

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	BSc Environmental Science (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Dip HE Environmental Science Cert HE Environmental Science (exit following BSc Year 1) Cert HE Science (exit following Foundation Year) Cert CE
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year?	Yes
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home Department/other teaching departments	School of Natural Sciences (Home) School of Social Sciences School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years) Part-time (4 years) Full-time with Foundation Year (4 years) October start
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
<u>QAA subject benchmark group(s)</u> <u>Higher Education Credit Framework for</u> <u>England</u>	Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies
UCAS code	F609; F610 (with Foundation Year)
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBSENSC_C (full-time, 3 years) UBSENVSC_C (part-time, 4 years) UBFENVSC_C (full-time with FY, 4 years)
HECoS Code	100381
Start date of programme	Autumn 2026
Date of programme approval	Summer 2025
Date of last programme amendment approval	N/A
Valid for academic entry year	2026-27
Programme Director	Dr Steven Dodsworth
Date of last revision to document	03/03/25

Admissions requirements

For the 3-year full time programme the standard entry requirement is:

UCAS tariff: 104 (BCC)

Applicants to the BSc with Foundation Year are normally expected to have gained 48 UCAS tariff points. Completion of the integrated Foundation Year provides a progression route into Year 1 of the full-time BSc.

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides a [tariff calculator](#) for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Course aims

The BSc Environmental Science course at Birkbeck enables students to understand the complexity of the natural world, and the impact humans have on it. The programme is wide ranging, and all students undertake field classes to study and understand the natural environment, develop essential wet lab and quantitative skills, and cover core areas such as plant science and ecology, geology and the Earth through time, geomorphology and climate change. The inclusion of optional modules across all three years, and a final year project, allows students to specialise and benefit from working with staff who are experts in the area. The programme provides an excellent training for employment across a wide range of industries linked to tackling environmental issues. This programme will contain a blend of bioscience, geoscience and environmental science, with an emphasis on practical skills and applications across these subject areas. The structure of the programme allows for a high degree of flexibility in study timescales and learning methods, and so can be worked among other commitments if needed.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp/ Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time with Foundation Year					
Foundation Year (0)					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Comp	T1
4	FFSC012H4	Chemistry 1	15	Comp	T1
4	FFSC011H4	Biology 1	15	Comp	T1
3	SC10001S3	Foundation Year Mathematics	30	Comp	T2
4	FFSC021H4	Biology 2	15	Comp	T2
4	FFSC031H4	Biology 3	15	Comp	T3

Year 1					
4	SCBS068H4	Quantitative Skills and Experimental Design	15	Comp	T1
4	SCBS065H4	Practical Skills for the Biosciences	15	Comp	T1
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Comp	T2
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Comp	T3
plus 30 credits from:					
4	SCBS064H4	Introduction to Molecular Cell Biology	15	Option	T1
4	EASC042H4	Life and the Fossil Record	15	Option	T1
4	SCBS066H4	General Chemistry	15	Option	T2
4	SSGE027S4	Mapping Our World	30	Option	T2
4	SCES060S4	Earth as a Planet	30	Option	T1
Year 2					
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp	T1
5	SCBS072H5	Research Methods in the Biosciences	15	Comp	T2
5	SC11006H5	Plant Diversity and Adaptation	15	Comp	T3
5	SC11004S5	Ecology and Geomorphology Methods	30	Comp	T3
plus 30 credits from:					
5	SSGE084S5	Managing Environments	30	Option	T2
5	SCBS073H5	Evolution and Genetics	15	Option	T1
5	CASC001H5	Your Career Development	15	Option	T2
5	CASC002H5	Micro-placement	15	Option	T3
Year 3					
6	SCES070S6	BSc Research Project	30	Comp	T1-3
6	SSGE125S6	Climate and Society: Past, Present and Future	30	Comp	T2 (TBC)
Plus 60 credits from:					
6	SC05002S6	Geology and Geomorphology for the Low-Carbon Transition	30	Option	T1 (TBC)
6	SC11007S6	Field Botany for Ecological Surveys	30	Option	T3 (TBC)
6	GGPH036S6	Understanding Environment Using GIS and Remote Sensing	30	Option	T1

6	EASC048H6	Earth's Resources and Raw Materials	15	Option	T2 (TBC)
6	SCES050H6	The Vertebrate Fossil Record	15	Option	T2
6	SSGE095S6	Global Nature Conservation Level 6	30	Option	T2
6	EASC044H6	Geological Hazards	15	Option	T2
6	SCES075S6	Advanced Field Geology	30	Option	T3
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	SCBS068H4	Quantitative Skills and Experimental Design	15	Comp	T1
4	SCBS065H4	Practical Skills for the Biosciences	15	Comp	T1
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Comp	T2
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Comp	T3
plus 30 credits from:					
4	SCBS064H4	Introduction to Molecular Cell Biology	15	Option	T1
4	EASC042H4	Life and the Fossil Record	15	Option	T1
4	SCBS066H4	General Chemistry	15	Option	T2
4	SSGE027S4	Mapping Our World	30	Option	T2
4	SCES060S4	Earth as a Planet	30	Option	T1
Year 2					
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp	T1
5	SCBS072H5	Research Methods in the Biosciences	15	Comp	T2
5	SC11006H5	Plant Diversity and Adaptation	15	Comp	T3
5	SC11004S5	Ecology and Geomorphology Methods	30	Comp	T3
plus 30 credits from:					
5	SSGE084S5	Managing Environments	30	Option	T2
5	SCBS073H5	Evolution and Genetics	15	Option	T1
5	CASC001H5	Your Career Development	15	Option	T2
5	CASC002H5	Micro-placement	15	Option	T3
Year 3					
6	SCES070S6	BSc Research Project	30	Comp	T1-T3
6	SSGE125S6	Climate and Society: Past, Present and Future	30	Comp	T2 (TBC)

Plus 60 credits from:					
6	SC05002S6	Geology and Geomorphology for the Low-Carbon Transition	30	Option	T1 (TBC)
6	GGPH036S6	Understanding Environment Using GIS and Remote Sensing	30	Option	T1
6	SC11007S6	Field Botany for Ecological Surveys	30	Option	T3 (TBC)
6	EASC048H6	Earth's Resources and Raw Materials	15	Option	T2
6	SCES050H6	The Vertebrate Fossil Record	15	Option	T2
	SSGE095S6	Global Nature Conservation Level 6	30	Option	T2
6	EASC044H6	Geological Hazards	15	Option	T2
6	SCES075S6	Advanced Field Geology	30	Option	T3
Part-time – 4 years					
Year 1					
4	SCBS068H4	Quantitative Skills and Experimental Design	15	Comp	T1
4	SCBS065H4	Practical Skills for the Biosciences	15	Comp	T1
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Comp	T2
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Comp	T3
Year 2					
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp	T1
4	EASC042H4	Life and the Fossil Record	15	Option	T1
4	SCBS066H4	General Chemistry	15	Option	T2
5	SC11004S5	Ecology and Geomorphology Methods	30	Comp	T3
or					
4	SCBS064H4	Introduction to Molecular Cell Biology	15	Option	T1
4	EASC042H4	Life and the Fossil Record	15	Option	T1
5	SCBS072H5	Research Methods in the Biosciences	15	Comp	T2
5	SC11006H5	Plant Diversity and Adaptation	15	Comp	T3
5	SC11004S5	Ecology and Geomorphology Methods	30	Comp	T3
or					

4	SCBS064H4	Introduction to Molecular Cell Biology	15	Option	T1
4	SCBS066H4	General Chemistry	15	Option	T2
5	SCBS072H5	Research Methods in the Biosciences	15	Comp	T2
5	SC11006H5	Plant Diversity and Adaptation	15	Comp	T3
5	SC11004S5	Ecology and Geomorphology Methods	30	Comp	T3
or					
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp	T1
4	SSGE027S4	Mapping Our World	30	Option	T2
5	SC11004S5	Ecology and Geomorphology Methods	30	Comp	T3
or					
4	SCES060S4	Earth as a Planet	30	Option	T1
5	SC11004S5	Ecology and Geomorphology Methods	30	Comp	T3
plus 30 credits chosen from:					
5	SCBS073H5	Evolution and Genetics	15	Option	T1
5	SSGE084S5	Managing Environments	30	Option	T2
5	CASC001H5	Your Career Development	15	Option	T2
5	CASC002H5	Micro-placement	15	Option	T3
Year 3					
5	SCBS072H5	Research Methods in the Biosciences	15	Comp	T2
5	SC11006H5	Plant Diversity and Adaptation	15	Comp	T3
6	SSGE125S6	Climate and Society: Past, Present and Future	30	Comp	T2
plus 30 credits from:					
5	SCBS073H5	Evolution and Genetics	15	Option	T1
5	SSGE084S5	Managing Environments	30	Option	T2
5	CASC001H5	Your Career Development	15	Option	T2
5	CASC002H5	Micro-placement	15	Option	T3
or					
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp	T1
6	SSGE125S6	Climate and Society: Past, Present and Future	30	Comp	T2 (TBC)

plus 30 credits from:					
5	SCBS073H5	Evolution and Genetics	15	Option	T1
5	SSGE084S5	Managing Environments	30	Option	T2
5	CASC001H5	Your Career Development	15	Option	T2
or					
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp	T1
5	SCBS072H5	Research Methods in the Biosciences	15	Comp	T2
5	SC11006H5	Plant Diversity and Adaptation	15	Comp	T3
6	SSGE125S6	Climate and Society: Past, Present and Future	30	Comp	T2 (TBC)
Year 4					
6	SCES070S6	BSc Research Project	30	Comp	T1-3
plus 60 credits from:					
6	SC05002S6	Geology and Geomorphology for the Low-Carbon Transition	30	Option	T1 (TBC)
6	GGPH036S6	Understanding Environment Using GIS and Remote Sensing	30	Option	T1
6	SC11007S6	Field Botany for Ecological Surveys	30	Option	TBC
6	EASC048H6	Earth's Resources and Raw Materials	15	Option	TBC
6	SCES050H6	The Vertebrate Fossil Record	15	Option	T2
6	SSGE095S6	Global Nature Conservation Level 6	30	Option	T2
6	EASC044H6	Geological Hazards	15	Option	T2
6	SCES075S6	Advanced Field Geology	30	Option	T3

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.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

You will learn through a combination of lectures, laboratory and computer based practical classes, problem-solving, fieldwork and group work.

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.

Short written exercises, numerical problems, essays which will develop in length and expected complexity as you progress through your studies, quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires, practical assessments (of your work in a lab and the field), case studies, problems to solve.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

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

- 1) Demonstrate a sound understanding of the complexity of the natural environment, including both physical and biological aspects.
- 2) Demonstrate an understanding of scientific concepts and methods relevant to environmental science, and use these to tackle the challenges facing the environment.
- 3) Analyse and evaluate the relationships between human activity and environmental and biological processes in the past, present and future.
- 4) Use a wide range of computational and practical skills in the field and in the laboratory relevant to industry and research in environmental science.
- 5) Develop and apply analytical skills and critical thinking to environmental issues and make a contribution to the field.
- 6) Exhibit a broad range of transferable skills including: communication of complex concepts and ideas, organisation and management, and research skills.

Careers and further study

You will find Environmental Science graduates are employed across a very wide range of job types, in both the public (e.g. civil service and local government) and private sector, conservation organisations and charities, as well as in the education sector.

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.

Additional programme costs:

In addition to fees, you should expect to pay for some study-related expenses for travel to and from College, books, stationary etc.. Birkbeck provides advice and financial support for students who experience hardship in meeting the travel costs of essential field class and study visits.

There are additional costs for field class modules. Depending on logistics and timing, you are likely to visit three of the following four places, although these may change:

Pembrokeshire, Wales, N.W. Scotland, central Greece and eastern Morocco.

The total cost for each field class is likely to be between £700 and £1000, including travel, essential expenses and accommodation. In addition, you will need some items of essential fieldwork equipment and suitable clothing.

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 services. 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](#).

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