Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**BSc Environment and Sustainability** **BSc Environment and Sustainability with Foundation Year**
4	**Programme Code(s)**	UBSENSUS_C (part-time) UUBSENSS_C (full-time) UBFENSUS_C (full-time with Foundation Year) UBFENSUS_C (part-time with Foundation Year)
5	**UCAS code**	F752; F753 (with Foundation Year)
6	**Home Department**	Geography
7	**Exit Award(s)**	Dip HE Cert HE Certificate of Continuing Education
8	**Duration of Study** (number of years)	4 years part-time/with Foundation Year FT, 3 years full-time, 6 years with Foundation Year part-time
9	**Mode of Study**	FT √ PT √ DL
10	**Level of Award (FHEQ)**	6
11	**Other teaching depts or institution**	N/A
12	**Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details**	N/A
13	[**QAA Benchmark Statement**](#)	N/A

14	**Programme Rationale & Aims**

The BSc Environment and Sustainability aims to:

- widen admission to include those with genuine ability and enthusiasm but lacking traditional academic qualifications.
- provide research based teaching to enable students to understand environmental processes from both a physical and a social standpoint. Students will focus on understanding Earth systems in order to learn from the past, understand the present and interpret the likely future state of the Earth. This understanding is gained over a variety of spatial and temporal scales.
- provide students with a scientific understanding of: geographical diversity; the conservation of natural systems; the physical environment; interactions between different environmental components; Earth history, especially in the context of human occupancy and anthropogenic processes; key contemporary environmental problems; exploration and exploitation of the physical and human resources in the context of sustainability; monitoring and managing of natural and human-induced environmental change; environmental politics and policy issues.

- foster independent and critical thought, so that students can reach appropriate conclusions based on relevant evidence.
- provide practical field, computer laboratory and IT skills necessary to contribute to that evidence.
- provide general skills in learning, information technology, data processing and communication.

BSc Environment and Sustainability Foundation Year:
For the BSc Environmental Management with Foundation Year programme, the purpose is to prepare students for successful completion of their undergraduate degree. The Foundation Year (one year FT or two years PT) provides students the opportunity to explore their interests and build on their study skills, and on successful completion of the Foundation Year, students may progress onto year one of the PT of FT programmes. The curriculum for the 'with foundation year' programme after the completion of the foundation year modules is the same as the full-time or part-time BA programme. Students who successfully complete the versions of the degree programme 'with foundation year' are awarded the same final degree title as students on the full-time or part-time degree routes.

15	**Entry Criteria**

A-level requirements
Applicants are normally expected to have achieved a level 3 UCAS tariff score of 112-128.

Mature applicants and Access qualifications
There are no formal A-level requirements for mature applicants with work experience, but we are only likely to be able to offer places to applicants who have adequate preparation for degree level study. Those who obtained 2 or more A-levels at 18+, or who achieved the equivalent of a baccalaureate or high-school graduation would be assumed to have this preparation, but others would be expected to prepare for higher education either by taking A-level courses part-time, or by taking an appropriate Access to HE course. Applicants should show evidence of recent academic study and a strong interest in environmental issues. For example work experience in an environmental field or membership/voluntary work for an environmental charity would provide evidence of interest.

Overseas applications
We normally expect 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) and a good level of competency with the English language. If an applicant's native language is not English then they are expected to hold a minimum score of 6.5 on IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and/or a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) 600, plus 5 in the essay writing. Equivalent qualifications will also be considered.

Selection process
Applicants will be carefully selected to ensure that they are able to benefit from the opportunity of studying for a BSc Environmental Management degree. Whilst we positively encourage applications from students whose life circumstances make day time work necessary or desirable, we are unable to accept prospective students on our full-time mode of study who intend to work for more than 20 hours per week. In such cases,

would-be students should contact the department directly for more information about part-time study at Birkbeck.

BSc Environment and Sustainability with Foundation Year:
This programme is designed for people who can demonstrate the ability and motivation to complete the BSc Environmental Management but who do not currently meet the entry criteria for direct entrance onto the degree. Applicants will often be invited for interview to discuss their interests and future plans, and to assess their needs and aptitudes. For those students who already have Level 3 qualifications the expectation is that they will have achieved qualifications equivalent to 48 UCAS tariff points. Given that students on the foundation year will be enrolled on degree programmes, applicants will be offered a place only if there is significant evidence to suggest they have the ability to complete the full degree.

16	**Learning Outcomes**
	Foundation Year: Students will have acquired: 1. A foundational understanding of the different disciplines offered by the School of Social Science, History and Philosophy 2. A foundational understanding of some key concepts in those disciplines 3. Key academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of those disciplines 4. An understanding of other key learning skills required for university-level study and knowledge of how to access support at Birkbeck to develop these. **All modes of study:** The BSc Environment and Sustainability Degree, leading to a BSc Honours Degree of the University of London, is a structured programme of taught courses, designed to develop geographical understanding and critical skills. Studying Environment and Sustainability develops the ability to understand how humans interact with the earth's natural environment, and the challenges that societies face in achieving environmental sustainability. In the early part of the degree students study the broad philosophical debates around the environmental movement and sustainable development, as well as gaining essential knowledge of natural environmental science subjects. The BSc also equips students with a range of technical and methodological skills that have many wider applications – being able to use remote sensing images to assess environmental changes or using GIS software to map physical, social and environmental differences would be just two examples. The course also provides a range of options allowing students to mix a variety of topic areas and undertake their own research project if they wish.

17	**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**
	Learning, teaching and assessment methods are varied and relate to the specific learning outcomes of each module. Some modules are assessed entirely by examination while others are assessed entirely by coursework. The programme is generally taught via face-to-face lectures, seminars, tutorials and field teaching. Lectures and seminars usually take place

between 6-9pm, weekdays, and the normal expectation is to have classes on one or two (occasionally three) evenings a week in the Autumn and Spring terms. On some modules weekend attendance is required. Lectures are supported by guided reading, project work and private study. Examinations are normally held in the Summer term.

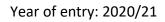| 18	**Programme Description**
	The BSc Environment and Sustainability programme consists of either 12 modules of 30 credits each, or 10 modules of 30 credits and a 60 credit research study in the final year. In either case, the degree is completed with a total of 360 credits with 90 credits studied each year (part-time mode) or 120 credits studied each year (full-time mode). The modules are divided into three levels, with the first half of the degree focusing on foundation modules in geography, economics, ecology and GIS and a range of option modules available in the second half of the degree. **BSc Environment and Sustainability with Foundation Year:** Students in the BSc Environmental Management with Foundation year take 120 credits at Level 3. There are four core modules: 1. Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City 2. Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge 3. Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP 4. Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy Students who successfully pass all modules with grades of 40% or higher may **progress** onto Year one of BSc Environment and Sustainability with Foundation Year.

19	**Programme Structure**

Full Time programme – 3 years

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Compulsory
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Comp
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Comp
4	SSGE027S4	Introduction to Spatial Thinking	30	Comp

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSGE084S5	Managing Environments	30	Comp
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	Comp
5		Various	30	Option

Year 3

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	GGPH073D6	Research Project OR	60	Comp OR
6	GGPH067S6	Literature Review	30	Comp
6		Various	60/90	Options

Part Time programme – 4 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Comp
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Comp
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Comp
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSGE027S4	Introduction to Spatial Thinking	30	Comp
5	SSGE084S5	Managing Environments	30	Comp
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	Comp
5		Various	30	Option
6		Various	30	Option
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	GGPH073D6	Research Project OR	60	Comp OR
6		Various – see list above	30/60	Options

BSc Environment and Sustainability with Foundation Year (Full-time, 4 years)

FOUNDATION Year (0)				
Level	Module code	Module title	Credits	Status
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Compulsory
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Compulsory
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Compulsory
4	SSGE027S4	Introduction to Spatial Thinking	30	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSGE084S5	Managing Environments	30	Compulsory
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Compulsory
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	Compulsory
5		Various	30	Option

Year 3

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	GGPH073D6	Research Project OR	60	Comp OR
6	GGPH067S6	Literature Review	30	Comp
6		Various	60/90	Options

BSc Environment and Sustainability with Foundation Year (Part-time, 6 years)

FOUNDATION Year (0a)

Level	Module code	Module title	Credits	Status
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core

FOUNDATION Year (0b)

Level	Module code	Module title	Credits	Status
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Comp
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Comp
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Comp

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSGE027S4	Introduction to Spatial Thinking	30	Comp
5	SSGE084S5	Managing Environments	30	Comp
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp

Year 3

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	Comp
5		Various	30	Option
6		Various	30	Option

Year 4

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	GGPH073D6	Research Project OR	60	Comp OR
6	GGPH067S6	Literature Review	30	Comp
6		Various – see list above	30/60	Options

Indicative list of option modules:

Level 5:

　　SSGE101S5 - Storms, Seas and Rivers: hydrology in the field (Level 5)

　　SSGE097S5 - Principles of Geographical Information Systems (level 5)

Level 6 (environment/physical):

　　SSGE094S6 - Advanced Applications of GIS

　　SSGE095S6 - Global Nature Conservation

| SSGE067S6 - Landscape Change: Past and Future |
| SSGE096S6 - Living with Climate Change |
| GGPH036S6 - Principles of Geographical Information Systems (level 6) |

20	**Regulations**
	• ***Admissions*** This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf • ***Credit Transfer*** Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf • ***Programme Regulations*** This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations • ***Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)*** N/A

21	**Student Attendance Framework** *– in brief*
	The full version of the 'Student Attendance Framework' is available http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf **Principle** Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded. **Attendance expectation** Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations. **E-Registers** All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.

22	**Student Support and Guidance**
	All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities

23	**Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards**
	The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student

<table>
<tr><td>achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.

For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality .</td></tr>
</table>

24	**Programme Director**	Dr Andrea Ballatore
25	**Start Date** *(term/year)*	Prior to 2008/9
26	**Date approved by TQEC**	Prior to 2008/9
27	**Date approved by Academic Board**	Prior to 2008/9
28	**Date(s) updated/amended**	June 2020