

Programme Specification for BSc (Hons) Environmental Science

This document applies to Academic Year 2019/20 onwards

1.	Awarding institution/body	University of Worcester
2.	Teaching institution	University of Worcester
3.	Programme accredited by	Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)
4.	Final award	BSc Hons
5.	Programme title	BSc (Hons) Environmental Science
6.	Pathways available	Single, Major, Joint, Minor
7.	Mode and/or site of delivery	Standard taught programme
8.	Mode of attendance	Full time or part time
9.	UCAS Code	F750 Single Honours DN49 Joint with Ecology
10.	Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement	QAA Benchmark: Earth sciences, environmental sciences and environmental studies, October 2014. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement
11.	Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision	April 2015, July 2015 (PAT), July 2015 update of coding for Independent Study. To be implemented from 2017/18: Jan 17 permanent removal of GEOG3121. Jan 17 additional of SUST1001 March 17 updated template May 17 title change for GEOG1110 August 2017 - AQU amendments January 2018 - Title change to ENVS3113 and ENVS3100 Amendment to pre-reqs for GEOG3120 May 2018 title change to ENVS1011 and ENVS1012 becomes mandatory for SH. June 18 title change for ENVS2012 and ENVS3004. ENVS2010 change of excluded combination to be implemented Sept 19. August 2018 AQU amendments, regulations and updates throughout December 2018 AQU template amendments and minor updates throughout January 2019 code for GEOG1112 changed to GEOG1211 April 2019 amendment to Entry Requirements(Section 18)

12. Educational aims of the programme

In the Environmental Science programme students are provided with the opportunity to follow an intellectually challenging and contemporary programme of study at Honours degree level. In addition to the teaching of the theoretical and factual aspects of the subject, there are numerous opportunities for laboratory and fieldwork, both local and regional, and additionally, a Mediterranean Residential field trip. These activities combined enable the learning and practise of key skills, which ultimately enhances student employability.

The course aims to:

- Provide a broad, rigorous and intellectually challenging curriculum of organized, current knowledge and practice relating to the discipline of 'Environmental Science' so that students develop a sound understanding of its principles, theories and applications.

- Offer students the opportunities to develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills to support their undergraduate studies and to prepare them for employment and/or post-graduate study.
- Provide a supportive learning environment which acknowledges and responds to the diversity of student backgrounds and experiences, and which allows students the opportunity to realize their academic potential.
- Enable students to develop a capacity for sustained independent work and ability to work with others as part of a team.
- Develop students' skills of reflection, critical analysis, information literacy and communication in a range of formats.
- Develop graduates who are ethically and environmentally responsible, whilst appreciating uncertainties and limits of knowledge in the discipline.

13. Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

Knowledge and Understanding

Learning Outcome No.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Explain and discuss earth systems, including selected surface and near-surface physical, chemical, biological and anthropogenic processes, and interrelationships between the various systems.	ENVS2012 GEOG2121 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2
2.	Describe how environmental processes are influenced on different temporal and spatial scales in relation to different human activities.	ENVS2012 GEOG2121 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2
3.	Apply appropriate methods to acquire, interpret, and analyse information with a critical understanding of its application to environmental science.	ENVS2010 ENVS2012 GEOG2121 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2
4.	Discuss issues concerning the sustainable use of natural resources and their management.	ENVS2012 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2
5.	Apply a range of approaches and methods appropriate for a career in environmental science.	ENVS2010 ENVS2012 GEOG2121 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2

Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

6.	Recognize and use subject-specific theories, paradigms, concepts and principles.	ENVS2012 GEOG2121 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2
7.	Search for, analyse, synthesise and summarize information critically, including past research.	ENVS2010 ENVS2012 GEOG2121 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2
8.	Collect and integrate several lines of evidence to formulate and test hypotheses, to inform decision-making processes.	ENVS2010 ENVS3100 ENSC3001/2
9.	Apply knowledge and understanding to complex and multidimensional environmental problems in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.	ENVS2012 GEOG2121 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2

Skills and capabilities related to employability

10.	Undertake field and laboratory investigations in a safe and responsible manner, completing and responding to risk assessment, rights of access, relevant health and safety regulations and sensitivity to the impact of investigations on the environment and stakeholders	ENVS2010 ENVS2012 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2
11.	Plan, collect, record and analyse data using appropriate techniques in the field and the laboratory including GIS and atmospheric modelling.	ENVS2010 ENVS2012 GEOG2121 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENSC3001/2
12.	Apply methods of prioritisation and manage limited resources effectively and optimally; recognise moral/ethical dilemmas and issues.	ENVS2010 ENVS2012 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2
13.	Communicate effectively with individuals and organizations.	ENVS2010 ENVS2012 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2

Transferable/key Skills

14.	Communicate appropriately and effectively with a variety of audiences in written, oral, numerical and graphical forms.	ENVS2010 ENVS2012 GEOG2121 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2
15.	Appreciate issues of sample selection, accuracy, precision and uncertainty during collection, recording and analysis of data in the field and laboratory.	ENVS2010 ENVS2012 GEOG2121 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENSC3001/2

16.	Prepare, process, interpret and present data using appropriate quantitative and qualitative techniques and packages.	ENVS2010 ENVS2012 GEOG2121 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENSC3001/2
17.	Critically evaluate online resources as a source of information, recognise and respect various views and opinions, judge the authority and credibility of sources and have a well-developed information literacy.	ENVS2010 ENVS2012 GEOG2121 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2
18.	Identify individual and collective goals and responsibilities and perform efficiently and adaptably in ways appropriate to the task.	ENVS2010 ENVS2012 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2
19.	Recognise, appreciate and conform to ethical codes of practice as laid-down by professional organisations in the environmental sector.	ENVS2010 ENVS2012 ENVS3100 ENVS3004 ENVS3105 ENSC3001/2

Learning outcomes and combined subject degrees (joint, major and minor pathways):

- Joint Pathway**
 Students following a joint pathway will have met the majority of the learning outcomes for the subject, although the range of knowledge and discipline specific understanding in terms of options or specialisms will be more restricted than for a single or major Honours student.
- Major Pathway**
 Students following a major pathway will have met the learning outcomes for the subject but will have focused their studies in relation to subject options or specialisms.
- Minor Pathway**
 Students following a minor pathway will have met some of the learning outcomes for the subject (as indicated by the modules studied), and will have focused the development of their knowledge, understanding and subject specific skills in particular aspects of the discipline.

Learning, Teaching, and Assessment

At the University of Worcester, we ensure that students are afforded the opportunity to attain their full academic potential. We enable the development of independent learning capabilities that will equip them for lifelong learning, whilst enhancing future employment success. The University experience will be based on an integral mixture of independent study, a wide variety of taught sessions, and academic support through the personal academic tutoring system. With regular meetings with the academic tutor students will be able to reflect on progress and build up a profile of skills, achievements and experiences that will enhance employability.

Teaching

Teaching will be delivered through a combination of lectures, field excursions, site visits, laboratory practicals, seminars, interactive workshops, and, due to our excellent contacts in the environmental sector, guest lectures from industry experts. Interactive workshops take a variety of formats and are intended to enable the application of learning through computer based activities, discussion and small group activities. Seminars enable the discussion and

development of understanding of topics covered in lectures, and laboratory and field practicals are focused on developing subject specific skills and applied individual and group project work. Talks by environmental practitioners are also an important part of the course, relating theory to practice.

At Worcester students will receive essential training in a variety of field and laboratory techniques using state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. Continuing technological advances means the discipline rapidly changes, and at Worcester, due to an impressive research profile students will be trained in highly advanced and cutting-edge techniques.

Contact time

In a typical week students will have around 12-16 contact hours of teaching. The precise contact hours will depend on the optional modules selected. In the final year there will normally be slightly less contact time in order to do more independent study.

Typically, class contact time will be structured around:

- 6-8 hours of lectures, interactive workshops, seminars
- 3-4 hours of supervised lab practicals
- 3-4 hours of field trips

Independent self-study

In addition to the contact time, students are expected to undertake around 22 hours of personal self-study per week. Typically, this will involve reading journal articles and books, working on individual and group projects, undertaking research in the library and online, preparing coursework assignments, and preparing for examinations.

Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent learning facilities, including the Hive and library resources, the virtual learning environment, and extensive electronic learning resources.

Teaching staff

The teaching team have expertise and knowledge which are closely matched to the content of modules on the course. This includes professors in atmospheric science, senior academics with strong research backgrounds, and guest lecturers from outside the University (e.g. Marine Conservation Society, Environment Agency). Practical sessions are fully supported by a dedicated team of technicians which serves to enhance the student experience. Postgraduate research students with expertise in aspects of a module are also invited to contribute to teaching under the supervision of module leaders.

Teaching is informed by research and consultancy, and more than 85% of lecturers have a higher education teaching qualification and/or are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy.

The small class sizes in Environmental Science allows students to get to know their lecturers well, which ultimately benefits learning. It also means that students get to know all of their peers on the course and become part of a vibrant student community.

Assessment

The course provides opportunities to test understanding and learning informally through the completion of practice or 'formative' assignments. Each module has one or more formal or 'summative' assessments, which count towards the overall module grade.

To enhance the employability of graduates there is a focus on coursework that is directly related to real-world situations. A wide range of assessment types are provided, including: practical reports, scientific reports, essays, site evaluations, management plans, critiques, poster and oral presentations, in-class tests, and examinations. However, there is less emphasis on in-class tests and formal examinations.

The precise assessment requirements for an individual student in an academic year will vary according to the mandatory and optional modules taken, but a typical formal summative assessment pattern for each year of the course is as follows:

Year One

- 1 Essay
- 6 Scientific reports
- 2 Practical reports
- 2 Group Presentations
- 1 Exam (1 hour)
- 1 Video podcast

Year Two

- 1 Essay
- 2 Scientific reports
- 2 Project reports
- 1 Research proposal
- 4 Practical tests/exams
- 1 Student-led seminar
- 1 Oral presentation
- 2 In-class tests
- 1 Exam (1.5hrs)

Year Three

- 1 Research dissertation
- 3 Scientific reports
- 2 Practical reports
- 1 Field notebook
- 2 Oral presentations
- 1 Essay
- 2 In-class tests
- 1 Planning exercise
- 1 Case study evaluation

Feedback

Feedback is intended to support learning and students are encouraged to discuss it with their personal academic tutor and module tutors as appropriate. Feedback on practice assessments and on formal assessments undertaken by coursework is routinely provided. Feedback on examination performance is available upon request from the module leader.

14. Assessment Strategy

Assessments are designed to test knowledge and understanding and the ability to apply these to a range of circumstances, and to demonstrate ability to evaluate, criticise and problem solve. As students' progress through the levels, more advanced knowledge and skills are required to

complete more complex assignments such as management plans, site evaluations and modelling reports.

Assessment points occur throughout the semester after an introductory period for each module. All modules include both formative and summative assessments. Formative assessments may take a number of different formats and be conducted informally in class practical and field situations or more formally in classrooms or via Blackboard VLE. These provide ready feedback to the students. Modules throughout the course use a range of summative assessment methods to ensure that students have an opportunity to excel and none are disadvantaged through over-reliance on one type. Most modules have two summative assessment items. Students are notified at the start of the semester about the contents of their assessments which allows them to organise their study effectively. Details of assessment briefs are included in the module handbooks distributed at the beginning of the semester and are also available on Blackboard VLE. Additional supporting resources are also made available on Blackboard in many instances.

Throughout all modules, assessments are made in line with assessment criteria (given as subject-specific criteria and descriptors) in accordance with the [University's Assessment Policy](#) and make full use of the UW grade descriptors when awarding grades. A table demonstrating how assessment methods at each level are mapped to modules is included in the course handbook.

External Examiners have commended the Environmental Sciences team on the excellent and innovative range of assessment types which are fully appropriate to the learning outcomes. Furthermore, there is recognition that the assessment items have strong links to future employment.

15. Programme structures and requirements

Level 4 BSc Environmental Science					
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M), or Optional (O))		Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes
			Single Hons	Joint Hons	
ENVS1011	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	M	M	-
ENVS1100	Introduction to Ecology	15	M	-	-
ENVS1012	Environmental Change – Past and Present	30	M	M	-
ENVS1103	Environmental Skills & Applications	15	M	-	-
ENVS1102	Basis of Biological Surveying	15	O	-	-
GEOG1211	Introduction to River Science	15	O	-	-
LANGxxxx	Optional modules within the Language Centre	15/30	O	-	-

Single Honours Requirements at Level 4

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total, to include all mandatory modules, ENVS1011 (30 credits) **AND** ENVS1100 (15 credits) **AND** ENVS1012 (30 credits) **AND** ENVS1103 (15 credits), and optional modules - which can include up to 15/30 credits drawn from a range of Language Centre modules in: Academic English for native and non-native speakers of English; Modern Foreign Languages; and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). Details of the available Language Centre modules can be found on the Language Centre website: <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/your-home/language-centre-module-options.html>.

Joint Honours Requirements at Level 4

Joint Honours students must take 60 credits from the table above to include ENVS1011 (30 credits) **AND** ENVS1012 (30 credits)

Level 5 BSc Environmental Science								
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))				Pre- requisites	Co- requisites/exclusio ns and other notes
			SINGLE	MAJOR	JOINT	MINOR		
ENVS2010	Research Practice and Professional Development	30	M	M	O	NOT AVAIL-ABLE	-	BIOS2200, GEOG2110 excluded
ENVS2012	Environmental Analysis and Interpretation	30	M	M	M	M	ENVS1011	-
ENVS2005	Work Experience	15	O	O	NOT AVAIL-ABLE	NOT AVAIL-ABLE	-	-
ENVS2011	Ecology - Individuals to Ecosystems	30	O	O	NOT AVAIL-ABLE	NOT AVAIL-ABLE	ENVS1100	ENVS2100 excluded
ENVS2100	Population and Community Ecology	15	O	O	O	O	ENVS1100	ENVS2011 excluded
ENVS2104	Ecology of Freshwaters	15	O	O	O	O	ENVS1100	-
ENVS2303	Field Skills and Identification Techniques	15	O	O	O	O	ENVS1100	-
GEOG2113	Geographical Information Systems	15	O	O	O	O	-	Exclusions: GEOG3113 GIS,
GEOG2121	Meteorology and Climate	15	M	O	O	O	-	-
GEOG2122	River Monitoring and Assessment	15	O	O	O	O	-	-
GEOG2123	Natural Hazards	15	O	O	NOT AVAIL-ABLE	NOT AVAIL-ABLE	-	-

LANGxxxx	Optional modules offered by the Language Centre	15/30	O					
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Single Honours Requirements at Level 5

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total, to include all mandatory modules, ENVS2010 (30 credits) **AND** ENVS2012 (30 credits) **AND** GEOG2121 (15 credits), and optional modules - which can include up to 15/30 credits drawn from a range of Language Centre modules in: Academic English for native and non-native speakers of English; Modern Foreign Languages; and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). Details of the available Language Centre modules can be found on the Language Centre website: <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/your-home/language-centre-module-options.html>.

Joint, Major and Minor Honours Requirements at Level 5

Students following Joint Honours pathways can adjust their studies at level 5 to take more modules in one subject or can maintain an equally balanced programme of modules in each subject. The precise award title (Joint Hons or Major/Minor Hons) depends on the total number of credit achieved in each subject at levels 5 and 6 – for further information see the table at the end of this document.

Major Pathway Requirements at Level 5

Major Pathway students must take at least 60 and no more than 90 credits from the table above to include ENVS2010 (30 Credits) **AND** ENVS2012 (30 credits)

Joint Pathway Requirements at Level 5

Joint Pathway students must take at least 45 credits and no more than 75 credits from the table above.

A: if intending to take an Independent study in ENVS students must take **ENVS2010 (30 credits)**, and **ENVS2012 (30 credits)**

B: if not intending to take an Independent study in ENVS: students must take **ENVS2012 (30 credits)** plus 15 credits from the optional modules listed above.

Minor Pathway Requirements at Level 5

Minor Pathway students must take at least 30 credits and no more than 60 credits from the table above to include **ENVS2012 (30 credits)**.

Level 6 BSc Environmental Science								
Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))				Pre-requisites	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes*
			SINGLE	MAJOR	JOINT	MINOR		
ENSC3001/2	Independent Study in Environmental Science	30	M	M	O	NOT AVAIL-ABLE	ENVS2010	Exclusions: ENVS3001/2 Not for direct entry students who will take ENVS3315
ENVS3100	Mediterranean Environments Field Course	15	M	M	M	O	ENVS1011 or ENVS1012	-
ENVS3004	Environmental Pollution and its Detection	15	M	M	M	M	ENVS2012 or ENVS2006	-
ENVS3113	Atmospheric processes and pollution	15	O	O	O	NOT AVAIL-ABLE		-
ENVS3102	Environmental Impact Assessment	15	O	O	O	O	ENVS1011and ENVS 1100 or ENVS 2011 or ENVS 2100	-
ENVS3103	Restoration Ecology	15	O	O	O	NOT AVAIL-ABLE	ENVS2011 or ENVS2100	-
ENVS3105	Project Management	15	M	M	O	NOT AVAIL-ABLE		-
GEOG3113	GIS	15	O	O	O	NOT AVAIL-ABLE		Exclusions: GEOG2113 GIS
GEOG3114	Applied GIS and Remote Sensing	15	O	O	NOT AVAIL-ABLE	NOT AVAIL-ABLE	GEOG 2113 or GEOG3113	-

GEOG3120	River Conservation and Management	15	O	O	O	O		-
GEOG3122	Environmental Geology	15	O	O	O	NOT AVAIL-ABLE		-
ENVS3315	Research Methods & Independent Study in Environmental Science (for direct entry at Level 6 only)	30	M	M	O	NOT AVAIL-ABLE		For direct entry at Level 6 only

Single Honours Requirements at Level 6

Single Honours students must take 120 credits from the table above to include ENSC3001 **OR** ENSC3002 (30 CREDITS), **AND** ENVS3100 (15 credits) **AND** ENVS3004 (15 credits) **AND** ENVS3105 (**15 credits**) plus **3** modules from the options in the list.

Direct entry students into Level 6

Students must take ENVS3315 (30 credits) in place of ENSC3001/2 **AND** ENVS3100 (15 credits) **AND** ENVS3004 (15 credits) **AND** ENVS3105 (**15 credits**) plus **3** modules from the options in the list.

Joint, Major and Minor Honours Requirements at Level 6

Students following pathways in two subjects can adjust their studies at level 6 to take more modules in one subject or can maintain an equally balanced programme of modules in each subject. The precise award title (Joint Hons or Major/Minor Hons) depends on the total number of credit achieved in each subject at levels 5 and 6 – for further information see the table at the end of this document.

Major Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Major Pathway students must take 75 or 90 credits from the table above to include ENSC3001 **OR** ENSC3002 (30 CREDITS), **AND** ENVS3100 (15 credits) **AND** ENVS3004 (15 credits) **AND** ENVS3105 (**15 credits**)

Joint Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Joint Pathway students must take either 45, 60 or 75 credits (to make at least 105 credits over levels 5 and 6 in the subject, and no more than 135 credits over levels 5 and 6 in the subject) from the table above to include ENVS3100 (15 credits) **and** ENVS3004 (15 credits)

Joint pathway students who choose to take their independent study (or equivalent) in this subject must take ENSC3001 (30 credits) **OR** ENSC3002 (30 credits)

Joint pathway students who choose to place their Independent Study in their other joint subject must take ENVS3100 (15 credits), ENVS3004 (15 credits) plus 30 credits from the options above.

Joint pathway students must take one Independent Study (or equivalent), either in this subject, in their other joint subject, or take JOIN 3001/2 or Join 3013 where an Independent Study covers both joint subjects.

Minor Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Minor pathway students must take either 30 or 45 credits to include ENV53004 (15 credits) plus optional modules drawn from the table above.

Credit requirements for awards involving two subjects

In determining whether an award derived from two subjects is Joint Honours (subject 1 **and** subject 2) or Major/Minor Honours (subject 1 **with** subject 2) credits taken in each subject at levels 5 and 6 will count as follows:

Subject 1	Subject 2	Award
120	120	Joint Hons
135	105	Joint Hons
150	90	Major/minor Hons
165	75	Major/minor Hons
180	60	Major/minor Hons

16. QAA and Professional Academic Standards and Quality

This course design has been informed by the benchmark statement: Earth Science, Environmental Sciences, Environmental Studies (ES3) (2014) QAA 10/14. The course therefore incorporates the aims, objectives, learning outcomes, skills and practices advocated within this benchmark statement. The course operates at levels 4, 5 and 6 of the Framework for HE Qualifications.

The award is located at level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

17. Support for students

All new students attend a week-long induction at the start of the course to familiarize them with the course structures and expectations. This includes inductions to Library Services and ICT Services. Presentations from current and past students (where possible) are included to help welcome the newcomers and additionally the 'Nature Society' is invited to sessions to explain their activities and encourage new membership.

All students are assigned a Personal Academic Tutor (PAT), with whom they are required to attend tutorials twice per semester at Levels 4 and 5. At Level 6 they have frequent meetings with their Independent Study tutor (who may be the same person). The role of the PAT is to:

- Offer specific support and guidance enabling them to become effective learners understanding the requirements of their course in terms of knowledge and understanding, skills development and assessment requirements.
- Discuss grades and feedback from assessments, together with strategies to improve learning outcome attainments.
- Encourage students to actively reflect on their achievements and to document their evidence in a Personal Development Plan and maintain a current CV.
- Engage students with career planning.

All PATs have an 'open door policy', and there are no restrictions on the number of times a student can meet and discuss issues with their PAT. Additionally, subject tutors offer additional tutorials if required.

Students have access to a range of specialist resources including the GIS, Mapping and Visualization Suite, GPS equipment, and hydrological and meteorological monitoring equipment, field and analytical equipment.

Handbooks - An Environmental Science course handbook is provided online for students, which details essential information about the course, including taught modules, etc. Module handbooks are also made available, which can also be used by Level 4 and Level 5 students to inform module selection going forward. The module handbooks detail planned teaching activities, assessment brief(s), assessment criteria and resource lists.

The VLE 'Blackboard' has a section dedicated to the Environmental subject areas (Environmental Science and Ecology). This acts as a notice board for events, employment and volunteering activities. Details of Course Management Committees, Annual Evaluation and External Examiners' reports are posted here for the students to read. Past Independent Studies in the subject area are available as is information on staff details and Student Course

Representative contacts. Each module also has its own dedicated Blackboard site, which is used to post lecture presentations, reading material etc.

Students can receive ongoing support from Library Services and ICT Services. Students can get support of professionally-qualified librarians including a dedicated Academic Liaison Librarian for the School of Science and the Environment (ISE). The Academic Liaison Team offers a portfolio of professional information services, including information literacy programmes for cohorts and one-to-one support, both in-person and online. ICT support is provided by staff through a dedicated desk service, but also an online facility.

Firstpoint is the University service acting as the first point of contact for all students' enquiries. They provide information, advice and guidance on many aspects of student life at Worcester, for example, accommodation, fees, finance, registration, ID cards, disability support, module choice and international student issues.

The Careers Service provides information, advice and training opportunities for career planning in addition to such opportunities offered within the course.

The Disability & Dyslexia Service provide advice and support for students who have mental health difficulties, dyslexia, sensory or physical impairments or other difficulties. There is a dedicated Assistant Disability Coordinator for students with sensory impairments. Advice is also available on access to technology such as voice recognition and text-to-speech software. Much of the support provided is funded through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA):

<http://www.worcester.ac.uk/student-services/disability-and-dyslexia.htm>

<http://www.worcester.ac.uk/student-services/index.htm>

18. Admissions

Admissions Policy

The University aims to be accessible; it is committed to widening participation and encourages diversity in the student population. The School of Science and the Environment works closely with central student support services, including the Admissions Office, the Disability and Dyslexia Service and the International Office, to support students from a variety of backgrounds. We actively encourage and welcome people from the widest range of economic and cultural backgrounds, and value the contribution of mature learners.

Entry requirements

The normal minimum entry requirement for undergraduate degree courses is the possession of 4 GCSEs (Grade C/4 or above) and a minimum of 2 A Levels (or equivalent Level 3 qualifications). Acceptable A levels include Chemistry, Geography, Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, Geology, Maths, Biology, or Physics. The number of A Levels required depends on the number of UCAS tariff points.

The current UCAS Tariff requirements for entry to this course are published in the prospectus and on the UW website <https://www.worc.ac.uk/journey/a-z-of-courses.html>

See the [Admissions Policy](#) for other acceptable qualifications.

International students may apply for this course through the University of Worcester International College (UWIC) programme. Students who successfully complete UWIC Stage 1 will progress to UWIC Stage 2 Integrated Level 4 Programme, which involves completing 120 credits of University of Worcester modules as set out in the Award Map in Section 15, plus a year-long study skills programme with UWIC. Students will be required to successfully complete

the UWIC study skills programme in addition to meeting the University requirements for progression to Level 5.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) requirements

A satisfactory DBS may be required if a placement/WBL experience is a required element of the course.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Details of acceptable level 3 qualifications, policy in relation to mature students or applicants with few or no formal qualifications can be found in the prospectus or on the University webpages. Information on eligibility for recognition of prior learning for the purposes of entry or advanced standing is also available from the University webpages or from the Registry Admissions Office (01905 855111).

Further information on Recognition of Prior Learning can be found at <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/registryservices/941.htm>

Admissions procedures

Full-time applicants apply through UCAS (*see course code below*)

F750 Single honours
DN49 Joint with Ecology

Part-time applicants apply directly to University of Worcester (UW).

Students holding offers of places on the courses will be invited to an Applicant Day when the student can experience a 'taster' of what is offered on the courses.

Admissions/selection criteria

The Admissions Tutors will pay particular attention to personal statements, references and predicted or actual grades. In particular, they will be looking for evidence of an interest in the subject, some level of involvement with environmental organisations and a clear explanation as to why the student is keen to pursue Environmental Science at degree level.

19. Regulation of assessment.

The course operates under the University's Taught Courses Regulatory Framework

Requirements to pass modules

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in the module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- Students are required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

Submission of assessment items

- Students who submit course work late but within 5 days of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- Students who submit work later than 5 days but within 14 days of the due date will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations see Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

Retrieval of failure

- Students are entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade.
- Reassessment items that are passed are capped at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module (or, in some circumstances, take an alternative module); the module grade for a re-taken module is capped at D-.
- A student will be notified of the reassessment opportunities in the results notification issues via the secure student portal (SOLE). It is the student's responsibility to be aware if and comply with any reassessments.

Requirements for Progression

- Students at Level 4 will be permitted to progress to Level 5 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 4.
- Students at Level 5 will be permitted to progress to Level 6 when they have passed at least 210 credits including at least 90 credits at Level 5.
- A student who fails 90 credits or more due to non-submission will be required to withdraw from the University.
- For students following the UWIC pathway see Section 18 above.

Requirements for Awards

Award	Requirement
Certificate of Higher Education Cert HE Environmental Science	In order to be eligible for the exit award of Certificate in Higher Education in the named subject/area of study, a student must have passed at least 120 credits in total including the mandatory modules for level 4 of the award as specified on the award map.
Diploma of Higher Education Dip HE Environmental Science	In order to be eligible for the exit award of Diploma in Higher Education in the named subject/area of study, a student must have passed at least 240 credits in total including the mandatory modules for level 4 and level 5 of the award as specified on the award map.
Degree (non-honours)	Passed a minimum of 300 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6, including the mandatory modules for Level 5 and Level 6 of the award (not the Independent Study module) as specified on the award map.
Degree with honours	Passed a minimum of 360 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6, as specified on the award map.

Classification

The Honours classification will be determined by whichever of the following two methods results in the higher classification.

Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 60 credits attained at Level 5 and the best grades from 120 credits at Level 6. Level 5 and Level 6 grades count equally in the profile.

Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 120 credits attained at Level 6 only.

20. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers

Student employability is considered to be one of the key elements of the course. The course seeks to increase student employability throughout all three years. The teaching and practice of skills are embedded within the modules. The acquisition of practical and transferable skills and experience in the environmental field are considered to be major contributors to students' success in gaining employment in the environmental sector. Students' progress is reviewed by Personal Academic Tutors during the tutorials and the requirement to attend tutorials is linked to modules. Students also have the opportunity to take a Work Experience module at Level 5.

Students are strongly encouraged to engage in work experience or undertake voluntary work with local environmental organizations to demonstrate their commitment and further their skills. They are also encouraged to become student members of recognized Institutions, for example, the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) or the Institution of Environmental Science (IES), so they can access resources and attend conferences. Additionally, students are able to take a work placement module in which existing and new skills are practised and their work is assessed at the end of the placement period.

Graduate Destinations:

Students undertaking the outgoing environmental degrees have been employed in the following roles:

Manager - Waste water treatment works
Environmental scientist - Landfill site
Water quality technician - Consultancy
Flow analyst - Water Supply Company
Water and Wetlands Officer – Wildlife Trust
Grasslands office- Wildlife Trust
Footpaths officer – Local Council
Consultant – Natural England
Laboratory technician – Food Industry
Flood Risk Assessment – Hydrology Consultancy
Technical Manager - Farmyard Environmental Compliance
Environmental Assistant – HS2 project
Environmental & CSR Coordinator – Construction Industry
A variety of Masters courses at this and other Universities.
A range of studies leading to PhD qualifications.

Links with employers

The environmental team have many links with local, national and international external organisations and employers. Links are maintained by visits to a variety of establishments and visits by 'guest speakers' giving presentations at the University (for example the Environment Agency, Marine Conservation Society, Severn Trent Water, Environmental Consultancy

Businesses, Malvern Hills Trust) and contacts with organizations such as the local Wildlife Trust, local District Councils and the Forestry Commission.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in associated course documentation e.g. course handbooks, module outlines and module specifications.