

**Programme Specification for BSc (Hons) Physical Geography and
BSc (Hons) Physical Geography with International Year Abroad.**

This document applies to Academic Year 2021/22 onwards

Table 1 programme specification for BA (Hons) Physical Geography and BA (Hons) Physical Geography with International Year Abroad.

1.	Awarding institution/body	University of Worcester
2.	Teaching institution	University of Worcester
3.	Programme accredited by	Royal Geographical Society with Institute of British Geographers
4.	Final award or awards	BSc (Hons)
5.	Programme title	BSc (Hons) Physical Geography
6.	Pathways available	Single
7.	Mode and/or site of delivery	Standard taught programme
8.	Mode of attendance and duration	Full time (3 years full time) Full time (4 years full time with International Year Abroad) Part-time
9.	UCAS Code	F800 BSc (Hons)Physical Geography F805 BSc (Hons) Physical Geography with International Year Abroad
10.	Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement	QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Geography (2019)
11.	Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision	June 2020 August 2020 – AQU amendments to Section 19 September 2020 – UCAS code amended August 2021 – AQU amendments January 22 – addition of optional module: GEOG2420 River Conservation and Management August 2022 - Removal of <i>GEOG2338</i> and <i>GEOG3338 California Field Course: Dynamic Landscapes</i> from the Award Map November 2022 – inclusion of Level 6 version of GEOG2521 Meteorology and Climate (i.e., GEOG3421)

12. Educational aims of the programme

Physical Geography studies the patterns and processes occurring within our natural environment, from the atmosphere to the biosphere. Our BSc Physical Geography programme explores the processes that shape our planet and how they impact upon the human environment. With a strong emphasis on field work, students will have every opportunity to immerse themselves in a range of different physical environments within the UK and overseas.

At Worcester, Physical Geography is all about the learning experience, relatively small class sizes will not only provide students with a supportive and friendly environment, but it will also allow students to gain access to specialist equipment to enable them to develop an extensive range of field, laboratory and GIS skills to solve problems within the physical geography and to support future career aspirations or further study.

The first year provides a foundation for a diverse range of specialist options in physical geography available to you in your second and third year of study. The final year provides the opportunity to

specialise by selecting from a range of optional modules that reflect staff members research specialisms. Students will also complete a dissertation which brings together the subject knowledge, skills and techniques developed during the degree to produce an independent and original piece of academic research on a topic of choice.

The Physical Geography programme has an internationalised curriculum with opportunities for either a Study Abroad semester or an International Year Abroad at an international partner institution. Students will also enjoy exciting fieldwork opportunities, including local day excursions and residential fieldwork at all three levels. The residential fieldwork, which include UK and overseas destinations are a core part of the curriculum.

In particular, the course aims to:

- Provide a broad, contemporary and intellectually challenging internationalised geographical curriculum;
- Provide students with the opportunity to study physical geography at a depth and level appropriate to honours degree standard;
- Develop to the appropriate pathway level the knowledge, skills and aptitudes of physical geography, within an interdisciplinary, modular scheme;
- Encourage students to develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills appropriate to graduate employment and/or postgraduate study;
- Provide a supportive learning environment that acknowledges and responds to the diversity of student backgrounds and experiences;
- Provide students with the opportunity to become individual, autonomous and reflective learners.

13. Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

Table 2 knowledge and understanding outcomes for module code/s

Knowledge and Understanding		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1	Critically evaluate the complex and reciprocal relationships between physical and human aspects of environments and landscapes.	PGEO3002 GEOG3310
2	Demonstrate a critical understanding of spatial distributions in physical phenomena and the explanations that underlie these, with appropriate reference to those of social science and humanities	PGEO3002 GEOG3310
3	Critically evaluate the ways in which the distinctiveness of a particular place is constituted and remade by physical, environmental, biotic, social, historical, economic and cultural processes, and the influence of place-specific characteristics on such processes.	PGEO3002 GEOG3310

4	Evaluate patterns, process, interactions and change in the physical world as systems that operate at a range of spatial and temporal scales.	PGEO3002 GEOG3310
5	Discuss the dynamic, plural and contested of nature of Physical Geography and its position within the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities	PGEO3002 GEOG3310
6	Evaluate a range of analytical and observational strategies, and the main approaches to the analysis, interpretation and visualisation of geographical information of a variety of types and derived from a variety of sources.	PGEO3002 GEOG3310
7	Apply a reflective understanding of the application of concepts, techniques and expertise as a means of addressing a range of issues facing the Earth and its people, and critically evaluate a variety of policies which seek to confront those issues.	PGEO3002 GEOG3312

Table 3 cognitive and intellectual skills outcomes for module code/s

Cognitive and Intellectual skills		
LO no.		Module Code/s
8	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to: Abstract and synthesise information from a range of sources to develop reasoned arguments and make decisions informed by their analysis of a variety of evidence.	PGEO3002 GEOG3310
9	Critically appraise and reflect on use of the diversity of techniques and approaches involved in collecting and representing geographical information (for example, instrumentation, remote sensing, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) cartographic surveying and the use of textual and archival sources).	PGEO3002 GEOG3310
10	Critically assess the merits of contrasting theories, explanations, perspectives and apply appropriate methodologies to solve problems in Physical Geography.	PGEO3002 GEOG3310

Table 4 skills and capabilities related to employment outcomes for module code/s

Skills and capabilities related to employability		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
11	Plan, design and execute a piece of rigorous research or enquiry, including the production of a final report.	PGEO3002 GEOG3323
12	Prepare effective maps, diagrams and visualisations using a range of appropriate technologies, and interpret and analyse as appropriate.	PGEO3002 GEOG3310
13	Employ a variety of field and laboratory-based methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental information.	PGEO3002 GEOG3310
14	Critically reflect on the process of learning, evaluating personal strengths and weaknesses and alternative strategies	PGEO3002 GEOG3310

Table 5 transferable/key skills outcomes for module code/s

Transferable/key skills		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
15	Use appropriate communication methods and ICT with a high level of competence to select, analyse, present and communicate geographical information.	PGEO3002 GEOG3310
16	Work effectively in a variety of interpersonal situations, including working with groups/teams and recognising and respecting the viewpoints of others.	PGEO3002 GEOG3310
17	Reflect on, analyse and evaluate own academic, vocational and professional performance, taking responsibility for personal independent working and professional learning and development	PGEO3002 GEOG3310

18	Demonstrate independent problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations, the ability to work on one's own initiative, and manage one's own time to meet deadlines.	PGEO3002 GEOG3310
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Table 6 additional transferable/key skills for international year abroad module code/s

Additional Learning outcomes for the International Year Abroad		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
19	Use diverse cultural frames of reference, and alternate perspectives to think critically and solve problems.	GEOG3000
20	Critique differences in the way their academic disciplines are viewed and practiced between their host country and the UK.	GEOG3000

Learning, teaching and assessment

The University places emphasis on enabling students to develop the independent self-study capabilities for lifelong learning and future employment, as well as academic achievement. A mixture of independent self-study, teaching and academic support from Student Services and Library Services, and the Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) system enables students to reflect on progress and build up a profile of skills, achievements and experiences that will enable them to flourish and be successful.

Teaching

For 2021/22, the majority of teaching sessions are face to face on campus. Lectures or lecture workshops for some modules will be delivered online either 'live' or pre-recorded. Individual and small group tutorials will be arranged online as this has proven to be convenient and popular with students.

All modules within the BSc (Hons) Physical Geography programme aim to encourage learners to engage in discussion of key issues and application of key concepts in physical geography. The programme aims to provide supportive, student-centred learning environments that acknowledge and respond to the diversity of student backgrounds and experiences. The structure of the course enables students to move towards increasing independence in their studies from level 4 to level 6 in line with the [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications \(FHEQ\)](#) and [University policies for assessment](#) and [curriculum design](#). Level 4 modules offer students structured tutor support for their learning, whilst at level 5 this support becomes less structured, although the extent to which this occurs varies with the difficulty of the task. At level 6, modules offer students opportunities for more independent self-study, although specific tutor help will always be available and students can still expect up to 48 hours contact time in taught and practical sessions at Level 6 where modules introduce new subjects and technical skills. Module learning outcomes, and hence assessments will always be more demanding at level 6.

Teaching, assessment and independent self-study are interlinked in that they are all aspects of each student's personal and academic development.

Students are taught through a combination of lectures, seminars, laboratory practical sessions, practical activities, fieldwork and project work. Practical activities take a variety of formats and are intended to

enable the application of learning through discussion and small group activities. Seminars enable the discussion and development of understanding of topics covered in lectures, and laboratory and fieldwork sessions are focused on developing subject specific skills and applied individual and group project work. The VLE software is used extensively to support key areas of study.

Meetings with Personal Academic Tutors are formally scheduled on at least four occasions in the first year and three occasions in each of the other years of a course. A key aim of the Personal Academic Tutor programme is to provide the student with support with their academic studies.

Students have access to a wide range of specialist resources, including a fully equipped GIS Mapping and Visualization Suite, which provides access to high-end computers, industry standard GIS (ArcGIS, ArcGIS Pro and QGIS), statistical analysis software, and other mapping and earth observation software. Students will also have access to a variety of field equipment, including the latest industry standard survey-grade GPS (Trimble R10-2, providing sub-cm accuracy), electromagnetic flow meters, an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler, Sontek 2D Flowtracker, ISCO water samplers and YSI multi-parameter environmental probes. A suite of water analysis equipment is available in the laboratories including to analyse water and sediment samples including spectrophotometers, Microwave Plasma Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (MPAES), Fourier Transform-Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), Ion Chromatography (IC), High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC/HPLC-MS) and Gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC-MS) equipment. Students and Staff have access to a range of equipment including portable pocket weather stations, rain gauges, and rugged temperature loggers. The School also has mobile particle counters, passive samplers and cyclones that may be used to collect airborne material such as particulate matter, dust, biological material or other airborne components.

The course employs a variety of assessment methods, for more details please see section 14 of this programme specification.

Study Abroad

BSc (Hons) Physical Geography (Three Year Programme)

Students studying on the BSc (Hons) Physical Geography programme can spend a semester of their second year at one of our international partner universities. This semester will serve as a replacement semester. Students will take modules that fulfil and complement the modules identified in the programme award map. Students will pay their regular tuition fee to the University of Worcester. In order to be able to take this option, students must have at least a C average and be in good standing with the university. Further information is available on the University of Worcester [Study Abroad](#) webpages. Students who wish to be considered should refer to the UW Policy for the management of student international mobility for the student eligibility criteria and other relevant policies for UK placements

BSc (Hons) Physical Geography with International Year Abroad (Four Year Programme)

Students studying on the BSc (Hons) Physical Geography with International Year Abroad programme will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed their second year. Students will be registered for a 0-credit mandatory Module (GEOG3000). During the year abroad, students will enjoy the diverse learning opportunities provided by the host institution, as well as the cultural and travel opportunities of the year abroad destination. The third-year International Year Abroad will be arranged on an individual basis. Students will be in regular contact with their Personal Academic Tutors throughout the year. The university currently has exchange agreements with universities in Europe, Canada, the USA, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

There are no additional eligibility criteria for the International Year Abroad. As a result, there should be no variation to the regulations around progression and a student will be permitted to progress from Level 5 to Level 6 if, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, they have passed at least 210

credits, including 90 credits at Level 5. However, where a student does not successfully complete the second year of study and accumulated 240 credits, there will be a meeting between the student and their Personal Academic Tutor/Course Leader to discuss study options and plan their future study programme. This may result in the student transferring to the three-year (non-sandwich) course, or it may result in the student extending their studies to re-take modules before or after the International Year Abroad. Further information is available in the [UW Policy for the management of student international mobility](#) for the student eligibility criteria.

Contact time

In a typical week, students will have approximately 12-16 contact hours of teaching. The exact contact hours will depend on the optional modules selected. In practical based modules, students can expect up to 48 hours contact time per semester. In the final year there is normally slightly less contact time in order to carry out more independent self-study. However, students will have guided supervision, with up to 48 hours contact time in taught sessions, if the module requires the use of specialist software or field/laboratory-based activities.

Typical class contact time is structured around:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Interactive workshops
- Practical sessions
- Group activities
- Fieldwork

Independent self-study

In addition to the contact time, students are expected to undertake around 24 hours of independent self-study, plus assessment preparation in the assessment period at the end of each semester. Typically, this will involve visiting the library and carrying out recommended reading, planning and writing assignments, and undertaking group work.

Independent self-study is supported by a range of excellent learning facilities, including the Hive and library resources, the virtual learning environment, and extensive electronic learning resources.

Teaching staff

Students are taught by a teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the modules on the course. The team includes professors in human and physical geography, senior academics with industry experience, demonstrators and technicians. Postgraduate research students who have undertaken teacher training may also contribute to the teaching of seminars under the supervision of the module leader.

Teaching is informed by the research and consultancy, and a very high percentage (85+%) of course lecturers have a higher education teaching qualification or are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy. Details about the staff are available via our staff profiles: [meet the experts](#).

Assessment

The course provides opportunities to test understanding and learning informally through the completion of practice or 'formative' assignments. Each module has one or more formal or 'summative' assessments which are graded and count towards the overall module grade.

All module guides contain detailed assignment briefs and grading criteria which are, in most cases, specific to that particular assignment. As a student progresses through the levels there is a stronger emphasis on critical synthesis and evaluation.

Methods of assessment within geography modules include: essays of varying lengths; reports; seminar

presentations (group and individual); group video podcast presentations; practicals (field, specialist ICT work and quantitative and qualitative analyses); role-play simulations; poster displays; work-based assessments; teamwork of varying kinds; and exams. A grid showing how assessment methods at each level for the BSc (Hons) Physical Geography Programme are mapped to modules is included in the Geography Course Handbook.

The precise assessment requirements for an individual student in an academic year will vary according to the mandatory and optional modules taken, but a typical formal summative assessment pattern for each year of the course is:

Year 1

- 1 Essay
- 1 Portfolio/Logbook
- 2 Practical report
- 2 Presentation
- 2 Written Assignment

Year 2

- 2 Essays
- 1 Exam
- 1 Individual or Group Presentations
- 1 Practical Investigation
- 4 Practical Reports
- 1 Research Proposal
- 1 Written Assignment

Year 3/4

- 1 Other (Dissertation)
- 1 Practical Assessments
- 1 Practical Investigation
- 1 Practical Reports
- 1 Project
- 2 Written Assignments

Feedback

Students receive feedback on practice assessments and on formal assessments undertaken by coursework. Feedback on examination performance is available upon request from the module leader. Feedback is intended to support learning and students are encouraged to discuss it with Personal Academic Tutors and module tutors as appropriate.

Students are provided feedback on formal course work assessments within 20 working days of hand-in.

14. Assessment strategy

Students have opportunities to develop the appropriate skills necessary for the particular assessment type used before summative assessment takes place. At level 4 there is particular emphasis on helping students build up their core geographical enquiry skills – in terms of knowledge acquisition and cognitive skills, but also their engagement with different sources of information and their ability to synthesise and articulate ideas clearly in essays and written reports. Formative assessment also plays a critical role in level 4 modules, for example, class quizzes allow students the opportunity to reflect on their progress and learning in preparation for summative assessment. Individual student progress and assessment

experiences are discussed during meetings with Personal Academic Tutors.

At levels 5 and 6 there is a particular emphasis on supporting geography students as critical researchers, and this is evident in the range of formative and summative assessments. For example, students are given experience of designing, implementing and writing up a research project in preparation for the Dissertation; formative assessment here constitutes a literature review which students can subsequently modify in response to feedback, and integrate in the final summatively assessed Research Paper. At level 6, consultancy reports based on primary research engage students in problem-solving, practical and experiential learning, and prepare them for the immediate demands of employers.

At all levels of the programme, both formative and summative assessments seek to enhance students' oral communication and presentation skills. Although predominantly coursework-based, there are exams; as far as possible, these have been placed in mandatory modules to ensure that all students experience this mode of assessment.

Each assessment item has published specific marking criteria contained in the module outline given to students at the beginning of the module. These are based on the generic assessment criteria contained within the UW Student Handbook.

15. Programme structures and requirements

See end of document for level 4, 5 and 6 Award Maps.

16. QAA and professional academic standards and quality

The [QAA Subject Benchmark statement for Geography](#) bachelor's degrees with honours articulate the knowledge, skills and categories of achievement to be expected of successful honours graduates in the field (QAA, 2014). The programmes at the University of Worcester are compliant with the Benchmark Statement; all the Programme Learning Outcomes are based on the Benchmark Statement and can be mapped to individual module learning outcomes (see Student Handbook).

The award is located at level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

17. Support for students

The following activities and facilities have been put in place to provide support for undergraduate students studying Geography within the School of Science and the Environment:

- Geography runs a week of **induction events** at the start of the academic year. In detail, the programme for this will vary from one year to the next, but will include the following elements: Introduction to the course; Meeting(s) with academic tutors; Introduction to key ICT resources [Student Online Environment (**SOLE**), **Blackboard** (a virtual learning environment), SMILE (Study Methods & Information Literacy Exemplars)]; social event to meet staff and fellow students; some project/field activities (active learning/research-based teaching).
- All students have a **Personal Academic Tutor (PAT)** who guides the process of Personal Development Planning (PDP) and offers general support. There is a full programme of scheduled PAT meetings throughout levels 4, 5 and 6, with students undertaking a range of tasks linked to core modules. There will be a particular emphasis on information literacy skills and Personal Development Planning.
- The Geography programmes provide students with a range of opportunities to develop their **study skills** across all levels of the course. Support for developing study skills is built into the programme, especially the mandatory modules at Level 4, and is also provided in tutorials. The Geography Course Handbook and individual Module Guides provide students with information on **ILS support, Study**

Skills Advice Sheets, work placement opportunities, and the range of student services available (e.g. the Disability and Dyslexia service).

<https://www2.worc.ac.uk/firstpoint/>

<https://www2.worc.ac.uk/disabilityanddyslexia/>

- Geography students also have access to a range of specialist resources including the **GIS, Mapping and Visualization Suite, GPS equipment, and hydrological and meteorological monitoring equipment.**

18. Admissions Policy

The University aims to be accessible; it is committed to widening participation and encouraging diversity in the student population. The School of Science and the Environment works closely with central student support services, including the Admissions Office, to support students from a variety of backgrounds. We actively encourage and welcome people from the widest range of economic and cultural backgrounds, and value the contribution of mature learners.

Entry Requirements

The normal minimum entry requirement for undergraduate degree courses is the possession of 4 GCSEs (Grade C/4 or above) and a minimum of 2 A Levels (or equivalent Level 3 qualifications).

The current UCAS Tariff requirements for entry to this course are published in the prospectus and on the UW website <https://www.worc.ac.uk/journey/a-z-of-courses.html>

See [Admissions Policy](#) for other acceptable qualifications.

International students may apply for this course through the University of Worcester International College (UWIC) programme. Students who successfully complete UWIC Stage 1 will progress to UWIC Stage 2 Integrated Level 4 Programme, which involves completing 120 credits of University of Worcester modules as set out in the Award Map in Section 15, plus a year-long study skills programme with UWIC. Students will be required to successfully complete the UWIC study skills programme in addition to meeting the University requirements for progression to Level 5.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) requirements

A satisfactory DBS may be required if a placement/WBL experience is a required element of the course.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Details of acceptable level 3 qualifications, policy in relation to mature students or applicants with few or no formal qualifications can be found in the prospectus or on the University webpages. Information on eligibility for recognition of prior learning for the purposes of entry or advanced standing is also available from the University webpages or from the Registry Admissions Office (01905 855111).

Further information on Recognition of Prior Learning can be found at <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/registryservices/941.htm>

Admissions Procedures

Full-time applicants apply through UCAS (BSc Physical Geography – F800)

Part-time applicants apply directly to the University of Worcester.

F805 BSc (Hons) Physical Geography with International Year Abroad

Applications are reviewed by the Admissions Tutor. All successful applicants will be required to attend and interview at the University. The decision to offer a place will be based on a candidate's ability to demonstrate enthusiasm for the subject, commitment to study and the academic ability to succeed on

the Course. Students with few or no formal qualifications will be set an essay to write and invited to interview, as part of the Admissions process.

Admissions / Selection Criteria

The Admissions Tutors will pay particular attention to personal statements as well as predicted grades. In particular, they will be looking for evidence of an interest in the subject and a clear explanation as to why the student is keen to pursue Geography at degree level.

19. Regulation of assessment

The course operates under the University's Taught Courses Regulatory Framework

Requirements to pass modules

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in module specifications. Assessments are aligned to Learning Outcomes.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- A student is required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

Submission of assessment items

- A student who submits course work late but within 7 days (one week) of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- A student who submits work later than 7 days (one week) will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations please see the Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

Retrieval of failure

- A student is entitled to re-sit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade.
- Reassessment items that are passed are capped at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module (or, in some circumstances, take an alternative module); the module grade for a re-taken module is capped at D-.
- A student will be notified of the reassessment opportunities in the results notification issued via the secure student portal (SOLE). It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and comply with any reassessments.

Requirements for Progression

- A student will be permitted to progress from Level 4 to Level 5 if, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 4. Outstanding Level 4 credits must normally be studied in the following academic year.
- A student will be permitted to progress from Level 5 to Level 6 if, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, they have passed at least 210 credits, including 90 credits at Level 5. Outstanding Level 5 credits must normally be studied in the following academic year.
- A student who, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, has failed 90 credits or more (after exhausting all reassessment opportunities) during the academic year will have their registration with the University terminated.
- If a student has not passed 90 credits by the reassessment Board of Examiners, the student is not permitted to progress to the next level and will be required to either complete outstanding

reassessment or retake the failed modules the following academic year. Students will be able to carry forward any passed modules.

- For students following the UWIC pathway see section 18 above.

Requirements for Awards

Award	Requirement
Certificate of Higher Education Cert HE Physical Geography	In order to be eligible for the exit award of Certificate in Higher Education in the named subject/area of study, a student must have passed at least 120 credits in total including the mandatory modules for Level 4 of the award as specified on the award map.
Diploma of Higher Education DipHE Physical Geography	In order to be eligible for the exit award of Diploma in Higher Education in the named subject/area of study, a student must have passed at least 240 credits in total including the mandatory modules for Level 4 and Level 5 of the award as specified on the award map.
Degree (non-honours)	Passed a minimum of 300 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6, including the mandatory modules for Level 5 and Level 6 of the award (not the Dissertation/Project module) as specified on the award map.
Degree with honours	Passed a minimum of 360 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6, as specified on the award map.

Classification

The honours classification will be determined by whichever of the following two methods results in the higher classification.

- Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 60 credits attained at Level 5 and the best grades from 120 credits at Level 6. Level 5 and Level 6 grades count equally in the profile.
- Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 120 credits attained at Level 6 only

For further information on honours degree classification, see the [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#).

20. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers

Graduate destinations

Geography equips students with a wide range of skills and knowledge relevant to the world of work. Careers for Geography Graduates include:

- Cartographer
- Chartered Surveyor
- Community Worker
- Distribution/Logistics Manager
- Environmental Consultant
- GIS Manager

- Hydrologist
- Local Government Officer
- Nature Conservation Officer
- Remote Sensing Scientist
- Retail Manager
- Teacher
- Tourism Officer
- Town Planner

Student employability

Geography at the University of Worcester has repeatedly been commended by External Examiners for the emphasis it places on employability skills.

Central to this has been a commitment to experiential learning through providing students the opportunity to develop their practical skills through local and residential fieldwork, and ICT skills at all levels of study. In addition to gaining practical experience of using specialised equipment and facilities, geography students also engage in a range of problem-solving, role-play and research activities based on 'real world' issues (many of which have a direct link with staff research and consultancy interests and experience). Moreover, module assessments (e.g. consultancy reports, development plans, mock planning enquiry, oral presentations) simulate many of the needs of graduate employers and hence equip students with the skills and experiences required for the workplace.

The Employable Worcester Graduate Framework, in which students are encouraged throughout their course to reflect on employability, personal development and the process of learning itself, is central to teaching and learning activities at all levels of the geography programme. The Geography Academic Tutorial Programme in particular, encourages students to engage in reflective practice and personal development planning, and critically seeks to work with students to identify how their skills and experiences at university translate into assets for employability. Furthermore, with many employers now expecting extracurricular or voluntary experience, this can prove vital. Geography students are actively encouraged to participate in the Worcester Award Scheme which is run at University level.

Links with employers

The Geography team have extensive links with local, national and international external organisations and employers. These links help enhance the learning experience for students through the provision of specialist knowledge and resources; many modules incorporate 'guest lectures' from practitioners or give students an opportunity to network with potential employers during seminars or conferences). Careers advice is also embedded in the curriculum at all three levels. In Level 4, students are introduced to the Careers Service in GEOG1301 Geographical Investigations. This is followed up in GEOG2310 Geographical Information Systems and Research Methods, with a more substantial careers session focusing on the significance of research skills for geography careers. Students can also elect to take a professional placement module (GEOG3212) at Level 6 that provides an explicit opportunity to gain direct experience of a professional working environment.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in associated course documentation e.g. course handbooks, module outlines and module specifications.

Award Map for BSc (Hons) Physical Geography

Table 6 award map for level 4 BSc (Hons) Physical Geography

Course Title: BSc Physical Geography					
Level 4 BSc Physical Geography					
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M), or Optional (O))	Pre- requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes
			Single Hons		
GEOG1301	Geographical Investigations	30	M	-	-
GEOG1310	Dynamic Earth	30	M	-	-
GEOG1311	Risk and Resilience	30	M	-	-
SUST1001	Introduction to Sustainability	30	M	-	-

Single Honours Requirements at Level 4

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total drawn from the mandatory modules GEOG 1301, GEOG1310, GEOG 1311 and SUST1001.

Table 8 award map for level 5 BSc (Hons) Physical Geography

Level 5 BSc Physical Geography					
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional* (O))	Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes
			SH		
GEOG2300	Geography Residential Field Course	15	M	-	-
GEOG2310	Geographical Information Systems and Research Methods	30	M	-	-
GEOG2320	The Physical Geography of Mountain Environments	30	M	-	-
GEOG2321	Meteorology and Climate	15	O	-	-
GEOG2322	River Monitoring and Assessment	15	O	-	-
GEOG2323	Natural Hazards	15	O	-	-
GEOG2337	Climate Change: Science and Policy	15	O	-	-
GEOG2420	River Conservation and Management	15	O	-	Exclusion: GEOG3320
LANGxxxx	Optional modules offered by the Language Centre	15/30	O	-	-

NB* Note that optional modules are only available in specific semesters

Single Honours Requirements at Level 5

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total drawn from the table above to include all mandatory modules, GEOG2300, GEOG2310, GEOG2320, and optional modules - which can include up to 30 credits drawn from a range of Language Centre modules in: Academic English for native and non-native speakers of English; Modern Foreign Languages; and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). Details of the available Language Centre modules can be found on the Language Centre website: <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/your-home/language-centre-module-options.html>

Table 9 award map for Level 5 BSc (Hons) Physical Geography with International Year Abroad

Course Title: BSc (Hons) Physical Geography with International Year Abroad					
Level 5					
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M), or Optional (O))	Pre- requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes
			Single Hons		
GEOG3000	International Year Abroad	0	M	-	-

Single Honours Requirements at Level 5

Single Honours students taking the BSc (Hons) Physical Geography with International Year Abroad will need to take the mandatory Third Year International Year Abroad Module between Levels 5 and 6. Please Note: Students on Tier 4 visas must ensure that they remain compliant with UKVI regulations on attendance and engagement if they take up an opportunity to study abroad.

Table 10 award map for level 6 BSc (Hons) Physical Geography

Level 6 BSc Physical Geography					
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional* (O))	Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes
			SH		
PGEO3002	Dissertation in Physical Geography	30	M	GEOG2310	Exclusions: GEOG3002 Dissertation and HGEO3002 Dissertation in Human Geography
GEOG3310	Mountain Environments Field Course	15	M	GEOG2320	-
GEOG3312	Professional Placement for Geographers	15	O	-	-
GEOG3314	Earth Observation and GIS Applications	15	O	-	-
GEOG3320	River Conservation and Management	15	O	-	Exclusion: GEOG2420
GEOG3322	Environmental Geology	15	O	-	-
GEOG3323	Mountain Glaciers and Landscape	15	O	-	-
GEOG3324	Quaternary Climate and Environmental Change	15	O	-	-
GEOG3421	Meteorology and Climate	15	O	-	Exclusion: GEOG2321 and GEOG2521
ENVS3113	Atmospheric Processes and Pollution	15	O	GEOG2321	-

NB* Note that optional modules are only available in specific semesters

Single Honours Requirements at Level 6

Single Honours students must take 120 credits from the table above to include: (i) PGEO3002; and (ii) GEOG3310.

References

QAA (2019) Subject Benchmark Statement Geography. The Quality Assurance Agency for UK Higher Education (QAA). https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-geography.pdf?sfvrsn=4ae2cb81_4