

**Programme Specification for BSc (Hons) Geography and
BSc (Hons) Geography with International Year Abroad.**

This document applies to Academic Year 2021/22 onwards

Table 1 programme specification for BSc (Hons) Geography and BSc (Hons) Geography with International Year Abroad.

1.	Awarding institution/body	University of Worcester
2.	Teaching institution	University of Worcester
3.	Programme accredited by	Royal Geographical Society with Institute of British Geographers
4.	Final award or awards	BSc (Hons)
5.	Programme title	BSc (Hons) Geography
6.	Pathways available	Single, Major, Joint, Minor Options for current Joint Honours combinations and UCAS codes can be found at: https://www.worcester.ac.uk/study/find-a-course/joint-degrees/joint-degrees.aspx
7.	Mode and/or site of delivery	Standard taught programme
8.	Mode of attendance and duration	Full time (3 years full time) Full time (4 years full time with International Year Abroad) Part-time
9.	UCAS Code	L700 BSc (Hons) Geography L705 BSc (Hons) Geography with International Year Abroad
10.	Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body Statement	QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Geography (2019)
11.	Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision	June 2020 August 2020 – AQU amendments to Section 19 September 2020 – UCAS code amended March 2021 – admin error pre-req GEOG2322 removed for GEOG3320 August 2021 – AQU amendments

12. Educational aims of the programme

Geography explores the big questions about our planet and is fundamental to our understanding of our rapidly changing world. Our BSc Geography programme combines, both human and physical geography, enabling students to study earth surface systems and processes as well as some of the critical local and global challenges of this century such as climate change, globalisation, and sustainable development.

At Worcester, Geography is all about the learning experience, our smaller class sizes will not only provide students with a supportive and friendly environment, but it will also allow students to gain access to specialist equipment to enable them to develop an extensive range of field, laboratory and GIS skills to solve human and physical geography problems and to support future career aspirations or further study.

We offer a core foundation in human, physical and environmental geography in our first year modules. These modules introduce students to the key themes in geography as well as providing you with the skills used to analyse and solve problems within both the human and physical environment. The second year involves a more in-depth exploration of key issues within Human and Physical Geography and practical experience of a range of geographical research techniques. The final year provides the opportunity to specialise by selecting from a range of optional modules that reflect staff members research specialisms. Students will also complete a dissertation which brings together the subject knowledge, skills and techniques developed during the

degree to produce an independent and original piece of academic research on a topic of choice.

The Geography programme has an internationalised curriculum with opportunities for either a Study Abroad semester or an International Year Abroad at an international partner institution. Students will also enjoy exciting fieldwork opportunities, including local day excursions and residential fieldwork at all three levels. The residential fieldwork, which include UK and overseas destinations are a core part of the curriculum.

In particular, the course aims to:

- Provide a broad, contemporary and intellectually challenging internationalised geographical curriculum;
- Provide students with the opportunity to study geography at a depth and level appropriate to honours degree standard;
- Develop to the appropriate pathway level (joint, major, minor) the knowledge, skills and aptitudes of geography, within an interdisciplinary, modular scheme;
- Encourage students to develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills appropriate to graduate employment and/or postgraduate study;
- Provide a supportive learning environment that acknowledges and responds to the diversity of student backgrounds and experiences;
- Provide students with the opportunity to become individual, autonomous and reflective learners.

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

Table 2 knowledge and understanding outcomes for module code/s

Knowledge and Understanding		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1	Critically evaluate the complex and reciprocal relationships between physical and human aspects of environments and landscapes.	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311 All Optional Level 6 modules
2	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the spatial variations in the distributions of a variety of physical and human phenomena, and the explanations that underlie these.	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311 All Optional Level 6 modules
3	Critically evaluate the ways in which the distinctiveness of a particular place is constituted and remade by social, historical, economic and cultural processes, and the influence of place-specific characteristics on such processes.	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311
4	Evaluate the significance of spatial and temporal scale on human processes and their interactions at a range of scales.	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311 All Optional Level 6 modules

5	Develop a critical understanding the dynamic, plural and contested nature of Geography and its position within the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities.	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311 All Optional Level 6 modules
6	Evaluate a range of analytical and observational strategies, and the main approaches to the analysis, interpretation and visualisation of geographical information of a variety of types and derived from a variety of sources.	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311
7	Apply a reflective understanding of the application of geographical concepts, techniques and expertise as a means of addressing a range of issues facing the Earth and its people, and critically evaluate a variety of policies which seek to confront those issues.	GEOG3002 GEOG3312 GEOG3336 All Optional Level 6 modules

Table 3 cognitive and intellectual skills outcomes for module code/s

Cognitive and Intellectual skills		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
8	Abstract and synthesise information from a range of sources to develop reasoned arguments and make decisions informed by their analysis of a variety of evidence.	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311 All Optional Level 6 modules
9	Critically appraise and reflect on use of the diversity of techniques and approaches involved in collecting and representing geographical information (for example, instrumentation, remote sensing, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) cartographic surveying, social survey, observation and the use of textual and archival sources)	GEOG3002 GEOG3314 GEOG3322 GEOG3323
10	Critically assess the merits of contrasting theories, explanations, perspectives and apply appropriate methodologies to solve geographical problems	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311 All Optional Level 6 modules

Table 4 skills and capabilities related to employment outcomes for module code/s

Skills and capabilities related to employability		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
11	Plan, design and execute a piece of rigorous research or enquiry, including the production of a final report.	GEOG3002 GEOG3323
12	Prepare effective maps, diagrams and visualisations using a range of appropriate technologies, and interpret and analyse as appropriate.	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311

13	Employ a variety of archival, field and laboratory-based methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental information.	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311 All Optional Level 6 modules
14	Critically reflect on the process of learning, evaluating personal strengths and weaknesses and alternative strategies	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311 All Optional Level 6 modules

Table 5 transferable/key skills outcomes for module code/s

Transferable/key skills		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
15	Use appropriate communication methods and ICT with a high level of competence to select, analyse, present and communicate geographical information	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311 All Optional Level 6 modules
16	Work effectively in a variety of interpersonal situations, including working with groups/teams and recognising and respecting the viewpoints of others.	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311 All Optional Level 6 modules
17	Reflect on, analyse and evaluate own academic, vocational and professional performance, taking responsibility for personal independent working and professional learning and development	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311 All Optional Level 6 modules
18	Demonstrate independent problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations, the ability to work on one's own initiative, and manage one's own time to meet deadlines.	GEOG3002 GEOG3310 GEOG3311 All Optional Level 6 modules

Table 6 additional transferable/key skills outcomes for international year abroad module code/s

Additional Learning outcomes for the International Year Abroad		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s

19	Use diverse cultural frames of reference, and alternate perspectives to think critically and solve problems.	GEOG3000
20	Critique differences in the way their academic disciplines are viewed and practiced between their host country and the UK.	GEOG3000

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

The University places emphasis on enabling students to develop the independent self-study capabilities for lifelong learning and future employment, as well as academic achievement. A mixture of independent self-study, teaching and academic support through the Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) system enables students to reflect on progress and build up a profile of skills, achievements and experiences that will enable them to flourish and be successful.

Teaching

For 2021/22, the majority of teaching sessions are face to face on campus. Lectures or lecture workshops for some modules will be delivered online either 'live' or pre-recorded. Individual and small group tutorials will be arranged online as this has proven to be convenient and popular with students.

All modules within the BSc (Hons) Geography programme aim to encourage learners to engage in discussion of key issues and application of key concepts. The programme aims to provide supportive, student-centred learning environments that acknowledge and respond to the diversity of student backgrounds and experiences. The structure of the course enables students to move towards increasing independence in their studies from level 4 to level 6 in line with the [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications \(FHEQ\)](#) and [University policies for assessment](#) and [curriculum design](#). Level 4 modules offer students structured tutor support for their learning, whilst at level 5 this support becomes less structured, although the extent to which this occurs varies with the difficulty of the task. At level 6, modules offer students opportunities for more independent self-study, although specific tutor help will always be available and students can still expect up to 48 hours contact time in taught sessions at Level 6 where modules introduce new subjects and technical skills. Module learning outcomes, and hence assessments will always be more demanding at level 6.

Teaching, assessment and independent self-study are interlinked in that they are all aspects of each student's personal and academic development.

Students are taught through a combination of lectures, seminars, laboratory practical sessions, practical activities, fieldwork and project work. Practical activities take a variety of formats and are intended to enable the application of learning through discussion and small group activities. Seminars enable the

discussion and development of understanding of topics covered in lectures, and laboratory and fieldwork sessions are focused on developing subject specific skills and applied individual and group project work. The VLE software is used extensively to support key areas of study.

The course places emphasis on enabling students to develop the independent self-study capabilities that will equip them for lifelong learning and future employment, as well as academic achievement. A mixture of independent self-study, teaching and academic support from Student Services and Library Services, and the Personal Academic Tutor system enables students to reflect on progress and build up a profile of skills, achievements and experiences that will help them to flourish and be successful. Meetings with Personal Academic Tutors are formally scheduled on at least four occasions in the first year and three occasions in each of the other years of a course. A key aim of the Personal Academic Tutor programme is to provide the student with support with their academic studies.

Students have access to a wide range of specialist resources, including a fully equipped GIS Mapping and Visualization Suite, which provides access to high-end computers, industry standard GIS (ArcGIS, ArcGIS Pro and QGIS), statistical analysis software, and other mapping and earth observation software. Students will also have access to a variety of field equipment, including the latest industry standard survey-grade GPS (Trimble R10-2, providing sub-cm accuracy), electromagnetic flow meters, an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler, Sontek 2D Flowtracker, ISCO water samplers and YSI multi-parameter environmental probes. A suite of water analysis equipment is available in the laboratories including to analyse water and sediment samples including spectrophotometers, Microwave Plasma Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (MPAES), Fourier Transform-Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), Ion Chromatography (IC), High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC/HPLC-MS) and Gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC-MS) equipment. Students and Staff have access to a range of equipment including portable pocket weather stations, rain gauges, and rugged temperature loggers. The School also has mobile particle counters, passive samplers and cyclones that may be used to collect airborne material such as particulate matter, dust, biological material or other airborne components.

The course employs a variety of assessment methods, for more details please see section 14 of this programme specification.

Study Abroad

BSc (Hons) Geography (Three Year Programme)

Students studying on the BSc (Hons) Geography programme can spend a semester of their second year at one of our international partner universities. This semester will serve as a replacement semester. Students will take modules that fulfil and complement the modules identified in the programme award map. Students will pay their regular tuition fee to the University of Worcester. In order to be able to take this option, students must have at least a C average and be in good standing with the university. Further information is available on the University of Worcester [Study Abroad](#) webpages. Students who wish to be considered should refer to the UW Policy for the management of student international mobility for the student eligibility criteria and other relevant policies for UK placements

BSc (Hons) Geography with International Year Abroad (Four Year Programme)

Students studying on the BSc (Hons) Geography with International Year Abroad programme will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed their second year. Students will be registered for a 0-credit mandatory Module (GEOG3000). During the year abroad, students will enjoy the diverse learning opportunities provided by the host institution, as well as the cultural and travel opportunities of the year abroad destination. The third-year International Year Abroad will be arranged on an individual basis. Students will be in regular contact with their Personal Academic Tutors throughout the year. The university currently has exchange agreements with universities in Europe, Canada, the USA, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

There are no additional eligibility criteria for the International Year Abroad. As a result, there should be no variation to the regulations around progression and a student will be permitted to progress from Level 5 to Level 6 if, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, they have passed at least 210 credits, including 90 credits at Level 5. However, where a student does not successfully complete the second year of study and accumulated 240 credits, there will be a meeting between the student and their Personal Academic Tutor/Course Leader to discuss study options and plan their future study programme. This may result in the student transferring to the three year (non-sandwich) course, or it may result in the student extending their studies to re-take modules before or after the International Year Abroad. Further information is available in the [UW Policy for the management of student international mobility](#) for the student eligibility criteria.

Contact time

In a typical week, students will have approximately 12-16 contact hours of teaching. The exact contact hours will depend on the optional modules selected. In practical based modules, students can expect up to 48 hours contact time per semester. In the final year there is normally slightly less contact time in order carry out more independent self-study. However, students will have guided supervision, with up to 48 hours contact time in taught sessions, if the module requires the use of specialist software or field/laboratory-based activities.

Typical class contact time is structured around:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Interactive workshops
- Practical sessions
- Group activities
- Fieldwork

Independent self-study

Teaching staff

Students are taught by a teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the modules on the course. The team includes professors in human and physical geography, senior academics with industry experience, demonstrators and technicians. Postgraduate research students who have undertaken teacher training may also contribute to the teaching of seminars under the supervision of the module leader.

Teaching is informed by the research and consultancy, and a very high percentage (85+%) of course lecturers have a higher education teaching qualification or are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy. Details about the staff are available via our staff profiles: [meet the experts](#).

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 are graded and count towards the overall module grade.

All module guides contain detailed assignment briefs and grading criteria which are, in most cases, specific to that particular assignment. As a student progresses through the levels there is a stronger emphasis on critical synthesis and evaluation.

Methods of assessment within geography modules include: essays of varying lengths; reports; seminar presentations (group and individual); group video podcast presentations; practicals (field, specialist ICT work and quantitative and qualitative analyses); role-play simulations; poster displays; work-based assessments; teamwork of varying kinds; and exams. A grid showing how assessment methods at each

level for the BSc (Hons) Geography Programme are mapped to modules is included in the Geography Course Handbook.

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:

Year 1

- 3 Essay
- 1 Practical Report
- 2 Presentation
- 3 Written Assignment

Year 2

- 2 Essays
- 1 Exams
- 1 Individual or Group Presentations
- 1 Poster and Presentations
- 1 Practical Investigation
- 2 Practical Reports
- 1 Research Proposal
- 2 Written Assignments

Year 3/4

- 1 Field Notebook/Journal
- 4 Individual or Group Presentations
- 1 Other (Dissertation)
- 2 Projects
- 3 Written Assignments

Feedback

Students receive feedback on practice assessments and on formal assessments undertaken by coursework. Feedback on examination performance is available upon request from the module leader. Feedback is intended to support learning and students are encouraged to discuss it with Personal Academic Tutors and module tutors as appropriate.

Students are provided feedback on formal course work assessments within 20 working days of hand-in.

14. Assessment strategy

Students have opportunities to develop the appropriate skills necessary for the particular assessment type used before summative assessment takes place. At level 4 there is particular emphasis on helping students build up their core geographical enquiry skills – in terms of knowledge acquisition and cognitive skills, but also their engagement with different sources of information and their ability to synthesise and articulate ideas clearly in essays and written reports. Formative assessment also plays a critical role in level 4 modules, for example, class quizzes allow students the opportunity to reflect on their progress and learning in preparation for summative assessment. Individual student progress and assessment experiences are discussed during meetings with Personal Academic Tutors.

At levels 5 and 6 there is a particular emphasis on supporting geography students as critical researchers, and this is evident in the range of formative and summative assessments. For example, students are given experience of designing, implementing and writing up a research project in preparation for the

Dissertation; formative assessment here constitutes a literature review which students can subsequently modify in response to feedback, and integrate in the final summatively assessed Research Paper. At level 6, consultancy reports based on primary research engage students in problem-solving, practical and experiential learning, and prepare them for the immediate demands of employers.

At all levels of the programme, both formative and summative assessments seek to enhance students' oral communication and presentation skills. Although predominantly coursework-based, there are exams; as far as possible, these have been placed in mandatory modules to ensure that all students experience this mode of assessment.

Each assessment item has published specific marking criteria contained in the module outline given to students at the beginning of the module. These are based on the generic assessment criteria contained within the UW Student Handbook.

15. Programme structures and requirements

See end of document for level 4, 5 and 6 Award Maps.

16. QAA and professional academic standards and quality

The [QAA Subject Benchmark statement for Geography](#) articulate the knowledge, skills and categories of achievement to be expected of successful honours graduates in the field (QAA, 2019). The programmes at the University of Worcester are compliant with the Benchmark Statement; all the Programme Learning Outcomes are based on the Benchmark Statement and can be mapped to individual module learning outcomes (see Student Handbook).

The award is located at level 6 of the [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#).

17. Support for students

The following activities and facilities have been put in place to provide support for undergraduate students studying Geography within the School of Science and the Environment:

- Geography runs a week of **induction events** at the start of the academic year. In detail, the programme for this will vary from one year to the next, but will include the following elements: Introduction to the course; Meeting(s) with academic tutors; Introduction to key ICT resources [Student Online Environment (**SOLE**), **Blackboard** (a virtual learning environment), SMILE (Study Methods & Information Literacy Exemplars)]; social event to meet staff and fellow students; some project/field activities (active learning/research-based teaching).
- All students have a **Personal Academic Tutor (PAT)** who guides the process of Personal Development Planning (PDP) and offers general support. There is a full programme of scheduled PAT meetings throughout levels 4, 5 and 6, with students undertaking a range of tasks linked to core modules. There will be a particular emphasis on information literacy skills and Personal Development Planning.
- The Geography programmes provide students with a range of opportunities to develop their **study skills** across all levels of the course. Support for developing study skills is built into the programme, especially the mandatory modules at Level 4, and is also provided in tutorials. The Geography Course Handbook and individual Module Guides provide students with information on **ILS support**, **Study Skills Advice Sheets**, **work placement** opportunities, and the range of **student services** available (e.g. the Disability and Dyslexia service).

<https://www2.worc.ac.uk/firstpoint/>
<https://www2.worc.ac.uk/disabilityanddyslexia/>

- Geography students also have access to a range of specialist resources including the **GIS, Mapping and Visualization Suite**, **GPS** equipment, and **hydrological and meteorological monitoring equipment**.

18. Admissions

Admissions Policy

The University aims to be accessible; it is committed to widening participation and encouraging diversity in the student population. The School of Science and the Environment works closely with central student support services, including the Admissions 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).

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 [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 (BSc Geography - L700 BSc (Hons) Geography)
Part-time applicants apply directly to the University of Worcester
L705 BSc (Hons) Geography with International Year Abroad

Applications are reviewed by the Admissions Tutor. All successful applicants will be required to attend and interview at the University. The decision to offer a place will be based on a candidate's ability to demonstrate enthusiasm for the subject, commitment to study and the academic ability to succeed on the Course. Students with few or no formal qualifications will be set an essay to write and invited to interview, as part of the Admissions process.

Admissions / Selection Criteria

The Admissions Tutors will pay particular attention to personal statements as well as predicted grades. In particular, they will be looking for evidence of an interest in the subject and a clear explanation as to why

the student is keen to pursue Geography 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 module specifications. Assessments are aligned to Learning Outcomes.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- A student is 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

- A student who submits course work late but within 7 days (one week) of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- A student who submits work later than 7 days (one week) will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations please see the Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

Retrieval of failure

- A student is entitled to re-sit 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 issued via the secure student portal (SOLE). It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and comply with any reassessments.

Requirements for Progression

- A student will be permitted to progress from Level 4 to Level 5 if, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 4. Outstanding Level 4 credits must normally be studied in the following academic year.
- A student will be permitted to progress from Level 5 to Level 6 if, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, they have passed at least 210 credits, including 90 credits at Level 5. Outstanding Level 5 credits must normally be studied in the following academic year.
- A student who, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, has failed 90 credits or more (after exhausting all reassessment opportunities) during the academic year will have their registration with the University terminated.
- If a student has not passed 90 credits by the reassessment Board of Examiners, the student is not permitted to progress to the next level and will be required to either complete outstanding reassessment or retake the failed modules the following academic year. Students will be able to carry forward any passed modules.
- For students following the UWIC pathway see section 18 above.

Requirements for Awards

Award	Requirement
Certificate of Higher Education Cert HE Human Geography	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 DipHE Human Geography	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/Project 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

For further information on honours degree classification, see the [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#).

20. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers

Graduate destinations

Geography equips students with a wide range of skills and knowledge relevant to the world of work.

Careers for Geography Graduates include:

- Cartographer
- Chartered Surveyor
- Community Worker
- Distribution/Logistics Manager
- Environmental Consultant
- GIS Manager
- Local Government Officer
- Nature Conservation Officer
- Remote Sensing Scientist
- Retail Manager

- Teacher
- Tourism Officer
- Town Planner

Student employability

Geography at the University of Worcester has repeatedly been commended by External Examiners for the emphasis it places on employability skills.

Central to this has been a commitment to experiential learning through providing students the opportunity to develop their practical skills through local and residential fieldwork, and ICT skills at all levels of study. In addition to gaining practical experience of using specialised equipment and facilities, geography students also engage in a range of problem-solving, role-play and research activities based on 'real world' issues (many of which have a direct link with staff research and consultancy interests and experience). Moreover, module assessments (e.g. consultancy reports, development plans, mock planning enquiry, oral presentations) simulate many of the needs of graduate employers and hence equip students with the skills and experiences required for the workplace.

The Employable Worcester Graduate Framework, in which students are encouraged throughout their course to reflect on employability, personal development and the process of learning itself, is central to teaching and learning activities at all levels of the geography programme. The Geography Academic Tutorial Programme in particular, encourages students to engage in reflective practice and personal development planning, and critically seeks to work with students to identify how their skills and experiences at university translate into assets for employability. Furthermore, with many employers now expecting extracurricular or voluntary experience, this can prove vital. Geography students are actively encouraged to participate in the Worcester Award Scheme which is run at University level.

Links with employers

The Geography team have extensive links with local, national and international external organisations and employers. These links help enhance the learning experience for students through the provision of specialist knowledge and resources; many modules incorporate 'guest lectures' from practitioners or give students an opportunity to network with potential employers during seminars or conferences). Careers advice is also embedded in the curriculum at all three levels. In Level 4, students are introduced to the Careers Service in GEOG1301 Geographical Investigations. This is followed up in GEOG2310 Geographical Information Systems and Research Methods, with a more substantial careers session focusing on the significance of research skills for geography careers. Students can also elect to take a professional placement module (GEOG3312) at Level 6 that provides an explicit opportunity to gain direct experience of a professional working environment.

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.

Award Map for BSc (Hons) Geography

Table 6 award map for level 4 BSc (Hons) Geography

Course Title: BSc Geography						
Level 4 BSc Geography						
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M), or Optional (O))		Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes
			Single Hons	Joint Hons		
GEOG1301	Geographical Investigations	30	M	-	-	-
GEOG1310	Dynamic Earth	30	M	M	-	-
GEOG1311	Risk and Resilience	30	M	-	-	-
GEOG1312	People and Place	30	M	M	-	-

Single Honours Requirements at Level 4

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total drawn from the table above to include all mandatory modules, GEOG1301, GEOG1310, GEOG1311, GEOG1312.

Joint Honours Requirements at Level 4

Joint Honours students must take GEOG1310 and GEOG1312.

Table 8 award map for level 4 BSC (Hons) Geography

Level 5 BSc Geography									
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional* (O))				Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Physical/Human	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes
			SH	Maj	JH	Min			
GEOG2300	Geography Residential Field Course	15	M	O	O	-	-	P/H	-
GEOG2310	Geographical Information Systems and Research Methods	30	M	M	O	-	-	P/H	-
GEOG2320	The Physical Geography of Mountain Environments	30	O	O	O	O	-	P	-
GEOG2321	Meteorology and Climate	15	O	O	O	O	-	P	-
GEOG2322	River Monitoring and Assessment	15	O	O	O	O	-	P	-
GEOG2323	Natural Hazards	15	O	O	O	O	-	P	-
GEOG2330	Rural-Urban Geographies	30	O	O	O	O	-	H	-
GEOG2331	Contemporary Issues in Human Geography	15	O	O	O	O	-	H	-
GEOG2332	Geographies of Development	15	O	O	O	O	-	H	-
GEOG2333	Heritage Tourism and Place Promotion	15	O	O	O	O	-	H	-
GEOG2337	Climate Change: Science and Policy	15	O	O	O	O	-	P/H	-
GEOG2338	California Field Course: Dynamic Landscapes	15	O	O	O	O	-	P	-
LANGxxxx	Optional modules offered by the Language Centre	15/30	O	-	-	-	-	-	-

NB* Note that optional modules are only available in specific semesters

Single Honours Requirements at Level 5

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total drawn from the table above. 45 credits must include GEOG2300 + GEOG2310. Students must then take either GEOG2320 or GEOG2330 (30 credits). The remaining 45 credits must include at least one module designated Physical (P) **AND** one module designated Human (H). Optional modules can also include up to 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 GEOG2310 (15 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 to include either GEOG2320 or GEOG2330. Students intending to complete their Independent Study (or equivalent Project) in this subject must take GEOG2310

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 excluding GEOG2300 and GEOG2310

Table 9 award map for Level 5 BSc (Hons) Geography with International Year Abroad

Course Title: BSc (Hons) Geography with International Year Abroad					
Level 5					
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M), or Optional (O))	Pre- requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes
			Single Hons		
GEOG3000	International Year Abroad	0	M	-	-

Single Honours Requirements at Level 5

Single Honours students taking the BA (Hons) Geography with International Year Abroad will need to take the mandatory Third Year International Year Abroad Module between Levels 5 and 6. Please Note: Students on Tier 4 visas must ensure that they remain compliant with UKVI regulations on attendance and engagement if they take up an opportunity to study abroad.

Table 10 award map for level 6 BSc (Hons) Geography

Level 6 BSc Geography									
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional* (O))				Human/Physical	Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes
			SH	Maj	JH	Min			
GEOG3002	Dissertation	30	M	M	O	-	H/P	GEOG2310	Exclusions: HGEO3002 Dissertation in Human Geography and PGEO3002 Dissertation in Physical Geography
GEOG3310	Mountain Environments Field Course	15	O	O	O	-	P	GEOG2320	-
GEOG3311	Changing Places Field Course	15	O	O	O	-	H	-	-
GEOG3312	Professional Placement for Geographers	15	O	O	-	-	H/P	-	-
GEOG3314	Earth Observation and GIS Applications	15	O	O	O	-	P	-	-
GEOG3320	River Conservation and Management	15	O	O	O	O	P	-	-
GEOG3322	Environmental Geology	15	O	O	O	O	P	-	-
GEOG3323	Mountain Glaciers and Landscape	15	O	O	O	O	P	-	-
GEOG3324	Quaternary Climate and Environmental Change	15	O	O	O	O	P	-	-
GEOG3331	Political Geography	15	O	O	O	O	H	-	-
GEOG3332	Countryside Conservation and Agricultural Change	15	O	O	O	O	H	-	-
GEOG3333	Town and Country Planning	15	O	O	O	O	H	-	-
GEOG3334	Built Heritage Management	15	O	O	O	O	H	-	-
GEOG3336	Environment and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa	15	O	O	O	O	H	GEOG2332	-
GEOG3337	Geographies of Disability	15	O	O	O	O	H	-	-
GEOG3338	California Field Course: Dynamic Landscapes	15	O	O	O	O	P	-	-
ENVS3113	Atmospheric Processes and Pollution	15	O	O	O	O	P	GEOG2321	-

NB* Note that optional modules are only available in specific semesters

Single Honours Requirements at Level 6

Single Honours students must take 120 credits from the table above and must include GEOG3002 (30 credits) and either GEOG3310 (15 credits) or GEOG3311 (15 credits). 60 credits must be taken from two modules designated Physical (P) (totalling 30 credits) and from two modules designated Human (H) (totalling 30 credits). The remaining 15 credits can be taken from a module designated as either Physical or Human.

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 table at the end of this document.

Major Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Major Pathway students must take either 75 or 90 credits from the table above to include GEOG3002 (30 credits)

Joint Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Joint pathway students must take 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.

Joint pathway students must take one Dissertation (or equivalent Project) in either this subject (GEOG3002), their other joint subject or take JOIN3002 where the Dissertation covers both joint subjects.

Minor Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Minor pathway students must take either 30 or 45 credits from the table above. There are no mandatory requirements for Minor students at Level 6.

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:

Table 11 credit requirements

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

References

QAA (2019) Subject Benchmark Statement Geography. The Quality Assurance Agency for UK Higher Education (QAA). https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-geography.pdf?sfvrsn=4ae2cb81_4