BSc Geography and Economics (Regional Science) **UCAS code: LL17**
For students entering Part 1 in 2013/4

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Geography, Economics
Faculty:	Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	29/Jul/2014
Programme Director:	Dr Steve Musson
Programme Advisor:	Dr Simon Burke
Board of Studies:	Geography and Environmental Science
Accreditation:	None

Summary of programme aims
The programme aims to provide undergraduate students with both subject-specific knowledge (in the two disciplines involved) and general skills. It aims:

- To give students a thorough insight into the importance of a geographic perspective on human processes, including the interaction of processes operating at global, regional and local scales;
- To develop an understanding of the working of economic processes of production and exchange and its applicability to a wide range of different situations;
- To impart knowledge of the theory and practice of both economics and human geography, together with an ability to integrate their perspectives;
- To encourage students to make appropriate use of theories and research findings from the social sciences in understanding spatial phenomena
- To develop students' skills in applying theoretical concepts, knowledge and philosophies to the understanding of particular environments, spatial differences and to decision-making
- To develop an understanding of the interaction between various types of social and economic processes in urban, regional and international systems.

The programme aims to produce graduates with subject-specific skills and knowledge in both Economics and Geography with a particular emphasis on understanding issues of urban and regional development. An important feature of the degree is its emphasis on the critical comparison and integration of material and perspectives from the two disciplines.

Transferable skills
During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.
By the end of the programme students should also have acquired: critical and analytical skills; a basic competence in empirical research; an ability to place issues in a wider context, to make connections between apparently disparate events and issues, and to handle alternative ways of understanding particular situations; an ability to relate theoretical knowledge and ideas to practical real-world situations; writing, reasoning, verbal and presentation skills, and specific technical skills, such as computing, word-processing and statistics.

Programme content
The profile which follows states which modules are compulsory, together with lists of optional modules from which the student must make a selection in consultation with their programme adviser.
Students must take a combination of compulsory and optional modules making a total of 120 credits in each Part of the programme. The number of credits for each module is shown after its title.
In Part 1 students may take all their modules in Geography and Economics or opt to take 20 credits from modules in other departments.
In Part 2 students take a combination of core compulsory and optional modules. Part 3 students write a dissertation (40 credits) and select from a list of modules that are approved each year. The actual list of modules available may vary from year to year according to staffing.

Part 1 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Compulsory modules (you must take 100 credits)

Code	*Module title*	*Credits*	*Level*
EC101	Principles of Microeconomics	20	4
EC102	Principles of Macroeconomics	20	4
GV1BOO	Geographies of Boom and Bust	10	4
GV1ENV	Environment and Development	10	4
GV1SN	Society and Nature	10	4
And either			
GV1GT	Geographical Techniques	20	5
Or			
EC105	Introductory Qualitative Techniques	20	5
And either			
EC108	Mathematics for Economics: Introductory Techniques for BA	10	5
Or			
EC109	Mathematics for Economics: Introductory Techniques for BSc	10	5

Optional modules (must total 20 credits)

GV1HUM	Human Geography Practice and Principles	10	5
EC107	Introduction to Economic Instutions and Policy	10	5
EC110	The Economics of Climate Change	10	5
EC111	Economic Policy and Social Problems	10	5

Part 2 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Code	*Module title*	*Credits*	*Level*
GV2CDS	Career Development Skills	10	5
EC219	Economic Analysis	20	5

And either

GV2FH	Human Geography Field Class	20	5
Or			
GV2FC	Crete Field Class	20	5
Or			
GV2FC2	Crete September Field Class	20	5

Optional Modules (must total 20 credits)

GV2CIP	Culture, Identity and Place	10	5
GV2GRO	Growth, Degrowth and Sustainability	10	5
GV2H1	Geographies of Development	10	5
GV2ER	Energy Resources	10	5
GV2WP	Web Page Development	10	5
GV2SDA	Spatial Data in the Digital Age	10	5

Students must select 40 credits from the following core Economics modules:

EC238	Economics of Social Policy	20	5
EC242	Economics of the Environment and Energy	20	5
EC243	Economic History	20	5

Either			
EC203	Introductory Econometrics (BA) [for students who took EC108 in Part 1]	20	5
or			
EC225	Introductory Econometrics (BSc) [for students who took EC109 in Part 1]	20	5

Year abroad/Year away/Additional year (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Compulsory modules (you must take all 50 credits)

GV2CDS	Careets / Placements Module	10	5
EC219	Economic Analysis	20	5
And either			
GV2FH	Human Geography Field Class	20	5
Or			
GV2FC	Crete June Field Class	20	5
Or			
GV2FC2	Crete September Field Class	20	5

Core modules (you must choose 40 credits)

EC242	Economics of the Environment and Energy	20
EC243	Economic History	20
EC238	Economics of Social Policy	20
Either		
EC203	Introductory Econometrics (for students who took EC108)	20
Or		
EC225	Introductory Econometrics (for students who took EC109)	20

Optional modules (must total 30 credits)

GV2CIP	*Culture, Identity and Place*	*10*	*5*
GV2GRO	*Growth, Degrowth and Sustainability*	*10*	*5*
GV2HI	*Geographies of Development*	*10*	*5*
GV2ER	*Energy Resources*	*10*	*5*
GV2WP	*Web Page Development*	*10*	*5*
GG2GIS	*GIS and DIgital Cartography*	*10*	*5*

Part 3 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Code	*Module title*	*Credits*	*Level*
GV3GED	Geography and Environmental Science Dissertation	40	6
EC324	European Urban and Regional Economics	20	6

Optional modules to be chosen from either Geography or Economics to total 60 credits

GV321	Work, Employment and Development	20	6
GVRSD	Resilience for Sustainable Development	20	6
GV3NRR	Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration	20	6
GV3GCY	Geographies of Children and Youth	20	6
GV362	Water Resources	20	6
GV3CGS	Consumption, Globalisation and Sustainability	20	6
GV3CPJ	International Climate Politics and Justice	20	6

GV3SET	Social-Ecological Transformations: Theories and Case Studies	20	6
GV3ER1	ERASMUS Exchange Programme	20	6
GV3ER2	ERASMUS Exchange Programme	20	6
GV3ER3	ERASMUS Exchange Programme	20	6
GV3ER4	ERASMUS Exchange Programme	20	6

EC308	Business Economics	20	6
EC311	International Economics	20	6
EC314	Public Economics	20	6
EC315	History of Economic Thought	20	6
EC316	European Economic Integration	20	6
EC320	Money & Banking	20	6
EC328	Economics of Land Development & Planning	20	6
EC337	Processes of Long Term Political & Economic Change	20	6
EC339	Microeconomics for Developing Countries	20	6
EC342	Macroeconomics for Developing Countries	20	6
EC344	Banking in Emerging Economies	20	6
EC345	Business & Management in Emerging Markets	20	6

Part 4 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Compulsory modules (you must take all 80 credits)

GV3D	Dissertation	40	6
GV375	Case Studies in Regional Science	20	6
EC324	European Urban and Regional Economics	20	6

Optional modules (must total 40 credits)

GV321	Work, Employment and Development	20	6
GV3RSD	Resiliance for Sustainable Development	20	6
GV3NRR	Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration	20	6
GV344	Culture and Development in Africa	20	6
GV362	Water Resources	20	6
EC308	Business Economics	20	6
EC311	International Economics	20	6
EC312	Economics of Development	20	6
EC314	Public Economics	20	6
EC315	History of Economic Thought	20	6
EC316	European Economic Integration	20	6
EC320	Money and Banking	20	6
EC322	Economics of Labour	20	6
EC328	Economics of Land, Development and Planning	20	6
EC334	Environmental Economics	20	6
GV3ER1	ERASMUS Exchange Programme	20	6
GV3ER2	ERASMUS Exchange Programme	20	6
GV3ER3	ERASMUS Exchange Programme	20	6
GV3ER4	ERASMUS Exchange Programme	20	6

Progression requirements
To be considered to have achieved a threshold performance at Part 1 a student shall normally be required to:

- Achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at level 4 or above; and
- Achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1.

To progress from Part 1 to Part 2, students shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:
(i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
(ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
(iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.
In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance

Assessment and classification
The University's honours classification scheme is:

Mark	*Interpretation*
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

Three-year programmes
Part 2 one-third
Part 3 two-thirds

Teaching is organised in modules which typically involve both lectures and either tutorials/seminars or practicals. Modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. The Part 3 optional dissertation, however, is run as a series of tutorials with an individual supervisor, and is assessed only as coursework.

Admission requirements
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:
Grade C or better in English Language and Mathematics in GCSE/O Level (B prefered in Mathematics)
ABB from three A levels including geography
International Baccalaureate: 32 points including 5 in Geography

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBBB

We welcome deferred-entry applications from those wanting to take a gap year between school and university, and from mature students and students with special needs, for whom we may take a broader view of entry requirements. For those with special needs we are happy, when necessary, to take a flexible approach to field-work and practical work requirements, and to make appropriate arrangements for note taking and examinations.

Admissions Tutor: Dr G. Griffiths

Support for students and their learning
University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the

Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

Career learning

Career prospects
Geography and Economics graduates have the broad measure of literacy, numeracy and 'graphicacy' characteristic of geographers, together with a firm understanding of economic principles and processes. Together with the computing knowledge that is also gained, these open up a wide variety of careers. These include accountancy, computer work, management posts in business and industry, banking, insurance and retailing. Some Geography and Economics graduates wish to pursue a career making direct use of their degree study. This can be in central and local government and in firms engaged in economic development consultancy and similar work, as well as in postgraduate study and teaching.

Opportunities for study abroad
As part of the degree programme students have the opportunity to study abroad at an institution with which the University has a valid agreement. This includes opportunities enabled by the ERASMUS European exchange scheme to a range of partner Universities in the European Union. The University of Reading also has bilateral arrangements for student exchange with Universities outside the European Union. In both cases, students normally spend one term of Part 3 studying abroad, gaining credit that will contribute to their final degree classification. Exceptionally, and subject to such opportunities being offered by partner Universities, students may spend one year on a study abroad placement, between Parts 2 and 3 of their degree. In this case, students do not gain credit that will contribute to their final degree classification. Students wishing to study abroad for any period of time during their degree are advised to contact the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science Placements Officer at the earliest opportunity.

Placement opportunities
This degree programme offers placement opportunities for students. In collaboration with the Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre, we support students who wish to arrange their own placements during their degree programme. These may range in duration from short-term placements carried out alongside teaching, to one-year full time placements, usually taken between Parts 2 and 3 of the degree programme. Established opportunities include the University of Reading UROP scheme, where students work alongside research staff during the summer vacation. Students also act as Community Service Volunteers, and as Royal Geographical Society Geography Ambassadors, who visit local schools as part of the AIM Higher scheme. It is also possible to use the ERASMUS European exchange scheme to undertake a work placement in another European country. Students may draw directly on staff contacts, or call upon the knowledge of possible opportunities gained by working with similar organisations. Students are encouraged to incorporate their placements into their undergraduate dissertations where appropriate. The School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science offers placement bursaries to students to support travel, accommodation and other expenses. Students wishing to undertake a placement for any period of time during their degree are advised to contact the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science Placements Officer at the earliest opportunity.

Programme Outcomes
The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Economic processes of production and exchange 2. The fundamental concepts and techniques of microeconomics and macroeconomics. 3. Fundamental concepts of human geography such as environment, place, spatial variation, and	Most of the knowledge required for the basic topics is discussed in formal lectures supported by smaller group discussions on set questions. At Part 2 knowledge is also gained through a field

representation of landscape and environment
4. Geographic perspectives on social processes and their interaction at global, regional and local scales.
5. Interaction between social and economic processes in urban, regional and international systems
6. Theory and practice in economics and human geography and the potential for their integration.

class and practical work.

In Part 3 the specialised option modules include writing detailed assessments of set topics, making oral presentations and joining in group discussion.

Assessment
Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and unseen formal examinations. Short tests and oral presentations also contribute.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

1. Think logically
2. Develop a reasoned argument
3. Organise tasks into a structured form
4. Abstract and synthesise information
5. Critically judge and evaluate evidence
6. Assess the merits of contrasting theories, explanations and policies
7. Transfer appropriate techniques and knowledge from one subject area to another
8. Organise and reflect upon their own learning
9. Recognise the moral and ethical issues involved in academic and policy debates.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The need to think logically and analytically permeates the compulsory modules in the course. Skills 2-7 are developed in essay writing, and continuously assessed project work and the dissertation. 8 is developed throughout the entire programme. 9 is developed both in discussion groups, readings and written work.

The more specialist topics provide many opportunities to apply and develop these skills through the analysis of a range of problems in a wide variety of contexts.

Assessment
1-5 are covered extensively in the core modules; 6-8 are given wide scope in the optional modules.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

1. Present a chain of reasoning
2. Apply theoretical concepts and knowledge to the understanding of particular environments and spatial differences and to decision-making
3. Using a variety of techniques and principles, analyse economic and geographic problems
4. Evaluate policies from an economic and geographic standpoint
5. Communicate both orally and in writing critical analyses of economic, geographic and environmental issues
6. Plan, organise and write a report on an independent project

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The core subjects in economics concentrate on formal economic reasoning. Problem solving forms an important part of class work especially in Parts 2 and 3.

In geography the ability to use all these skills is developed through essay writing, practicals, field work and small group discussions.

In both disciplines the specialised options involve writing detailed assessments of set topics.

Assessment
All skills are tested through a combination of coursework, including both problem solving and essays, and through unseen examinations. 6 is assessed directly by means of the large number of essays prepared in Parts 1, 2 and 3. It is also assessed in a Part 2 project and the dissertation.

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

1. Use IT (word-processing, spreadsheets databases, email and www))
2. Apply skills of numeracy, graphicity and computation to data analysis

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The use of IT is initiated in the Part 1 IT and Statistics module and further developed in the Part 2 Geographical Techniques module. Word processing is required throughout the Part 2 and 3 course

3. Communicate ideas in a logical way in both writing and speech 4. Give oral presentations 5. Contribute to group discussions of an economic or geographic problem 6. Use library resources both on- and off-line 7. Manage time 8. Plan career strategy	modules Seminars in Parts 2 and 3 involve group discussions and oral presentations. Part 2 work includes preparation of a group project Library and internet resources have to be used continuously in the preparation of essays and project work The highly structured system of deadlines for assessed work requires good time management Career planning is taught through lectures and self paced computer-based assignments as well as one-to-one meetings with career staff. *Assessment* IT skills are assessed directly at Part I. Most skills are tested indirectly through the preparation of course and project work.

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 he/she 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 the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.