

Programme Specification

MSc Environment, Climate Change and Development (full-time) PFTZENVCCDHM

MSc Environment, Climate Change and Development (part-time) PPTZENVCCDHM

For students entering in 2027/28

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	MSc Environment, Climate Change and Development (full-time) - 12 months MSc Environment, Climate Change and Development (part-time) - 24 months
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The programme examines the social scientific drivers, and consequences, of global environmental change and associated policy debates. It focuses in particular on the interface between climate change and development, considering such change in the context of broader environmental and development issues. It takes a genuinely interdisciplinary approach, drawing on development studies, ecological economics and natural science. The course critically examines both existing policies and radical alternatives, and provides a comparative understanding of how the issues play out in developed and developing countries.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc Environment, Climate Change and Development (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	an appreciation of the extent and nature of global environmental change, and the associated challenges faced by modern societies
2	the ability to analyse the socio-economic drivers and effects of climate change and other environmental problems, and policy responses
3	a critical understanding of key social scientific frameworks applied in this field including the emergent discipline of ecological economics

4	a comparative understanding of the different contributions, and appropriate responses, to climate change by countries at different stages of development
5	an appreciation of the ways in which environmental and development policies interface, and their interaction with different aspects of social and economic systems
6	the ability to suggest, design, conduct, analyse and present an independent research project

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.

Module information

The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
ADMDIS	Dissertation	60	M
ADMECD	Energy, Climate Change and Development	20	M
ADMGJD	Global Environmental Change, Justice and Development	20	M
ADMTDP	Theories and Practices of Development	20	M

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Agriculture or from an approved list of modules.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete optional modules totalling no less than 60 credits and no more than 80 credits. In the second year of study, a student will normally be required to complete the ADMDIS Dissertation module and any remaining optional modules. The programme must be completed within two years.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Study abroad 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

Teaching is organised in modules that typically involve a combination of lectures and seminars. Some lecture-based modules are supported by workshops or computer lab sessions.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is – 240-260 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module 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.

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.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

Modules are assessed by a combination of course work and/or formal examination.

Progression

N/A

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Master's Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits

(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits

(iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

(iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits

AND

Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, a mark of at least 60% in the dissertation

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits
- (iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits
- (ii) No credits with a mark below 40%.

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

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

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

Additional costs of the programme

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

Where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £15 to £25 per module; there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A wide range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, more specialist studies, and electronic resources, are available through the library.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost. Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework is submitted electronically.

A few optional modules may include study trips. For each participating student, the cost of transport and accommodation is not expected to exceed £350.

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.

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23 July 2026

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