

## Programme Specification

**BSc Environmental Science with International Foundation Year**  
**For students entering Foundation year in September 2021**

**UCAS Code: F850**  
**UFENVSCFF**

**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Accreditation	Institution of Environmental Sciences

### Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a sound scientific understanding of the processes operating in the Earth system, and to apply this science to the understanding of current and future environmental issues. It also aims to provide you with the scientific and transferable skills that are relevant to the application of environmental science in research, industry and other areas such as government policy.

The programme aims to provide a flexible education in Environmental Science, with pathways such as Water Resources, Climate Change and Habitat Management being determined by your choice of optional modules.

This programme comprises of a foundation year (Part 0) provided through the International Foundation Programme (IFP) which provides access to higher education in Britain to international students who do not possess the normal entry requirements of GCE Advanced level qualifications or the equivalent. Through the part 0 you will be equipped with subject specific and general study skills which will enable you to cope with the demands of undergraduate study. This is achieved through the provision of high quality teaching which is sympathetic to the needs of students from a wide range of educational backgrounds.

Foundation year:	In the Foundation year you will have the opportunity to develop transferable skills through the provision of a compulsory credit-bearing Academic Skills module. The key skills relate to Critical Thinking, Essay Writing, Research, Referencing and avoiding plagiarism, Group Work and Projects, Presentations, and Assessment and Examination techniques. You will also take three 40-credit modules as specified in the module information aligned to the 'A Level' entry requirements for the degree. If your level of English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, one of these 40 credit modules must be International English.
Part 1:	Introduces you to a range of different aspects of Environmental Science, as well as related disciplines such as Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics.

	A wide range of subject options is available, depending on the particular pathway chosen.
Part 2:	Provides you with opportunities to develop your knowledge, with particular emphasis on understanding key environmental processes and their interactions. Options are designed to give you more detailed knowledge of technical and methodological skills in selected subject areas.
Placement/Study abroad year:	You may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases you will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.
Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to increase your specialisation through a range of specialist subject modules from which a choice is made, and conduct an original, independent research project.

### Module information

Part 0 comprises 140 credits and Parts 1, 2 and 3 each comprise 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

#### Foundation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0ACA	Academic Skills	20	0

If your level of English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, one of the 40 credit modules must be IF0IE1 International English.

The remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available from a list provided by the International Foundation Programme.

#### Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
GV1B1	Introduction to Environmental Science	10	4
GV1DEN	Data Environment	20	4
GV1EL	Earth Lab	20	4
GV1TGE	Techniques in Geography and Environmental Science	20	4

Students will choose further modules, to achieve a total of 120 credits. Students may take a maximum of 60 credits (including compulsory modules) in any one term. Alternative modules may be chosen from the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science or, exceptionally, from other Schools. Timetable restrictions may apply.

**Part 2 Modules:**

Module	Name	Credits	Level
GV2ED	Environmental Diagnostics	20	5
GV2FCA	Geography & Environmental Science Field Class 1	20	5
GV2RTS	Research Training for Geography and Environmental Science	20	5

Students will be required to select further credits to total 120 credits for the academic year from subject specific lists provided by the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Sciences.

**Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):**

Students on the 4 year version of the programme will take one 120 credit module during their placement year.

**Part 2 (continued) modules:**

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

**Part 3 Modules:**

Students will be required to take one of the following dissertation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
GV3GED	Geography and Environmental Science Dissertation	40	6
Or			
GV3DPE	Dissertation (Year of Professional Students)	40	6
Or			
GV3DSA	Dissertation (Study Abroad)	40	6

Students will be required to select further credits to total 120 credits for the academic year from subject specific lists provided by the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Sciences.

**Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information.

Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

### **Additional costs of the programme**

You will be required to make a contribution to a compulsory Part 2 field class of approximately £300. Bursaries and other forms of financial support are available for students in financial difficulty. You will be expected to be equipped with suitable outdoor clothing and footwear for field classes. There are no compulsory textbooks and the library has an extensive collection to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions. You may want to budget around £75/year to purchase your own copy of core course books. Discounted second hand copies may be available. Depending on your module choices, you may choose a non-compulsory Part 3 field class, which will require a financial contribution of approximately £900. Bursaries and other financial support for students in financial difficulty are also available for non-compulsory field classes.

Costs are indicative, but will vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2020.

### **Placement opportunities**

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

### **Teaching and learning delivery:**

You will be taught through a combination of lectures, seminars, practicals, fieldtrips and laboratory based sessions.

The contact hours for your Programme will be approximately 720 hours and will depend upon your module combination; however information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module description.

### **Accreditation details**

Enrolled students on accredited programmes can apply for the grade of Student Member of the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES). Graduates qualify for half-price Associate membership of the IES.

## **Assessment**

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework, presentations and practical exercises.

## **Progression**

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

### Progression Part 0 Foundation Year

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

- i. an overall average of at least 40% over all modules taken in Part 0;
- ii. no more than 40 credits of these modules with a mark below 35%
- iii. at least 40% in the Academic Skills module

To progress to Part 1, students must satisfy the following progression and English language requirements:

- i. at least 55% in each of two 40 credit modules, including any specified modules.
- ii. an average of at least 40% in the remaining two modules
- iii. at least 40% in the Academic Skills module
- iv. no module mark below 35%

In addition, students taking module International English (IFOIE1) must obtain 55% in that module.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 0 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Completion if he or she leaves the University before completing the subsequent Part.

### Part 1

- (i) obtain an overall weighted average of 40% in 120 credits
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) obtain an overall weighted average of at least 40% in the compulsory modules taken in Part 1 (GV1B1, GV1DEN, GV1EL, GV1TGE).

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

### Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **3 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **4 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/work placement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

### **Classification**

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

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

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

Four year programmes, including professional/work placement or study abroad:

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

BSc Environmental Science with International Foundation Year for students entering Part 1  
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19 December 2022  
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