

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

This document applies to Academic Year 2024/25 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 (subject to approval)
4.	Final award or awards	BSc (Hons)
5.	Programme title	BSc (Hons) Geography BSc (Hons) Geography with International Year Abroad
6.	Pathways available	Single Honours
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 (2022)
11.	Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision	September 2022 including AQU amendments July 2023 – annual updates

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 (Hons) 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, sustainable development, globalisation, conservation, environmental risks and natural hazards.

At Worcester, we have a unique approach to module selection at second and third year, whereby we work in partnership with students who help shape the course by determining which modules are offered annually. Our practical, authentic approach to learning provides students with every opportunity to apply their knowledge and develop a wide range of specialist and transferable skills. This is underpinned by an extensive fieldwork programme, featuring both local and fully funded residential fieldwork in all three years, as well as unparalleled access to the latest specialist equipment and software. This approach provides our students with the knowledge and skills to engage in disciplinary debates, as well as preparing them for graduate employment and/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 them with the skills required 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 an opportunity to specialise by selecting from a range of optional modules that reflect staff 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 also enjoy exciting fieldwork opportunities, including local and residential fieldwork in all three years. The residential fieldwork, which includes UK and overseas destinations, are a core part of the curriculum.

In particular, the course aims to:

1. Provide a broad, contemporary, and intellectually challenging internationalised geographical curriculum that draws on the research expertise of staff and enables students to develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of specialised areas of geography.
2. Provide students with the opportunity to study geography at a depth and level appropriate to honours degree.
3. Establish learning environments that promote global citizenship and sustainable development.
4. Develop highly motivated employable students with the subject knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a developing and changing employment environment.
5. Provide a supportive and inclusive learning environment that acknowledges and responds to the diversity of student backgrounds and experiences.
6. Provide students with the opportunity to become individual, autonomous, and reflective learners.

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

By completing Level 6 of the programme, students will have attained all the learning outcomes detailed below.

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 at a variety of spatial and temporal scales.	GEOG3002 GEOG3510 All Optional Level 6 modules
2	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the spatial and temporal variations in the nature and distribution of a variety of physical and human phenomena, and the explanations that underlie these.	GEOG3002 GEOG3510 All Optional Level 6 modules

3	Critically evaluate the ways in which the distinctiveness of a particular place is constituted and consistently remade by physical, social, historical, economic, political and cultural processes, in a range of contexts from the local, regional to global.	GEOG3510 All Optional Level 6 modules
4	Demonstrate a critical understanding into sustainability and sustainable development practices in relation to the complex interactions between societies and environment	GEOG3510 All Optional Level 6 modules
5	Develop a critical understanding of the subject area of geography, and how changes in the subject have influenced its development as a dynamic, plural and contested intellectual subject resulting in the diverse representation of societies and the physical environment.	GEOG3512 All Optional Level 6 modules
6	Evaluate a range of analytical techniques and observational strategies used in the analysis and interpretation of geographical information.	GEOG3002 All Optional Level 6 modules
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 GEOG3510 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 GEOG3510 GEOG3512
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)	GEOG3512 All Optional Level 6 modules
10	Critically assess the merits of contrasting theories, explanations, perspectives and apply appropriate methodologies to solve geographical problems	GEOG3002 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
12	Prepare effective maps, diagrams and visualisations using a range of appropriate technologies, and interpret and analyse as appropriate.	GEOG3002 All Optional Level 6 modules
13	Employ a variety of archival, field and laboratory-based methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental information.	GEOG3002 All Optional Level 6 modules
14	Critically reflect on the process of learning and use personal development planning to plan personal, academic and career development.	GEOG3512

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 information	GEOG3002 GEOG3512 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.	GEOG3510 GEOG3512 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	GEOG3512
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 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.	GEOG300 0
21	Demonstrate an ability to work independently overseas and study in a foreign environment	GEOG300 0

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. Students are taught through a mixture of independent self-study, teaching, field and practical work, and assessed by a range of innovative and authentic assessment types. 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

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, but specific tutor help will always be available. 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.

Fieldwork is integral to geographical education and, at Worcester, we place strong emphasis on fieldwork. Local fieldwork is offered in almost every module. Students also have the opportunity to experience fully funded residential fieldwork in all three years.

Students are taught through a combination of lectures, seminars, laboratory practical sessions, practical activities, 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, submit assignments and provide feedback on both formative and summative assessments.

The course places emphasis on enabling students to develop the independent learning capabilities that will equip them for lifelong learning and future employment, as well as academic achievement. This is facilitated through a mixture of independent study, teaching and academic support from Student Services and Library Services, and also the Personal Academic Tutoring system.

The Personal Academic Tutor is a student's regular point of contact within the university. Normally a PAT will remain with a student throughout their time at the University of Worcester.

Students should normally meet their Personal Academic Tutor at least four times in their first year, and at least three times in other years.

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 the latest industry standard field and laboratory equipment.

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 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

Weekly contact time is 3-4 hours per module depending on type of delivery, which equates to a total of 12-16 hours per week. 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

In addition to the contact time, students are expected to undertake around 24 hours of independent self-study, plus assessment preparation in the assessment period at the end of each semester. Typically, this will involve visiting the library and carrying out recommended reading, planning and writing assignments, and undertaking group work.

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

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 about three quarters of course Lecturers have a higher education teaching qualification or are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy. Details about the staff can be found on the School of Science and the Environment [Staff Profiles](#).

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' assessment which is graded and counts 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.

Geography includes a range of innovative and authentic assessment types, e.g.: essays of varying lengths; reports; seminar presentations (group and individual); TV Show event presentation; unseen exam; practicals (field, scientific laboratory, specialist ICT work and quantitative and qualitative analyses); role-play simulations; poster displays; work-based assessments; teamwork of varying kinds. 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

2 Essays

1 Field Notebook

1 Portfolio

2 Poster Presentations

2 Presentations

1 Reflective writing assignment

1 Report
 2 Research/Practical write ups
 2 Written assignments

Year 2

1 Essay
 1 Exam
 1 Individual or Group Presentation
 1 Poster Presentation
 1 Reflective writing assignment
 1 Report
 2 Research/Practical write ups
 1 Written Assignment
 1 Other (Hydrometric Network Design)

Year 3

1 Fieldwork Portfolio
 2 Other (Dissertation & Mock-interview)
 1 Presentation
 2 Reflective writing assignments
 2 Reports
 1 Research/Practical write ups
 2 Written Assignments

Feedback

Students receive feedback on formative and summative assessments following the [UW Assessment Policy](#) (Section 9). 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.

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 the focus is 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 other forms of assessment such as an exam.

Each assessment item has published specific marking criteria contained in the module outline given to students at the beginning of the module.

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 Geography \(QAA, 2022\)](#), for Geography bachelor's degrees with honours, articulate the knowledge, skills and categories of achievement to be expected of successful honours graduates in the field. 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). This award is located at Level 6 of the [OfS sector recognised standards](#)

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. The detailed programme for this will vary from one year to the next but will include the following elements: Introduction to the course; meeting(s) with Personal Academic Tutors; introduction to key ICT resources [Student Online Environment (SOLE), Backboard (a virtual learning environment)]; a social event to meet staff and fellow students; project/field activities (active learning/research-based teaching). Sessions on core study skills are reinforced within core mandatory modules and meetings with Personal Academic Tutors.

All students have a Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) who guides the process of Personal Development Planning (PDP) and offers general support. Tutorials operate alongside the core curriculum. At Level 4, there is a full programme of meetings, with students undertaking a range of tasks linked to core modules. There will be an emphasis on information literacy skills and Personal Development Planning at Levels 5 and 6, the programme of meetings adheres to the generic guidance issued by the university, although there will remain focus on personal development planning throughout the student's course. At all levels, a key objective will be the application of the idea of 'feed forward'; students gather feedback from the previous year/semester and review it with a tutor and/or in a peer group.

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-based learning, and the range of student services available (e.g. the Disability and Dyslexia service).

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

<https://www.worcester.ac.uk/life/help-and-support/services-for-students/home.aspx>

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

18. Admissions

Admissions Policy

We welcome applications from people of all ages and backgrounds with an interest in studying Geography. 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, the Disability and Dyslexia Service, and the International team (student services), to support students from a variety of backgrounds. We actively encourage and welcome people from the

widest range of economic and cultural backgrounds and welcome 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.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) requirements

A satisfactory DBS disclosure may be required if a placement/Work Based Learning experience involves working with young children or vulnerable adults. The cost of this will be met by the student.

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

Part-time applicants apply directly to the University of Worcester

Applications are reviewed by the Admissions Tutor. 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.
- 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 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 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 at least 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.

Requirements for Awards

Award	Requirement
Certificate of Higher Education Cert HE 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 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 Dissertation/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 120 credits attained at Level 5 and 120 credits at Level 6. Level 5 and Level 6 grades are weighted on a ratio of 1:2

OR

- Classification determined on the profile of the 120 credits attained at Level 6 only.
- Classification will be based on the weighted average grade together with a requirement for at least half of the Level 6 grades to be in the higher class.

Please note: The above methods apply to students entering Level 4 of three or four year degree programmes who commence Level 4 from September 2022 onwards.

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

20. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers

Graduate destinations

Our Geography graduates are highly employable and progress into a diverse range of employment sectors where they use their skills to address some of the biggest issues in our changing world. Students develop the key subject specific and transferable skills such as team-working, report-writing, presentation skills, numerical analysis, research-design and geospatial skills which are actively sought by employers. Recent graduates have secured positions in the following fields:

- Conservation
- Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability
- Data management
- Development
- Earth Observation
- Environmental management and consultancy
- Flood Risk Management
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- Local Government
- Regeneration
- River Science
- Surveying
- Teaching
- Tourism
- Urban and Rural Planning

Further Study

This course will also prepare students for competitive entry into post graduate degree programmes, professional qualifications and graduate programmes. Many of our students choose a career in teaching and go on to further study on one of our PGCE courses in Geography here at the University of Worcester.

Student employability

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

Central to this has been a commitment to experiential learning by providing opportunities for students to develop their practical skills through local and residential fieldwork, and digital literacy 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.

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. Mandatory modules such as GEOG1502 Digital Skills (Level 4), GEOG2510 Research Design and Project Management (Level 5) and GEOG3512 Professional Development and Career Planning (Level 6) require students to create and develop a professional development portfolio, engage in reflective practice and personal development planning.

The Geography Personal Academic Tutorial programme also 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). Examples of employers of our BSc Geography graduates include the Environment Agency, Atkins, the Wildlife Trusts, ESRI, the Met Office, Wessex Water, Worcester City Council and Sanctuary Housing.

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 heading for course title

Course Title: BSc (Hons) Geography and BSc (Hons) Geography with International Year Abroad

Level 4

Table 7 award map for level 4 BSc (Hons) 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*
GEOG1501	Geographical Fieldwork	15	M	N/A	GEOG1200 GEOG1201 GEOG1301
GEOG1502	Skills for Geographers	15	M	N/A	GEOG1200 GEOG1201 GEOG1301
GEOG1510	Earth Surface Processes & Landforms	30	M	N/A	GEOG1210 GEOG1310
GEOG1511	Global Risks	15	O	N/A	GEOG1215 GEOG1216 GEOG1311
GEOG1512	People and Place	30	M	N/A	GEOG1212 GEOG1312
GEOG1513	Sustainable Futures	15	O	N/A	GEOG1215 GEOG1216 GEOG1311
CODE xxxx	Optional modules offered by the Centre for Academic English and Skills/Institute of Education	15/30	O	N/A	N/A

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 GEOG1501, GEOG1502, GEOG1510 and GEOG1512 and optional modules - which can include up to 15/30 credits drawn from a range of modules in: Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL); Academic English for native and non-native speakers of English and modules in Tutoring. Details of the available modules can be found here <https://www.worcester.ac.uk/life/help-and-support/centre-for-academic-english-and-skills/optional-modules.aspx>

Level 5

Table 8 award map for level 5 BSc (Hons) 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*
GEOG2500	Geography Residential Field Course	15	M	N/A	GEOG2100 GEOG2300
GEOG2510	Research Design and Project Management	30	M	N/A	GEOG2110 GEOG2310
GEOG2511	Environmental Hazards and Disaster Management	30	M	N/A	GEOG2123 GEOG2323
GEOG2520	Mountain Geomorphology	15	O	N/A	GEOG2120 GEOG2320
GEOG2521	Meteorology and Climate	15	O	N/A	GEOG2121 GEOG2321
GEOG2522	River Catchment Dynamics	15	O	N/A	GEOG2122 GEOG2322
GEOG2530	Social and Cultural Geography	15	O	N/A	N/A
GEOG2531	Rural Geography	15	O	N/A	GEOG2132 GEOG2330
GEOG2532	Development and Change in the Global South	15	O	N/A	GEOG2131 GEOG2332
GEOG2533	Sustainable Cities	15	O	N/A	N/A
GEOG2540	Climate Crisis	15	O	N/A	GEOG1214 GEOG2337
CODE xxxx	Optional modules offered by the Centre for Academic English and Skills/Institute of Education	15/30	O	N/A	N/A

Single Honours Requirements at Level 5

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total drawn from the table above to include all mandatory modules GEOG2500, GEOG2510 and GEOG2511 and optional modules - which can include up to 15/30 credits drawn from a range of modules in: Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL); Academic English for native and non-native speakers of English and modules in Tutoring. Details of the available modules can be found here <https://www.worcester.ac.uk/life/help-and-support/centre-for-academic-english-and-skills/optional-modules.aspx>

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

Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))	Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes*
GEOG3000	International Year Abroad	0	M	N/A	N/A

Single Honours Requirements at Level 5

Single Honours students taking the BSc (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.

Level 6

Table 10 award map for level 6 BSc (Hons) 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*
GEOG3002	Dissertation	30	M	GEOG2510	HGEO3002 PGEO3002
GEOG3510	Advanced Residential Fieldwork	15	M	GEOG2511	GEOG3110 GEOG3111 GEOG3310 GEOG3311
GEOG3512	Professional Development and Careers for Geographers	15	M	N/A	GEOG3112 GEOG3312
GEOG3520	River Conservation & Management	15	O	N/A	GEOG3120 GEOG3320
GEOG3521	Engineering Geomorphology	15	O	N/A	N/A
GEOG3522	Earth Observation & Environmental Change	15	O	N/A	GEOG3114 GEOG3314
GEOG3523	Glaciers and Glaciation	15	O	N/A	GEOG3123 GEOG3323
GEOG3530	Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa	15	O	N/A	GEOG3136 GEOG3336
GEOG3531	Geography of Health and Well-Being	15	O	N/A	GEOG3137 GEOG3337
GEOG3532	Rural Planning for Conservation	15	O	N/A	GEOG3132 GEOG3332
GEOG3533	Planning Space. Making Place	15	O	N/A	GEOG2433 GEOG3133 GEOG3333

Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))	Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes*
GEOG3534	Cultural and Heritage Tourism	15	O	N/A	GEOG2333, GEOG3433 ARCH2112 ARCH3112 GEOG2135 GEOG3135
GEOG3540	Our Fragile Planet: Biogeography	15	O	N/A	N/A

Single Honours Requirements at Level 6

Single Honours students must take 120 credits from the table above to include all mandatory modules GEOG3002, GEOG3510 and GEOG3512.