

Programme Specification

BSc Geography (Physical)

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UCAS Code: F840

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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	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BSc Geography (Physical) with Study Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only) BSc Geography (Physical) with Professional Experience - 4 years (UCAS Code: F839)
Accreditation	N/A

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with both subject-specific knowledge in physical geography and more general skills.

It aims:

To give you a thorough insight into the importance of a geographic perspective on physical processes, including the manner in which these processes operate at global, regional and local scales.

To develop your understanding of the theory and practice of physical geography.

To encourage you to discover and make good use of theories and research findings from physical geography and related disciplines.

To develop your skills in applying theoretical concepts, knowledge and philosophies to the understanding of particular environments, spatial differences and to decision-making.

To develop your geographical knowledge through fieldwork and other forms of experiential learning.

To develop your appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of knowledge to promote your ability to engage in lifelong learning.

The programme aims to produce graduates with both subject-specific skills and knowledge in Geography and a range of cognitive, generic and transferable skills.

Part 1:	Introduces you to the discipline of physical geography, including current scholarly debates and theories in geographical research, the history and intellectual traditions of the disciplines and its application to understanding contemporary issues. You will also be introduced to research and study skills that will develop your capabilities as an independent learner.
Part 2:	Provides you with opportunities to engage with more specialist areas geographical research, relevant to the interests of academic staff in the department, and to develop your independent research skills through a range of field-based and practical training.
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

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
GV1C	Climatology	10	4
GV1GS	Geomorphology	10	4
GV1TGE	Techniques in Geography and Environmental Science	20	4

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.

Part 2 Modules:

Students will be required to select a 20-credit Geography & Environmental Sciences Field Class module from a list provided by the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Sciences. Students will also be required to select a 20-credit project module. In order to reach 120-credits at Part 2, students will select a further 80 credits from subject specific lists provided by the School.

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.

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:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
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Student will be required to take one of the following dissertation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
GV3GED	Geography and Environmental Science Dissertation	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 costs for your food and board at a compulsory Part 1 field class of approximately £75 and 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, are available through the library. 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 £750. 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 2022.

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

Not applicable

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

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.

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 Geography (Physical) for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24

19 May 2022

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