

Programme Specification

MSc Renewable Energy: Technology and Sustainability (full-time) PFTZRENETSHM

MSc Renewable Energy: Technology and Sustainability (flexible-modular) PPTZRENETSFM

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 Renewable Energy: Technology and Sustainability (full-time) - 12 months MSc Renewable Energy: Technology and Sustainability (flexible-modular) - 24 months
Accreditation	Energy Institute and Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE)
Programme Start Dates	September for full-time and flexible-modular February for full-time and flexible modular
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The aim is to study renewable energy and sustainable technologies, as well as carbon management and energy use in the built environment. The programme covers rapidly evolving fields that are vitally relevant to how society develops in the 21st Century.

The MSc Renewable Energy: Technology and Sustainability course will develop a broad understanding of the applications of renewable energy and sustainable technologies, as well as an awareness of the impacts of using non-sustainable technologies.

Accredited by the Energy Institute, and the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers, the course is designed to enable you to develop your knowledge further in a range of areas including carbon management and energy use in the built environment.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc Renewable Energy: Technology and Sustainability (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	Understanding of, and the ability to engage in informed debate concerning the role of energy in the modern world, the resulting environmental and societal impacts and alternative means of energy provision that seek to minimise any negative impacts.
2	Analytical, practical, written and oral skills for the assessment, selection and deployment of renewable energy technologies in the field with an emphasis on wind, hydro, solar, wave/tidal and biomass.
3	To recognise, explore and examine the role of managing carbon dioxide emissions for countries, businesses, individuals and communities in responding to the need for climate change mitigation.
4	Examine and appraise the issues which need to be considered when incorporating renewable energy in power systems.
5	Analytic skills appropriate for the outline assessment of conventional energy technologies.
6	Mental agility and flexibility with multi-disciplinary problems.
7	Confidence in interacting with the key players in the new and traditional energy supply technologies globally.
8	Improve your ability to make decisions and communicate these effectively by analysing different energy supply options using quantitative arguments.

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
CEM340	Carbon Management and Life Cycle Assessment	20	M
CEM410	Renewable Energy	20	M
CEM420	Renewable Energy 1	20	M
CEM440	Energy and the Environment	20	M
CEM480	Sustainable Urban Systems	20	M
CEM600	Dissertation	60	M

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Built Environment for this programme.

| Part-time or flexible modular arrangements | | | |
| This programme may be taken on a flexible-modular basis, normally over 24 months for both September and February starts , up to a maximum of 63 months. | | | |

Placement opportunities

There are no formal arrangements for placements.

Study abroad opportunities

There are no formal arrangements for study abroad.

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

The programme is delivered through a combination of instructor-led and student-led learning approaches including lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work, site visits, workshops and interactive sessions depending on the modules chosen. Industry guest speakers and case studies will offer students opportunities to engage with real life projects.

Elements of your programme will be delivered in conjunction with the use of University's online learning and teaching platforms (i.e. Blackboard). A small number of guest speakers will deliver lectures online. Some supervision may also be held online.

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

Programme accredited by the Energy Institute and Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE).

Assessment

The general assessment pattern for each module is by coursework. There are no formal examinations for the compulsory modules in this programme. Detailed assessment regimes are specified in the relevant module descriptions. Each 20-credit module will typically have two major assignments. Assessment is through written term papers and reports, group work, smaller digital deliverables and the research dissertation.

In their work, students are challenged to make clear arguments, question assumptions, form views and support them with evidence from. Written assignments, discussions and group work provide powerful platforms for developing intellectual and critical thinking skills. Dissertation research under supervision provides opportunities for critical thinking and developing the ability to construct arguments from different disciplinary perspectives.

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

Students with any module marks below 50% will be awarded an MSc in Renewable Energy which is not accredited by the Energy Institute (EI) or the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE). Such students must not have any module marks below 40.

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%

The qualification of PG Diploma excludes CEM600. Where the conditions for a higher class have been met, the higher class should be awarded.

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%.

The qualification of PG Certificate excludes CEM600.

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

Where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £50 to £70 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.

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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4 August 2026

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