

Programme Specification

BSc Human and Physical Geography (NUIST-UoR Academy) NUIST-based (full-time)

For students entering Part 0 in September 2027

AFHPGGJJ

UFHPGGJX

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
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BSc Human and Physical Geography (NUIST-UoR Academy) UoR-based (full-time) - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Geography

Programme information and content

The programme will provide students with subject-specific knowledge in Human and Physical Geography in an inclusive and pedagogically-diverse learning environment that is assessed through a diversity of formative, practical and summative assessment methods. Students will acquire the skills, particularly GIS and Remote Sensing, required to apply this knowledge to tackle real-world issues which intersects societies and environments across space and through time. A strong emphasis is placed on skills-based learning through fieldwork, practical experimentation, applied-, practice-, theory-, conceptual- and policy-based approaches and independent research, analysis and outputs. Students will have opportunities to use qualitative and quantitative methods to interrogate, analyse, and communicate geographical information to a wide audience.

The programme includes a foundation year (Part 0) which enables students to progress on to the undergraduate programme in Human and Physical Geography within the NUIST-University of Reading Academy. On completion of Part 0, you will have the general academic language and study skills required to begin your degree studies through Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3. The programme is available to students studying at NUIST-Reading Academy, who may transfer to UoR for Part 2 or Part 3 for part of their degree.

Foundation year:	Part 0 helps you develop the academic language and study skills you will need for your university degree programme. This year provides opportunities to: 1. understand and engage with the expectations of UK academic culture; 2. attain the academic reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills needed to undertake university study in English;
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	3. understand and apply basic academic study skills, including the selection, evaluation, and use of information sources; 4. develop as independent learners; To study and understand foundation level of Human and Physical Geography in preparation for Part 1. Studied at NUIST
Part 1:	Part 1 introduces you to both Human and Physical Geography, including current scholarly debates and theories in geographical research, the origins and intellectual traditions of both aspects of the discipline and their application to the global challenges that confront societies at multiple scales, places and spaces. You will be introduced to multiple geographical research techniques and study skills that will develop their capabilities as an independent learner. Studied at NUIST
Part 2:	Part 2 provides you with opportunities to engage with more specialist areas of both Human and Physical Geography relevant to the interests of academic staff in the department in order to be able to critically assess issues and concerns in modern societies across the globe. These modules enable you to develop more detailed subject-specific and sub-disciplinary knowledge and technical skills, including GIS and Remote Sensing, in particular areas of Human and Physical Geography. Students will develop their independent research skills through a range of field-based and practical training. Students will prepare to undertake an independent research project during the final year of their programme. Studied at UoR or NUIST
Part 3:	Part 3 gives you the opportunity to specialise by studying a wide range of specialist subject modules in both Human and Physical Geography. Students will also apply the skills acquired throughout the programme by conducting an original, independent research project. Studied at UoR or NUIST

Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Human and Physical Geography (NUIST-UoR Academy) NUIST-based (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Demonstrate a critical awareness of the origins and ongoing legacies of Human and Physical Geography and Geography more generally as a discipline
2	Demonstrate an holistic understanding of fundamental concepts in Human Geography such as space, place, scale and time

3	Demonstrate a systemic understanding of fundamental concepts in Physical Geography, such as processes operating in the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, pedosphere, and biosphere.
4	Demonstrate an understanding of social justice, the inextricable relationships of human and non-human worlds, actors and agents, (in)equity, power, fairness and their intersections with environmental and social sustainability
5	Identify the drivers of change within environments over space and time resulting from the interactions of climate, ecosystems, and landscapes
6	Identify the nature, causes, variability and unevenness of change across societies and environments over space and time
7	Apply Human and Physical Geographical concepts, techniques and expertise to demonstrate critical insight on the concepts and practices of sustainable development through a geographical lens
8	Appraise and apply appropriate qualitative and quantitative research techniques, particularly GIS and Remote Sensing, to interrogate, analyse, and communicate geographical information using a range of formats and media
9	Work effectively within a multidisciplinary and diverse group setting, demonstrating behaviours that support equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion
10	Use a diversity of materials and views to support critical discussions of contemporary local and global geographical phenomena, concerns, and crises and imagine potential solutions
11	Plan and conduct ethical and safe fieldwork investigations
12	Plan, conduct, and report the outcomes of research projects and develop an understanding and awareness of personal positionality as a researcher and producer of geographical knowledge
You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree. To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.	

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes	
N/A	

Module information			
Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.			
Foundation modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0NU1	English for Academic Purposes 1	60	0

IF0NU2	English for Academic Purposes 2	40	0
IF0NUP	English for Academic Purposes Project	20	0

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
GV1AHGNU	Approaching Human Geography	20	4
GV1DENNU	Data Environment	20	4
GV1GCNU	Global Challenges: a Planet in Crisis	20	4
GV1LARNU	Landscapes and Natural Resources	20	4
GV1SKLNU	Skills in Geography and Environmental Science	20	4
IL1GISNU	English for Human and Physical Geographers	20	4

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
GV2ATANU	Analysing Social Data: Techniques and Applications	20	5
GV2FLDNU	Field Class	20	5
GV2GEONU	Geographical Information Systems	20	5
GV2MEANU	Monitoring the Earth from Above	20	5
GV2STPNU	Skills Training and Project Design	20	5
GV2WESNU	Water in the Earth System	20	5

Part 2 Modules at UoR

Students studying Part 2 at the UoR must take the following compulsory modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
GV2ATA	Analysing Social Data: Techniques and Applications	20	5
GV2FLD	Field Class	20	5
GV2GEO	Geographical Information Systems	20	5
GV2MEA	Monitoring the Earth from Above	20	5
GV2STP	Skills Training and Project Design	20	5
GV2WES	Water in the Earth System	20	5

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
GV3AECNU	Air Pollution: Effects and Control	20	6
GV3CLCNU	Climate Change	20	6
GV3ESMNU	Ecosystem Modelling	20	6
GV3GEDNU	Dissertation	40	6
GV3PLANU	Summer Placement	20	6

Part 3 Modules at UoR

Students studying Part 3 at the UoR must take the following:

Compulsory module:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
GV3GED	Geography & Environmental Science Dissertation	40	6

Students must select a further 80 credits from a list of optional modules provided by the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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.

Teaching and learning delivery:

In Part 0 you will be taught through classes, using a communicative approach to language learning, with an emphasis on meaning, task completion, interaction and feedback. You will also have a number of tutorials and carry out supervised project work. Modules in Part 0 are taught by Academy staff in NUIST.

Inclusive experiential learning is at the heart of the teaching and learning in Human and Physical Geography. A strong emphasis is placed on critical engagement with theories and concepts from both Human and Physical Geography and other social and natural science disciplines, fieldwork and quantitative and qualitative research methods and analysis. As a Human and Physical Geography student, you will engage with field-based learning throughout your degree, including residential field classes, external visits, and field trips. These opportunities for fieldwork will consolidate your learning obtained via a diverse range of teaching methods including interactive lectures, small and large seminars and practical classes.

During your degree you will engage with contemporary global issues that cut across social and environmental justice agendas within the context of sustainable development. You will typically acquire knowledge of key concepts and processes through pre-class reading and viewing pre-recorded screencasts so that you can apply this knowledge within interactive lectures or practical sessions. You will then consolidate this knowledge and strengthen your understanding of contemporary geographical issues through further guided independent study, including engagement with academic literature and a broad range of material.

You will learn transferable skills for study and continuing professional development through practical exercises and peer support. Employability skills are built into and embedded throughout the programme through engagement with employers, activities that reflect the tasks undertaken by professionals, authentic assessment, and the support and encouragement to undertake a professional placement in industry.

You will undertake projects to address key contemporary social and environmental challenges first as a member of a group, supported by staff, but with increasing degrees of independence as you progress through the programme. You will receive training on how to support equality, diversity, and inclusion while working in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams alongside subject specific disciplinary skills. You will learn how to conduct scientific investigations competently, ethically, and safely through laboratory protocols, research ethics submissions and risk assessments.

The research and enquiry skills you acquire by participating in team projects during Part 1 and Part 2 will prepare you to undertake an independent research project, supervised by a member of staff, in the final year. Both group work and independent research projects are supported by meetings with staff to support planning and provide verbal feedback.

All modules will require significant guided independent learning.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Modules in NUIST are taught by a combination of Academy staff and visiting staff from the University of Reading.

Accreditation details
N/A

Assessment

A diverse range of assignment types are adopted to assess the progress and attainment of BSc Human and Physical Geography students. These assignment types include the assessment of knowledge by answering both closed and open-ended questions, the authoring of essays and consultancy style reports, undertaking practical exercises, and communicating the findings of geographical investigations to a range of specialist and lay audiences using a range of multimedia. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Foundation Year

In order to complete the foundation year (Part 0) successfully, a student is required to:

- (i) Obtain at least 40% both for IF0NUI and IF0NUP
- (ii) Obtain a pass mark in IF0NU2 as specified in the module description*

Students who obtain 6.0, with no element (Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing) below 5.5 in the IF0NU2 final test will be deemed to have met the English language progression requirements to Part 2 and will be exempted from the mandatory Part 1 English for Academic Purposes module IF1NU3A.

Successful completion of these modules will lead to progression to Year 1 of the student's chosen degree programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Foundation Year qualifies a student for a Certificate of Completion if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

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

- (iv) Obtain a Pass mark in IF1NU3A as specified in the module description.

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.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

Part 2

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

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

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:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Dual Awards

Successful completion of the Programme will lead to the award of degrees by both the University of Reading and Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (NUIST).

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or

- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

At NUIST: There will be some additional costs if you require printing facilities at NUIST, there may also be additional costs if your programme involves a field trip whilst at NUIST. Details of costs can be found at the NUIST help desk.

At UoR: Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost per A4 page of £0.05 (black and white) and £0.30 (colour). Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework will be submitted electronically.

You will be required to make a minor contribution to costs for your food and board at a compulsory Part 2 field class. 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. Discounted second hand copies may be available. Costs are indicative, may vary according to optional modules chosen, and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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 Human and Physical Geography (NUIST-UoR Academy) NUIST-based (full-time) for students entering Part 1 in session 2027/28

25 June 2026

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