

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	BSc Geography (Level 6)
Name and title of any interim exit qualification(s)	Dip HE, Cert HE, Certificate of Continuing Education
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year?	Yes
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Social Sciences
Location of delivery	Central London/field locations.
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 FY (4 years) /Part-time with FY (6 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Geography
UCAS code	F840; F84F (with Foundation Year)
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBSGEOG_C (Full-time, 3 years) UBSGEOGY_C (Part-time, 4 years) UUBFGEOG_C (Full-time with FY, 4 years) UBFGEOGY_C (Part-time with FY, 6 years)
HECoS Code	100409
Start date of programme	Prior to 2008/9
Date of programme approval	Prior to 2008/9
Date of last programme amendment approval	July 2023
Valid for academic entry year	2023-24
Date of last revision to document	28/4/2025

Admissions requirements

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.

UCAS tariff: 96-128 (48 with Foundation Year)

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.

Course aims

The BSc Geography aims 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:

- 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
- 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
- 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.

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.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Comp	T3
4	SSPA162S4	Global Societies	30	Comp	T2
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Comp	T1
4	SSGE027S4	Mapping our World* (Introduction to Spatial Thinking)	30	Comp	T2
Year 2					
5	GGPH060S5	European Society, Economy and Geography	30	Comp	T2
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp	T1
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	Comp	T1-2
5		Geography or college-wide option	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
Year 3					
6	GGPH073D6	Research Project OR Literature Review	60 Or	Comp	n/a
6	GGPH067S6		30	Comp	
6		Geography options (either 2 x 30 or 3 x 30 credits) – 30 credits of these may be taken as college-wide option	60 or 90	Options	T1, 2 or 3
Part Time – 4 years					
Year 1					
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Comp	T3
4	SSPA162S4	Global Societies	30	Comp	T2
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Comp	T1
Year 2					
4	SSGE027S4	Mapping our World	30	Comp	T2
5	GGPH060S5	European Society, Economy and Geography	30	Comp	T2
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp	T1
Year 3					
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	Comp	T1-2
5		Geography or college-wide option	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
6		Geography option	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
Year 4					
6	GGPH073D6	Research Project OR Literature Review	60 Or	Comp	n/a
6	GGPH067S6		30	Comp	
6		Geography option (s) – 30 credits may be taken as college-wide option	30 or 60	Option(s)	T1, 2 or 3

Full-time with Foundation Year – 4 years					
Foundation Year (0)					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	T1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	T2-3
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders	30	Core	T1
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Option	T2-3
4		OR Level 4 Language module	30		T1-3
Year 1					
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Comp	T3
4	SSPA162S4	Global Societies	30	Comp	T2
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Comp	T1
4	SSGE027S4	Mapping our World*	30	Comp	T2
Year 2					
5	SC05005S5	Critical Social Geographies	30	Comp	T2
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp	T1
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	Comp	T1-2
5		Geography or college-wide option	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
Year 3					
6	GGPH073D6	Research Project OR Literature	60 Or	Comp	n/a
6	GGPH067S6	Review	30	Comp	
6		Geography options (either 2 x 30 or 3 x 30 credits) – 30 credits of these may be taken as college-wide option	60 or 90	Options	T1, 2 or 3
Part-time with Foundation Year – 6 years					
Foundation Year (0A)					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	T1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	T2-3
Foundation Year (0B)					
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders	30	Core	T1
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Option	T2-3
3		OR Level 4 Language module	30		T1-3
Year 1					
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Comp	T3
4	SSPA162S4	Global Societies	30	Comp	T2
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Comp	T1
Year 2					
4	SSGE027S4	Mapping our World	30	Comp	T1-3
5	SC05005S5	Critical Social Geographies	30	Comp	T2
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp	T1
Year 3					
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	Comp	T1-2
5		Geography or college-wide option	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
6		Geography option	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3

Year 4					
6	GGPH073D6	Research Project OR	60 Or	Comp	n/a
6	GGPH067S6	Literature Review	30	Comp	
6		Geography option (s) – 30 credits may be taken as college-wide option	30 or 60	Option(s)	T1, 2 or 3

Indicative list of option modules:

Level 5:

SSGE123S5 Future food systems and sustainability

SSGE099S5 Geographies of Revolt : movements, uprisings and social transformation

SSGE084S5 Managing Environments

SSGE124S5 Borders, Migration and Development

Level 6:

GGPH036S6 - Principles of Geographical Information Systems

SSGE095S6 - Global Nature Conservation

SSGE006S6 - Race, Environment and International Development

SSGE125S6– Climate and Society: past, present and future

SSGE093S6 Cities in the Global South

BA Human Geography Exit award for students who started prior to 2023/4 only

To qualify for this exit award you will have taken the common level 4 modules Global Societies, Introducing Natural Environments, Humans and Environment, Mapping our World. You will also have taken European Society, Economy and Geography. You must select your level 6 options from **Migration and International Development, Race Environment and International Development, Globalisation, Cities in the Global South**, or as approved by the programme director.

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.

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.

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. We use a variety of assessment methods. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

Short written exercises, 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 or in the field), case studies, problems to solve.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

Foundation Year:

By the end of the foundation year, students will be able to:

1. Articulate at a foundational level key concepts in some of the disciplines offered by the School of Social Science, History and Philosophy.
2. Undertake academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of those disciplines
3. Understand other key learning skills required for university-level study and know of how to access support at Birkbeck to develop these.

BSc Geography Degree:

Through studying for the BSc Geography you will

- gain a high level of skills training in GIS, environmental modelling, data acquisition and manipulation, and qualitative research methods.
- be able to carry out your own research and will have gained experience in presenting findings to others
- have developed critical thought regarding spatial dimensions of social and environmental issues.

The course also provides a range of options allowing you to mix a variety of topic areas and undertake your own research project.

Careers and further study

You will find Geography graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- Environmental Conservation Officers
- Senior Environmental Management
- Planning roles in a range of settings and organisations
- Geographical Education

Birkbeck's BSc Geography graduates will complete with a set of valuable attributes, for example:

- The ability to work as part of a team
- High-level oral and written communication skills in English
- Independent research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing types of information and data
- The ability to present yourself and develop an argument

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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