PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**MSc Climate Futures and Solutions** **PG Dip Climate Futures and Solutions** **PG Cert Climate Futures and Solutions** (Level 7)
Name and title of any interim exit qualification(s)	PG Dip Climate Futures and Solutions (exit award for MSc Climate Futures and Solutions) PG Cert Climate Futures and Solutions (exit award for MSc Climate Futures and Solutions)
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school	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	MSc/PG Dip: Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) PG Cert: Part-time (1 year) October
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark statements Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	MSc: TMSCFSIP_C - on-campus study TPDCFSON_C - online study TMSCFSMX_C - flexible study PgDip: TPDCFSIP_C - on-campus study TBC - online study TPDCFSMX_C - flexible study PgCert TPCCFSIP_C - on-campus study TPCCFSON_C - online study TPCCFSMX_C - flexible study
HECoS Code	101070 climate change 100381 environmental sciences
Start date of programme	Autumn 2009
Date of programme approval	Summer 2009
Date of last programme amendment approval	July 2026
Valid for academic entry year	**2026-27**
Programme Director	Jenni Robertson
Date of last revision to document	16.10.26

Admissions requirements

A second-class honours degree (2:2) or equivalent.

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 programme aims to provide students with an understanding of the approaches to mitigate and adapt to current and future projected climate change. It will do this by exploring the natural and social impacts of climate change and the practical solutions required at a global and regional scale.

Students are required to obtain 120 credit credits from the taught elements of the programme. This comprises two compulsory 30-credit modules ("Climate Mitigation and Energy Futures" and "Climate Impacts and Resilient Communities"), plus two 30-credit options worth 60 credits in total.

All students will gain training across a wide range of qualitative and quantitative methods, as well as other subject specific transferable skills through the year-round module (namely, the MSc Dissertation Project module for the MSc students and the Research Methods and Skills module for PGDip and PGCert students).

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
MSc, Full-time – 1 year					
L7	SSGE112S7	Climate Mitigation and Energy Futures	30	Comp	T1
L7	SSGE111S7	Climate Impacts and Resilient Communities	30	Comp	T2
	Various	Option modules (2 x 30 credits)	60	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7	SC05044D7	MSc Dissertation Project	60	Core	T1-3
MSc, Part-time -2 years					
Year 1					
7	SSGE112S7	Climate Mitigation and Energy Futures	30	Comp	T1
7	SSGE111S7	Climate Impacts and Resilient Communities	30	Comp	T2
	Various	Option module	30	Option	T3
Year 2					
	Various	Option module	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7	SC05044D7	MSc Dissertation Project	60	Core	T1-3
PG Dip, Full-time – 1 year					
L7	SSGE112S7	Climate Mitigation and Energy Futures	30	Comp	T1
L7	SSGE111S7	Climate Impacts and Resilient Communities	30	Comp	T2
L7	SSGE083Z7	Research Methods and Skills	0	Comp	T1-3
	Various	Option modules (2 x 30 credits)	60	Option	T1, 2 or 3

PG Dip, Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
L7	SSGE112S7	Climate Mitigation and Energy Futures	30	Comp	T1
L7	SSGE111S7	Climate Impacts and Resilient Communities	30	Comp	T2
Year 2					
L7	SSGE083Z7	Research Methods and Skills	0	Comp	T1-3
	Various	Option modules (two required)	60	Option	T1, 2 or 3
PG Cert, Part-time – 1 or 2 years					
L7	SSGE112S7	Climate Mitigation and Energy Futures	30	Comp	T1
L7	SSGE111S7	Climate Impacts and Resilient Communities	30	Comp	T2
L7	SSGE083Z7	Research Methods and Skills	0	Comp	T1-3
Indicative options for MSc and PgDip:					
7	SSGE125S7	International Development & Social Justice	30	Option	T1
7	SSGE115S7	Geospatial Programming & Spatial Machine Learning*	30	Option	T1
7	SSGE126S7	Urban Sustainability	30	Option	T1
7	SSGE025S7	Environmental Science For Environmental Management	30	Option	T1
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	SSGE011S7	Environment & Policy	30	Option	T2
7	SSGE127S7	Critical Infrastructures for Sustainability*	30	Option	T3
7	SSGE110S7	Sustainable Business Practice	30	Option	T3
7	SSGE113S7	Introduction to Geographic Data Science*	30	Option	T1
7	SSGE114S7	Spatial Data Analytics*	30	Option	T2
7	SSGE103S7	Global Nature Conservation Level 7	30	Option	T2
7	SSGE086S7	Research Applications in Social Sciences Field Trip Level 7*	30	Option	T2

*These options are not expected to be available to students studying on the online attendance mode

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
- SSGE086S7 Research Applications in Social Sciences Field Trip Level 7

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 (specified 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 (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. Overall, your learning will be organised around the activities outlined at the beginning of each module. This can include seminars, in-class discussion in small working groups, development of larger projects in collaborative group exercises, field visits, and practical lab sessions.

The programme is part of the Birkbeck flexible masters group of programmes 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 complexity as you progress through your studies, quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires, and practical assessments of your work in a lab or studio.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

On successful completion of this programme, a student will be expected to be able to:

- explore and understand projected climate scenarios and the role of mitigation and adaptation within future climate change
- critically examine and discuss the modern energy scene and future energy supply mix
- critically analyse the effects of climate variability and extreme weather across scales
- recognise the social, political and economic complexities that arise in mitigating and adapting to climate change;
- identify, evaluate and critically analyse relevant data and literature;
- apply, discuss, and justify research methods and analysis techniques;

- communicate complex information in ways that enable and enhance audience understanding and engagement.

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 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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