

BSc in Environmental Management
For students entering Part 1 in 2014/5

UCAS code: F750

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences Earth sciences, environmental sciences and environmental studies
Faculty:	Life Sciences Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	03/Jun/2016
Programme Director:	Dr Simon Mortimer
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Agriculture, Policy and Development
Accreditation:	In discussion with the Landscape Institute and the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to:

- provide a grounding in the components of natural and managed environments and the interactions between them;
- allow students to develop skills in the acquisition of environmental information and the analysis and presentation of data;
- develop a sound understanding of environmental issues relating to land management and other human activities and their underlying socio-economic drivers;
- promote an interdisciplinary approach to the formulation of appropriate management strategies to address environmental problems.

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 developing abilities and analytical skills as self-motivated, autonomous learners developing graduate skills adequate for professional and life situations, including career management, time management and communication (written and oral) developing competencies in information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working, use of Information Technology, use of information sources, and business awareness developing life and employability skills and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Programme content

The programme comprises a mix of compulsory modules, together with two pathways and a range of optional modules from which students can choose. The compulsory modules will ensure that all students gain foundational knowledge of the components of natural and managed environments, environmental issues relating to land management and other human activities and their underlying socio-economic drivers.

Two pathways exist:

- *Landscape and Countryside Management*
- *Global Environmental Management*

Students select either 1) a pathway and then further modules from other pathways or optional modules or 2) a combination of modules across pathways and from options. A total of 120 credits are taken in each year, selected with guidance from their tutor or Programme Director. There is the option of doing a Professional Experience placement between parts 2 and 3.

Students are encouraged to follow one pathway (30 credits) but may take a selection of modules across pathways if they wish, with approval of the Programme Director. (However prerequisites of modules later in programme need to be taken into account.).

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

Compulsory modules (70 credits)

Code	Title	Credits	Level
AP1AE15	Ecology and Environmental Management	20	4
AP1AE20	Humans and Environment	10	4
AP1SB1	Introduction to Management	10	4
GV1B1	Introduction to Environmental Science	10	4
RE1SPGW	Sustainability and Prosperity in a Globalising World	20	4
AP1SCP	Career Planning (represents 2.5 credits of AP2AE35)	0	4

Pathway modules (30 credits)

Students are encouraged to follow one pathway (30 credits) but may take a selection of modules across pathways if they wish, with approval of the Programme Director. (However prerequisites of modules later in programme need to be taken into account.)

Landscape and Countryside Management Pathway

Code	Title	Credits	Level
AP1A02	Introduction to Agricultural and Food Systems	10	4
BI1EF2	Ecology: Species and their Interactions	10	4
GV1E1	Soils in the Environment	10	4

Or

Global Environmental Management Pathway

Code	Title	Credits	Level
AP1ED2	International Development: Global and Local Issues	10	4
GV1FHG	Foundation in Human Geography	20	4

Or

Pathway

AP1A02	Introduction to Agricultural and Food Systems	10	4
BI1EF2	Ecology: species and their interactions	10	4
GV1E1	Soils in the Environment	10	4
AP1ED2	International Development: Global and Local Issues	10	4
GV1FHG	Foundation in Human Geography	20	4

Optional modules (20 credits)

These can be selected from one of the other two pathways not selected plus from others such as those listed below subject to timetabling constraints:

Code	Title	Credits	Level
AP1A03	Introduction to Livestock Production Systems	10	4
AP1A12	Introduction to Crop Production	10	4
AP1ED1	International Development: Global and Local Issues	20	4
BI1ED2	Mammals: Diversity, Behaviour & Conservation	10	4
BI1EF3	Practical Field Ecology (LCM pathway only)	10	4
GV1C	Climatology	10	4
GV1D	Hydrology	10	4
GV1F2	Biogeography and Soils (GEM pathway only)	10	4
LA1XX1	Institution-wide Language Programme)	20	4

Part 2 (three terms)*Compulsory modules*

AP2AE45	Methods in Ecology and Environmental Management	20	5
AP2AE30	Landscape and Ecosystem Management	10	5
AP2A59	Nature Conservation	10	5
AP2A61	Experimentation and Data Analysis	10	5
AP2AE35	Career Planning and Professional Practice	10	5
AP2SCP	Career Planning (represents 2.5 credits of AP2AE35)	0	5

Pathways (30 credits)

Students are encouraged to follow one pathway (30 credits) but may take a selection of modules across pathways if they wish, with approval of the Programme Director (however, prerequisites of modules later in programme need to be taken into account).

Landscape and Countryside Management Pathway

Code	Title	Credits	Level
AP2A26	Forestry and Woodlands	10	5
GV2LCC	Loddon Catchment Consultants	20	5

Global Environmental Management Pathway

Code	Title	Credits	Level
GV2BC	Biogeography and Conservation	10	5
GV2ER	Energy Resources	10	5
GV2GRO	Growth, Degrowth and Sustainability	10	5

Optional modules (30 credits)

These can be selected from one of the other two pathways not selected, plus from others such as those listed below subject to timetabling constraints:

Code	Title	Credits	Level
AP2A52*	Practical Wildlife Reserve Management	10	5
AP2A56	Grassland Management & Ecology	10	5
AP2A64	Farm Business Management	20	5
AP2A66	Crop Agronomy	20	5
AP2SB1	Business Management	10	5
AP2SB2	Financial Management	10	5
BI2EX5	Introduction to Entomology	10	5
BI2EY5	Birds: Diversity, Behaviour and Conservation	10	5
GV2P1	Geomorphological Hazards	10	5
GV2P3	Human Activity and Environmental Change	10	5
GV2SDA	Spatial Data in the Digital Age	10	5
LA2XX1	Institution-wide Language Programme	20	5

*this module runs on alternate years only in the Summer vacation at the end of Part 1; please check availability with the module convenor before selecting.

Part 3 (three terms, 120 credits) 2016/17

Students are encouraged to follow one pathway (20 credits) but may take a selection of modules across pathways if they wish, with approval of the Programme Director.

Compulsory modules (60 credits)

Code	Title	Credits	Level
AP3A81	Dissertation	40	6
AP3AE70	Environmental Management in Practice	10	6
AP3AE65	Landscape and Ecosystem Management Fieldcourse 2	10	6

Pathways (30 credits)

Students are encouraged to follow one pathway (20 credits) but may take a selection of modules across pathways if they wish, **with approval of the Programme Director.**

Landscape and Countryside Management Pathway

Code	Title	Credits	Level
AP3AE75	Wildlife and Farming	10	6
RE3RPP	Rural Policy and Planning	20	6

Global Environmental Management Pathway

Code	Title	Credits	Level
AP3A90	Climate Change and Food Systems	10	6
GVRSD	Resilience for Sustainable Development	20	6

Optional modules (30 credits)

These can be selected from one of the other two pathways not selected, plus from others such as those listed below subject to timetabling constraints:

Code	Title	Credits	Level
AP3A45	Agricultural Systems in the Tropics	10	6
AP3A64	Human Resource Management	10	6
AP3A54	Business Management Case Studies	20	6
AP3A89	Water, Agriculture and Irrigation	10	6
AP3A82	Business Planning and Control	20	6
AP3A95*	Practical Wildlife Reserve Management	10	6
AP3A99	Plants, Greenspace and Urban Sustainability	10	6
AP3A102	Integrated Pest Management	20	6
AP3AE80	Ecosystem Services	10	6
B13EF7	Urban Ecology	10	6
B13EW8	Conservation Biology	20	6
B13EM7	Plants, Animals and Climate Change	10	6
B13EP7	Wildlife Diseases	10	6
GV317	Carbon and Global Change	10	6
GV362	Water Resources	20	6
GV3AP	Air Pollution: Effects and Control	20	6
GV3CPS	Consumption, Politics and Space	20	6
GV3DLE	Dryland Environments	20	6
GV3EDL	Environment and Development in Latin America	20	6
GVESM	Ecosystem Modelling	20	6
GV3EVP	Environmental Pollution	10	6
GV3PFF	Preparing for Floods	20	6
RE3WRM	Woodland Resource Management	10	6

*this module runs on alternate years only in the Summer vacation at the end of Part 2; please check availability with the module convenor before selecting. Students cannot select if they have already taken as AP2A52.

Progression requirements

To gain 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 and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2 of this programme a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1 and achieve a credit weighted average mark of not less than 40% over the compulsory modules and a mark of not less than 30% in each compulsory module.

If you gain a threshold performance at Part 1 and do not proceed to achieve a higher award, you are eligible to receive the award of Certificate of Higher Education. The Part 1 Examination does not contribute to the classification of your degree.

The Part 2 Examination is used to assess a student's suitability to proceed to Part 3 of their programme. It also determines eligibility for the Diploma of Higher Education.

In addition, the marks achieved in the Part 2 Examination contribute to the classification of your degree.

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, student must achieve a threshold performance at Part 2.

If you gain a threshold performance at Part 2 and do not proceed to achieve a higher award, you are eligible to receive the award of Diploma of Higher Education.

The classification of the degree will normally be based on the marks for Part 2 and Part 3 modules, weighted in a ratio of 1:2. Full details of classification conventions (that is, the rules for determining your final degree award) can be found in your Programme Handbook.

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:
<http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx>

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade C or better in English and Maths, and in Biology or Chemistry (or Combined Science) GCSE (or equivalent qualification); and achieved:

A minimum UCAS Tariff score of BBB/ABC from three A Levels (Geography and/or Biology preferred); or equivalent in International Baccalaureate, Scottish Highers, Irish Leaving Certificate, etc.

HND Candidates who have achieved good results can be exempted from the first year of the course allowing them to obtain an Honours degree in two years. BTEC and OND applicants with good results will be considered, as will mature applicants with unconventional qualifications.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Simon Mortimer

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-session 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

The Programme Director can offer advice on choice of modules within the Programme. The School's Placement Co-ordinator can offer advice on short-term and one-year placements and help in finding a placement provider.

All students should ensure they access the online 'Programme Handbook' at the beginning of the degree which includes a detailed outline of the Programme, its constituent modules and assessment guidelines. Day-to-day queries regarding academic matters (e.g. timetabling) should be addressed in the first instance to the School Student Office or, where necessary, the Programme Director.

Career learning

Career learning is facilitated by a Career Planning and Professional Practice (CPPP) module that encourages students to take an early proactive approach to career choice and enhancing employability. It is also embedded in a range of other modules within the degree. The CPPP module aims to improve self-awareness in the context of career decision making, knowledge of the career opportunities available to you and the skills required to make effective applications. All students prepare a Career Planning Portfolio which includes an action plan to gain relevant work experience and to manage the process towards applying for a specific career. During Part 1 the emphasis is on supporting you to apply for work experience placements while in Part 2 the focus shifts towards applications for graduate level positions. Before the conclusion of your degree it is intended that you will have a vision of your preferred career path, your 'career brand'; and how to communicate this in the job application process - from CVs through to interviews and assessments centres.

Career prospects

Students on this course are expected to go on to a wide variety of careers, predominantly but not exclusively connected with the management of the environment. These include advisers and practical managers in governmental organisations such as Natural England, Environment Agency and local authorities; in non-governmental organisations such as the Wildlife Trusts, RSPB and the National Trust; or in environmental or ecological consultancy in the private sector. The course is also suited to those who wish to pursue further study for careers in the management of land in the private sector, for example through estate management. Graduates who take the Landscape & Countryside Management pathway are likely to be in demand given the increased emphasis placed on the role and management of rural land for a wide range of purposes and the development of an 'ecosystem' approach to land management policy. Graduates who take the Global Environmental Management pathway will be well placed to work in consultancy, as advisors or policy specialists in the field of sustainability and environmental management.

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 in Part 3 of a 4 year programme subject to discussion with the Programme Director, in the first instance. A place is not guaranteed by this.

The School encourages students, provided they have passed Part 2, to consider this option.

Placement opportunities

This degree programme offers you the opportunity to undertake a one year Professional Experience Placement following the second year at Reading. This is an excellent opportunity to gain work experience in an area of employment directly or indirectly linked to your degree programme and your future career path. During the first 2 years of your degree programme you'll develop a thorough knowledge of your degree subject which can then be applied in an industry-specific setting in your 3rd year placement, before returning to University for your fourth and final year.

Though many placement opportunities are advertised, we also encourage you to network directly with other employers that you are interested in to approach them about offering you a placement.

Whether you're thinking about doing a placement or you've already decided, there is lots of help and support available to you. We have a Career Planning module running through Part 1 and Part 2 complemented by a range of career workshops and employer events organised by the Careers, Experience and Employment Centre including CV checking, mock interviews and assessment centres. A dedicated Placement Officer in the School will support you throughout all aspects of your placement search and application process and provide continued support whilst on your placement year. We also encourage and support all students to consider shorter work experience opportunities during vacation periods.

As you are currently enrolled on the 3 year degree you will need to change your status to the 4 year programme if you decide that a placement year is for you. Your programme director will be able to help you with this.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

- the components of natural and managed environments and the interactions between them
- methods and techniques for assessing, monitoring or studying the above
- environmental issues relating to land management and other human activities and their underlying socio-economic drivers
- interdisciplinary approaches to the formulation of appropriate management strategies to address environmental problems
- professional practice in the area of environmental management

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Knowledge is gained through a combination of lectures, fieldwork and individual and group project work. Compulsory modules ensure that knowledge is built on progressively throughout the course. Students can specialise in Landscape & Countryside Management or Global Environmental Management through their choice of pathways and optional modules.

Assessment

Most knowledge is tested by coursework (including project work) and formal examination. Presentations and the final year dissertation contribute.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

- Obtain and synthesise information from relevant sources to develop an understanding of theory and practice
- Critically evaluate theories, concepts and methods
- Critically evaluate and apply techniques or strategies for a variety of objectives in relation to the environment management

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The first two intellectual skills listed are developed through a combination of lectures and project work. The third intellectual skill is developed through the same means and by problem solving project work. The final dissertation combines all three intellectual skills. Emphasis on independent learning is encouraged from Part I of the programme.

Assessment

These skills are tested by coursework (including project work) and formal examination. Presentations and the final year dissertation contribute.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

- Apply appropriate environmental assessment, monitoring and planning approaches and methods
- Develop a management plans for a number of objectives
- Design and implement an individual investigative or research project
- Logically analyse data
- Construct reports using appropriate IT

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Throughout the degree programme students are expected to carry out a variety of individual and group projects within specific modules as well as the final year dissertation. In addition to locally based field work and visits, the degree programme contains two week-long field trips further afield where students investigate a variety of issues.

Assessment

These skills are mainly assessed by coursework (particularly project work) and the final year dissertation.

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

- Communicate ideas, arguments and information using appropriate means
- Use problem-solving skills in a range of professional and practical situations
- Take charge of Personal Development Planning
- Identify goals and plan and manage time to achieve them
- Use and apply up to date IT
- Work in teams to perform a variety of tasks.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Transferable skills are generally incorporated within modules and related to relevant assessments as appropriate. Examples of strategies include: seminars; individual and group project and investigative work; presentations and the final dissertation.

Assessment

Assessment of transferable skills is generally an integral part of the degree curriculum and is thus tested within modules from Part I through to Part III.

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.