gender & Development *	30	Option	T2
7	SSGE011S7	Environment & Policy *	30	Option	T2
7	SSGE116S7	Environmental Observation By Remote Sensing	30	Option	T2
7	SSGE117S7	GeoAI For Social And Urban Applications	30	Option	T2
7	FDDV016S7	Race, Environment & International Development *	30	Option	T2

7	SSGE111S7	Living With Climate Change *	30	Option	T2
7	SSGE110S7	Sustainable Business Practice *	30	Option	T3
7	SSGE128S7	Rebels, Riots & Revolutions In International Development *	30	Option	T3
7	SSGE112S7	Energy & Climate Change *	30	Option	T3
7	SSGE127S7	Critical Infrastructures For Sustainability	30	Option	T3
7	SSGE103S7	Global Nature Conservation Level 7 *	30	Option	T2
7	SSGE113S7	Introduction to Geographic Data Science	30	Option	T1
7	SSGE114S7	Spatial Data Analytics	30	Option	T2
7	SSGE086S7	Research Applications in Social Sciences Field Trip	30	Option	T2

All core and compulsory modules are delivered via hyflex allowing in-person and online attendance. Options marked with * are planned to be delivered via hyflex for 2025/6.

The following options are expected to run **in-person** only and so cannot be taken by student on the fully online routes:

- SSGE113S7 Introduction to Geographic Data Science
- SSGE114S7 Spatial Data Analytics
- SSGE115S7 Geospatial Programming and Spatial Machine Learning
- SSGE116S7 Environmental Observation by Remote Sensing
- SSGE117S7 GeoAI for Social and Urban Applications
- SSGE127S7 Critical Infrastructures for Sustainability - London Thames Fieldtrip

Core: Module must be taken and passed by student
Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)
Option: Student can choose to take this module

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Teaching on this course is a combination of lectures (including pre-recorded) and seminars. Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare.

The programme is part of the Birkbeck Flexible Masters with modules being taught using hyflex technology allowing synchronous online and in-person delivery, and so students can select to study online, in person or flexibly.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

The specific assessments for each module will be stated at the beginning of term and can include short written exercises, essays which will develop in length and expected complexity as you progress through your studies, case studies, problems to solve.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate up to date knowledge of current issues in the discipline of geography
- Appraise key concepts in geographical research
- Apply in depth knowledge to the process of research design and the selection of research methods.
- Apply skills to carry out a piece of independent research in the field of geography, including the design of appropriate research instruments (e.g. questionnaires, interview schedules or identification of field sites).
- Synthesize and critique relevant academic journal articles and discuss them in person and in writing.
- Participate in class discussions in a collegial and constructive manner
- Plan work effectively and in accordance with deadlines
- Communicate appropriately and effectively with a range of audiences.

Careers and further study

Graduates of this programme have developed successful careers in a wide range of professional sectors. This includes managers, researchers, practitioners, policymakers, educators, business, HR and finance; legal, local and national government; nature conservation; social and health sectors; marketing, engineering and construction, education professionals, clerical and secretarial, information technology and others.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment

called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support service](#)s. This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).