

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College
3	Programme Title(s)	BSc Geography BSc Geography with Foundation Year
4	Programme Code(s)	UUBSGEOG_C (3 years full-time) UBSGEOGY_C (4 years part-time) UUBFGEOG_C (4 year full-time with Foundation Yr) UBFGEOGY_C (6 year part-time with Foundation Yr)
5	UCAS code	F840; F84F (with Foundation Year)
6	Home Departments	Geography
7	Exit Award(s)	Certificate of Continuing Education Certificate of Higher Education Diploma of Higher Education
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	3 years full-time (UCAS entry) 4 years part-time 4 years full-time with foundation year 6 years part-time with foundation year
9	Mode of Study	PT or FT
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A
13	<u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u>	Geography

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>To provide a programme that offers a comprehensive grounding in the main concepts, principles, values and skills that form the core of the discipline of Geography. Specific aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide students with knowledge and comprehension of a range of physical and social environments relevant to the present-day world; • To enable students to bridge the gap between their individual experience and their understanding of theory; • To provide a range of learning experiences and teaching approaches that enable students to gain confidence, work independently and impart knowledge and understanding of their subject to others; • To provide access to curricula for students from a wide range of backgrounds, including non-traditional educational backgrounds; • To offer teaching at times to suit the needs of part-time students otherwise engaged during the day. This includes evening classes, weekend field trips and, particularly, web-based access to core teaching materials;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To equip participants with a broad understanding of current geographical issues and the ways these might relate to everyday life; • To give participants transferable skills in the spheres of both numeracy and literacy, together with a capacity to reason clearly and effectively; • To develop self-reliance and self-confidence through both individual and group project work. <p>BA Geography with Foundation Year: For the BSc Geography 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 or 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.</p>
15	<p>Entry Criteria</p>
	<p>Applicants are normally expected to have achieved a UCAS tariff score of 112-128 points. The UCAS tariff score is applicable to applicants who have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p>Mature applications and Access qualifications There are no A-level requirements for students who mature applicants with experience when they enrol, 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.</p> <p>Overseas applications We normally expect 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) and a good level of competency with the English language. If their 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.</p> <p>Selection process</p>

	<p>Applicants will be carefully selected to ensure that they are able to benefit from the opportunity of studying for a BSc Geography 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.</p> <p>BSc Geography with Foundation Year: This programme is designed for people who can demonstrate the ability and motivation to complete the BSc Geography 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 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.</p>
16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p>
	<p>For Foundation Year: Students will have acquired:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A foundational understanding of some 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. <p>All modes of study: Through studying for the BSc Geography students will gain a high level of skills training in GIS, environmental modelling, data acquisition and manipulation, and qualitative research methods. By the end of the degree students will be able to carry out their own research and will have gained experience in presenting findings to others and in developing critical thought regarding spatial dimensions of social and environmental issues.</p>
17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p>
	<p>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. Some weekend attendance is required on some modules. Lectures are supported by guided reading, project work and private study. Examinations are normally held in the Summer term.</p>

18	Programme Description
<p>BSc Geography:</p> <p>The BSc Geography 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.</p> <p>BSc Geography with Foundation year:</p> <p>Students in the BSc Geography with Foundation year take either 120 credits at Level 3. There are four core modules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 to Social Science, History and Philosophy <p>Students who successfully pass all modules with grades of 40% or higher may progress onto Year one of BSc Geography with Foundation Year.</p>	

19	Programme Structure			
4 year part-time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	GGPH070S4	Introduction to Human Geography	30	compulsory
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	compulsory
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSGE027S4	Introduction to Spatial Thinking	30	compulsory
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	compulsory
5	GGPH060S5	European Society, Economy and Geography	30	compulsory
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	compulsory
		PLUS		
		Option modules from range of approved modules within field (as per those listed below, to include at least 30 credits at level 6) up to a total of 90 credits points in Year 3. At level 6, one module must be from Environment/Physical group, and one module from the Human group.		option
6		Optional module(s)	30	option

Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	GGPH073D6	Geography/Environment Research Project	60	Comp* OR
6	GGPH067S6	Geography/Environment Literature Review	30	Comp*
		*denotes that one of EITHER Geography/Environment Research Project (60 credits) OR Geography/Environment Literature Review (30 credits) is compulsory in Year 4.		
		PLUS		
6		Option modules from range of approved modules within field (as per those listed below) up to a total of 90 credits points in Year 4 (to incl. Project or Literature Review). At level 6, one module must be from Environment/Physical group, and one module from the Human group.	30 OR 60	option
3 year full-time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	GGPH070S4	Introduction to Human Geography	30	compulsory
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	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	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	compulsory
5	GGPH060S5	European Society, Economy and Geography	30	compulsory
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	compulsory
5		Option modules from range of approved modules within field (as listed below, to include 30 credits at level 5) up to a total of	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*
		*denotes that one of EITHER Research Project (60 credits) OR Literature Review (30 credits) is compulsory in Year 3.		
		PLUS		
6		Option modules selected from range of approved modules (as per those listed below) up to a total of 120 credits points in Year 3 (360 credits in total). One module must be from Environment/Physical group, and one module from the Human group.	60 OR 90	option

BSc Geography with Foundation Year (4 years Full-time)				
Foundation Year 0				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	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	GGPH070S4	Introduction to Human Geography	30	compulsory
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	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	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	compulsory
5	GGPH060S5	European Society, Economy and Geography	30	compulsory
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	compulsory
5		Option modules from range of approved modules within field (as per those listed below, to include 30 credits at level 5) up to a total of 120 credits points in Year 3.	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*
		*denotes that one of EITHER Research Project (60 credits) OR Literature Review (30 credits) is compulsory in Year 3.		
		PLUS		
6		Option modules selected from range of approved modules (as per those listed below) up to a total of 120 credits points in Year 3 (360 credits in total). One module must be from Environment/Physical group, and one module from the Human group.	60 OR 90	option

BSc Geography 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 Global City	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	GGPH070S4	Introduction to Human Geography	30	compulsory
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	compulsory
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSGE027S4	Introduction to Spatial Thinking	30	compulsory
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	compulsory
5	GGPH060S5	European Society, Economy and Geography	30	compulsory
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	compulsory
		PLUS		
		Option modules from range of approved modules within field (as per those listed below, to include at least 30 credits at level 6) up to a total of 90 credits points in Year 3. At level 6, one module must be from Environment/Physical group, and one module from the Human group.		
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	GGPH073D6	Geography/Environment Research Project OR	60	Comp* OR
6	GGPH067S6	Geography/Environment Literature Review	30	Comp*
		PLUS		
6		Option modules from range of approved modules within field (as per those listed below) up to a total of 90 credits points in Year 4 (to incl. Project or Literature Review). At level 6, one module must be from Environment/Physical group, and one module from the Human group.	30 OR 60	option

Option Modules. Nb. Not all options run every year and the list below is indicative.

Level 5:

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

SSGE084S5 - Culture and Development SSGE084S5 - Managing Environments

SSGE097S5 - Principles of Geographical Information Systems (level 5)

Level 6 (environment/physical – choose at least one):

SSGE094S6 - Advanced Applications of GIS SSGE095S6 - Global Nature Conservation

SSGE067S6 - Landscape Change: Past and Future (Note: MAY CHANGE)

SSGE096S6 - Living with Climate Change

GGPH036S6 - Principles of Geographical Information Systems (level 6)

Level 6 (human – choose at least one):

GGPH063S6 - Cities and Urban Inequalities

SSGE093S6 - Cities in the Global South

GGPH065S6 - Globalization in the Contemporary World

SSGE085S6 - Research Applications in Human Geography Delhi Field Trip Level 6

SSGE006S6 - Race, Ethnicity and Development

Status:*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	Programme Director	Dr Andrea Ballatore
21	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Prior to 2008/9
22	Date approved by TQEC	Prior to 2008/9
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Prior to 2008/9
24	Date(s) updated/amended	June 2020