Explore the science of the planet and its people

Geography is an essential subject for solving global issues of the 21st century. Its unique approach of linking the physical and social sciences makes it the only subject capable of understanding the planet, its people and its interactions. It moves learners beyond the lecture theatre, to think and act on a global scale. Understand our planet – study geography!

Study the challenges facing the environment with our flexible degrees covering both human and physical geography. Take advantage of our unique location, nearby to the coast, countryside and major urban centres and join us on amazing international field trips as far afield as the Brazilian Amazon, Croatia and Spain.

Geography forms an integral part of Lancaster Environment Centre, an internationally recognised centre for teaching and learning related to the environment. Being part of a multidisciplinary environment centre means you can study the full breadth of the subject. Modules span physical, environmental geography, human and social geography, all of which are taught by academics who are leading experts in their fields.

By joining us at Lancaster, you will become part of a broad community of like-minded students, academics, researchers, scientists and commercial enterprises working together to address today's biggest environmental challenges.
#14

*in the UK for Geography and Environmental Science (The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021)*

Top 100

*in the world for Geography (QS World University Rankings 2021)*

#16

*in the UK for Geography and Environmental Science (Complete University Guide 2022)*

Geography

Geography is a distinctive subject that links the physical and social sciences in a quest to solve environmental issues of global significance. Study in our outstanding practical facilities, explore our beautiful surroundings, take part in international field trips and learn from world-renowned lecturers.

Human Geography

Gain first-hand experience of the ways in which people interact with their environment and how they form communities, cultures and economies. Study a diverse range of modules that are developed and taught by our world-class academics who are leading experts in human, environmental and political geography.

Physical Geography

Learn about processes operating within our natural environment and explore the physical world, whilst working in our outstanding practical facilities alongside world-renowned lecturers. Choose from a wide range of modules delivered across Lancaster Environment Centre.

Joint degrees

Studying geography provides a global perspective on issues facing humanity. Link your degree with another discipline (economics or modern languages) to provide a global perspective on issues of economy, language and culture.

We offer you a suite of degree schemes and a diverse range of module choices wrapped up in a flexible approach to learning. This allows you to tailor your learning to your area of geographical interest, and ensures we maintain a vibrant learning culture with satisfied students and impressive career prospects.
Flexible and interdisciplinary
We believe that you will excel in your degree when exploring in-depth the areas of geography that you are particularly interested in. Your first year of study will give you the skills to succeed. From year two onwards, you will begin to specialise, choosing to study the topics which fascinate you the most.

What’s more, studying in a multidisciplinary department gives you the unique opportunity to expand the breadth of your degree by taking modules in Environmental Science or Ecology.

Practical study
You won’t just learn in lecture theatres at Lancaster! We place great emphasis on practical learning, whether that is in our new teaching labs or out in the field. Practical learning enables you to put theory into practice and understand the principles underpinning the topics you are studying, whilst also developing skills which will be of use throughout your degree and future career.

Industrial links
We give you the opportunity to enhance your CV throughout your degree. This is crucial in order to stand out in the graduate jobs market.

Our in-house Enterprise and Business Partnerships team engages with hundreds of different businesses giving you invaluable experience of working alongside these organisations, including during your dissertation project.

Made for learning
Your study

Our academics are leaders in their fields and deliver enthusiastic and engaging teaching through a range of methods.

Lectures
Lectures provide an introduction to the key issues in each topic and are delivered by an expert in that particular field. They usually last either one or two hours, and should be complemented by further independent study by reading relevant literature on the topic. We provide online reading lists of suitable books and journals that are available either digitally or in print from our library.

Tutorials
Tutorials are usually one-hour sessions where you will be encouraged to discuss your learning with a small group of fellow students, under the guidance of an academic tutor. During these in-depth study sessions, you will learn key skills and discuss concepts related to lecture materials.

Practical classes
Many of our modules include practical sessions alongside lectures and tutorials. These are designed to help you discover the key principles underpinning the topic of study, whilst also developing your skills which you will be able to put to use throughout your degree and future career. Practical classes could range from computer-modelling sessions, through fieldwork, to the opportunity to conduct experiments in our laboratories.

Assessment
The assessment process varies across modules, but includes laboratory reports, essays, independent project reports, group presentations, and exams. Assessment is an on-going process, rather than being left solely until the end of the degree. This means we are able to provide feedback to you throughout your degree.

Academic support
We are a friendly department and foster a highly supportive learning environment, making sure that you are fully supported to achieve your full academic potential. This includes access to our Student Learning Developers, who offer workshops and advice on improving your academic skills, and also assigning you an Academic Tutor with whom you will meet regularly throughout your degree to discuss your academic progress.
State-of-the-art laboratories

Spread over two floors in a new £4m building, our teaching laboratories can house over 200 students and are the location for many practical classes. These will provide you with hands-on experience that puts theory into practice. You can also use this facility as part of your dissertation project, for example undertaking controlled experiments or processing field samples.

Field and laboratory facilities

The final year dissertation provides you with the opportunity to work alongside our on-going research projects or perhaps develop a project of your own. You may have the opportunity to work at research field sites in the UK or overseas and to gain hands-on experience with cutting-edge analytical equipment. This includes mass spectrometers and ion chromatographs to analyse the chemical composition of water or soil samples, in-situ fluorimeters to analyse algae living in streams and rivers, or gas chromatographs to analyse greenhouse gases released to the atmosphere.

Meteorological Station

We run the Hazeirrigg Meteorological Station, a unique field and weather station located just one kilometre from the University campus. Measurements from the site help the Met Office validate weather forecasts and climate models, and you may have the opportunity to visit the Station as part of your studies or as a volunteer taking measurements that contribute to official Met Office records.

Geographical Information Systems

You will have access to the latest versions of GIS and image processing software, as well as a wide variety of digital data resources. We also have a dedicated GIS Technician who offers support if you are using GIS as part of your coursework or dissertation research.

An environmental community

The newly refurbished atrium at the heart of Lancaster Environment Centre forms a home for our community of high-achieving students, world-class environmental researchers, government scientists and enterprises working together to address today’s biggest environmental challenges. The eco-friendly design of this space extends from the 100% recycled flooring, to the glazed roof, designed to reduce the need for lighting within this communal space.

Lancaster Environment Centre is the University’s largest department, with newly enhanced facilities, teaching rooms, laboratories and social spaces.

Equipped for achievement
Fieldwork is a fascinating way to develop your practical skills. You’ll gain hands-on experience of a wide range of environmental, ecological and geological situations that will place your studies in the context of real-world issues.

Local field excursions
Nestled between the Lake District World Heritage Site, Yorkshire Dales National Park, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and nearby to major cities such as Manchester, Lancaster is perfectly placed to study ecological, environmental, geographical and socio-economic processes.

Blackpool Zoo
Learn about conservation efforts and how conservation priorities are determined in a visit to Blackpool Zoo in your first year.

Kingsdale
Develop your glaciology field skills during a first year trip to Kingsdale in the local Yorkshire Dales.

Heysham
Unravel the geological history of the area and learn geoscience techniques as part of a second year module at the Heysham coastline.

Museum of Science and Industry
Discover the links between fossil fuels and the Industrial Revolution and their impacts on our climate during a third year trip to the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester.

Manchester and Salford
Critically explore how the physical infrastructure of Salford and Manchester is experienced by different groups of people.

Lancaster Wastewater Treatment Works
Learn first-hand how and why wastewater is treated before being released into the environment during a third year trip to the local treatment works.

We take full advantage of our natural surroundings to create amazing fieldwork experiences, in addition to the opportunities to travel the world with residential and overseas field trips.

Learning on location
Learning on location

Southern Spain
We visit an area in Spain of steep environmental gradients, ranging from semi-arid conditions along the Mediterranean coast up to the tundra peaks of the Sierra Nevada. You’ll study a number of challenges, including sediment transport and landslide activity, and gain experience of designing, implementing and evaluating a research project that investigates a diverse range of environmental issues.

Croatia
Visit Croatia with us and explore the Istrian Peninsula, an idyllic landscape of olive groves, forests, wineries and beaches. This environment is strongly governed by its geology, biodiversity and position between differing climates, whilst Istria is also the setting of dramatic socio-economic, political and environmental changes. During this trip, you will focus on the challenges of environmental management, particularly of water resources, in this unique landscape.

The Brazilian Amazon
The Amazon is a fascinating place to explore the conservation and development challenges facing tropical forests. Based in the lower Rio Negro region, you will see a range of beautiful tropical wildlife and visit people’s homes and agricultural plots to understand the challenges faced by local people. This is a unique opportunity to work alongside experts and understand the challenges of pursuing biodiversity conservation whilst reducing poverty.

New York
This trip offers you the opportunity to engage critically with the geography and inequality of New York. You will take part in a number of activities, including visiting activist groups, and learning about migration and gentrification. Throughout the trip, you will study the links between cultural, economic, political and social processes and the ways they influence life in New York city.

Switzerland
This is an intensive week-long residential field trip to south west Switzerland. You will select from one of six interconnected study themes to explore in depth, spanning: alpine climate and hydrology; glacial processes; alpine rivers; streams; soils; and ecosystems. Through the collection of significant amounts of field data on your chosen theme you will gain an in depth understanding of a particular thematic focus of alpine environments.
**Vanilla and Cocoa: what difference does knowledge make?**

Dr Ben Neimark has teamed up with the Eden Project in Cornwall to turn their collection of vanilla vines into a mini vanilla plantation and exhibition, to offer people a deeper understanding of the uncertainty and civil strife surrounding its production. It will highlight the complex social issues around vanilla and cocoa production and explore if knowing how things are produced changes consumer behaviour.

“We are creating a vanilla pergola for people to walk through giving them, for a moment, a sensory experience of what it is like to be on a vanilla plantation. There will be the smell of vanilla plants and a soundscape of a plantation, including the calls of lemur monkeys which are common there.”

Vanilla is one of the most precious and precarious plants on the planet. Dr Neimark has spent the past three years studying the violence and volatility surrounding vanilla production in Madagascar, which grows 90 per cent of the world’s supply of this increasingly popular natural flavouring.

Ben will be using the exhibition to further his research into the theory of ‘moral hyper proximity’ – whether our increasing knowledge of how products are produced actually changes what we buy. Dr Neimark hopes that the Eden installation will spawn a travelling exhibition that can eventually be shown around the UK and in Ghana and Madagascar.

**Restoring seabird-led nutrient cycles**

Professor Nick Graham is Principal Researcher of a new study into the eradication of rats from tropical islands. The Lancaster University-led study shows that critical cycles of seabird nutrients flowing to coral reefs are re-established within relatively short time periods after rats are removed – even around islands that have been infested for hundreds of years.

The findings offer encouragement that rat eradication can benefit coral reefs, because these nutrient flows can bolster the health of delicate coral reef ecosystems and may improve their chances of rebounding between climate disturbance events.

Seabirds are a critically important distributor of nutrients for island and marine environments. They feed on fish often in the open ocean far from islands, and then return to islands to roost – depositing nitrogen-rich nutrients on the island in the form of guano – or poo. Some of the guano is then leached off the islands by rain and into the surrounding seas where the nitrogen fertilises corals and other marine species such as algae and sponges, boosting the food-chain.

However, over the last several centuries people introduced rats to many tropical islands through settlement, sailing between islands and shipwrecks. Rats are a very damaging invasive species, consuming the seeds of many plants, and devastating bird populations as they eat eggs, chicks, and even adults of the smallest seabird species.

This study adds to the weight of evidence suggesting rat eradication can have substantial conservation benefits to tropical island and adjacent marine ecosystems. The nutrient cycles that returning seabirds bring can bolster coral and fish assemblages. With climate impacts severely impacting coral reefs, management actions to boost the ecosystem are incredibly important.

**Powerhouses: Toxic air pollution**

Professors Barbara Maher of Lancaster University and Lilian Calderón-Garcidueñas of The University of Montana and the Universidad del Valle de Mexico found that toxic metallic air pollution nanoparticles are getting inside the crucial, energy-producing structures within the hearts of people living in polluted cities, causing cardiac stress.

Using state-of-the-art electron microscopy, scientists are now able to show for the first time that tiny metal nanoparticles are getting inside the mitochondria of heart tissue – damaging these crucial ‘powerhouses’ that provide energy for the heart to pump.

The findings shed new light on how air pollution can cause the development of heart disease, as the iron-rich particles were associated with damage to the cells, and increased cardiac oxidative stress, even in very young hearts. The iron-rich nanoparticles found inside the heart cells are identical in size, shape and composition to those emitted from sources such as the exhausts, tyres and brakes of vehicles. These air pollution nanoparticles are also emitted by industrial sources as well as open fires in homes.

The repeated inhalation of these iron-rich nanoparticles, and their circulation by the bloodstream to the heart, may account for the well-established associations between exposure to particulate air pollution and increased cardiovascular disease, including heart attacks.

The findings show that the hearts of city dwellers, contain billions of these nanoparticles and can be up to ten times more polluted than the hearts of people living in less polluted places. The researchers say their study underlines the need for governments across the world to tackle ultrafine particulate pollution in their cities.
Communicating Geography

This hands-on module provides an exciting opportunity for you to put your geographical skills to work in a real classroom setting, thereby gaining valuable work experience. We organise for you to spend half a day per week in a local primary or secondary school as a classroom assistant, to learn how geography (or a related discipline) is communicated in a school setting. Not only is this an excellent insight into a career in teaching, but you will also return from your placement as a confident communicator and well versed in the latest debates in geography and education.

Eco-innovation

Eco-innovation is the development of new products, processes or services that support business growth with a positive environmental impact. This second year module will not only provide you with a knowledge of eco-innovation and how the concept relates to business opportunities, but you will also acquire the knowledge and skillset required to understand how organisations apply eco-innovation into their business planning. As a part of the module, you will learn how to create proposals for eco-innovation and prepare presentations for a panel of experts.

Placement year

Our placement year scheme provides you with support to secure a paid work placement during the third year of a four year degree scheme. You will experience twelve months working in the type of organisation that you might aspire to join when you graduate. The placement offers you the opportunity to work as a full-time employee of the organisation, with the same training and opportunities as other employees, whilst still receiving both academic and pastoral support from Lancaster University.

Professional experience

Our MSci Geography (Professional Experience) course provides you with an advanced qualification, which will give you a competitive edge in the graduate jobs market by equipping you with the extra experience, knowledge and skills that come with studying Masters-level modules and undertaking a second dissertation. What’s more, you will undertake a ten-week placement with a graduate employer where you will utilise and develop your skills in a professional environment, gaining valuable real-world experience.

Gain real-world experience

Environmental volunteering

Our Green Lancaster scheme provides you with plenty of opportunities to become more sustainable and promote positive environmental choices. The many nature reserves near to Lancaster offer volunteering opportunities. Within Lancaster Environment Centre, we also offer you volunteering opportunities, either with external partners specifically in the environment sector or as a research assistant in our own laboratories or research groups.
Discover your world beyond borders

Enhance your studies, boost your self-confidence and immerse yourself in the culture of another country as part of our exciting opportunities to study overseas.

Study Abroad
Broden your academic horizons by spending your second year studying abroad in either North America or Australasia. You’ll study similar modules to those available in Lancaster whilst gaining an understanding of a different culture and society. Importantly, the year abroad at Lancaster is not an addition to your degree, but instead fully integrated into the standard timeframe of three years for your BA or BSc, or four years for your MArts or MSci.

For more information, please visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad

Other opportunities abroad
There are other options for students who are not on the Study Abroad programme, e.g. shorter travel options during the summer holidays.

For more information, please visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/global-experiences/

We also hope to maintain and have a number of new opportunities for short study placements across Europe and beyond. These opportunities, which you would be able to sign up for, will be announced as they become available.

Student support
Studying on the other side of the world can be a daunting prospect. In addition to having a dedicated advisor, who will help you decide where to go and what to study, you’ll also have the opportunity to network with students who have previously studied abroad and who are able to provide you with a wealth of practical tips. Additionally, our Global Experiences team are on hand to help you with application forms and the financial and legal aspects of studying overseas.

Grace’s study abroad year

“During the second year of my MSci Physical Geography degree at Lancaster, I had the opportunity to study abroad at the University of Colorado, Boulder. It is a stunning university in the heart of the United States, nestled at the base of the Rocky Mountains.

This opportunity provided me with a variety of interesting but challenging modules (or ‘classes’ as they would say over the pond) to explore. One module that I found particularly engaging was Field Geology, in which I mapped spectacular expanses of the Rockies in weekly field trip excursions. Even the cold (-15° C at times) couldn’t ruin the extraordinary views I was lucky enough to experience whilst taking this class!

Out of the classroom, I made incredible friends through the swim team and even more incredible memories. Such included weekend skiing trips, hiking the Flatirons, and attending incredible sports competitions (my favourite sports to watch being basketball and ice hockey).

Even though there were challenges (culture shock is not something to underestimate), and my time was cut short due to Covid-19, I learnt so much about myself and my capabilities. I would implore anyone looking for a life-changing experience during their degree to seize the adventure for themselves.”

Fees and funding
Details about the costs of Study Abroad, which can be used as a guideline, can be found at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad/costs/
What was it about the course that made it the right one for you?

For me, it was definitely the variety of module options that I was offered throughout the degree scheme. From covering the basics of cultural, developmental and economic geographies in first year to studying the environmental and economic impacts of energy or methods of eco-innovation in my second, I was always studying something new and something that I had chosen to study because I was truly interested in which I think is pivotal to a good degree scheme.

Does your course encompass more physical geography, human geography, or a combination of both?

When I left school, I distinctly remember my geography teachers trying to sway me each way to study either physical or human geography as when I was at university “I would have to choose”.

However, at Lancaster the interdisciplinary approach that is offered has meant that I don’t have to choose which has been one of my favourite parts of the course so far. I have always loved human geography, but I have also always had an interest in some aspect of the physical side of the course.

Studying Economic Geography in my second year alongside a module on geo-social spaces investigating the relationship between humans and the environment, on which I am now doing my dissertation, was only possible due to the interdisciplinary nature of the degree scheme at Lancaster!

How is Lancaster equipping you with skills to ensure you are career-ready?

The variety of teaching and assessments have really helped me to develop my learning and prepare me for life after university. From presentations, group work, literature review practice, interviews and even writing mock research proposals there are copious amounts of opportunities to hone skills you will rely on everyday after university.

Also, the state-of-the-art labs we have here at Lancaster are excellent for people who want to go into further research in geography enabling them to learn skills in everything from water chemistry to the collection of biophysical data from trees!

A Place for Harry

Harry Fisher
BA Geography

22
Year 1

In Year 1, you have the option to study the ‘Double Part 1’ in Geography comprising Human and Physical aspects of the discipline. This means you’ll spend two thirds of first year taking geography modules, leaving one third available to choose a subject to study from another department (this is known as the ‘minor subject’).

If you prefer to specialise in Human or Physical Geography only, you can just select the Part 1 Human Geography or Part 1 Physical Geography modules respectively. This leaves two thirds of your degree to be obtained through studying ‘minor subjects’ from another department.

There is a wide range of subjects to choose from, and we offer personal advice to help you decide. Generally, Human geographers normally choose arts or social sciences such as sociology, politics, history, psychology, economics or marketing. Physical geographers tend towards science subjects like environmental or biological sciences, mathematics or statistics, or information technology. This distinctive system offers a breadth of education that many employers appreciate.

In Year 1, you can expect around 15 total contact hours per week. Each official contact hour should be supplemented by 4–5 hours of independent study time.

Year 2

In Year 2, there is a compulsory core of modules covering key concepts and techniques in geography. You will also take a number of optional modules which let you tailor your degree to your particular interests. One module in another subject outside geography (either within or outside Lancaster Environment Centre), continued from the first year, can be taken in Year 2, but there are enough modules to allow you to study only geography. There are also a number of optional overseas field courses.

Year 3

In your final year, your dissertation provides an opportunity for you to perform original geographical research on a topic of your choice, guided by your supervisor. In addition, you choose six modules from a range of areas of geography (either within or outside Lancaster Environment Centre). These modules are taught by staff with research expertise in the topics covered. One module in another subject outside of geography, continued from the first or second years, may be taken in the third year, but again you can choose to study only geography.

At Lancaster, no two degrees in Geography are ever alike. That’s because we offer flexibility in module choice across all three years, allowing you to tailor your degree to your learning interests and skills needs.

Your degree
Your way
### Geography

#### BA, BSc, MArts and MSci Hons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Entry requirements for BA/BSc Hons Geography and BA/BSc Geography (Placement Year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A level</td>
<td>AAB</td>
<td>International Baccalaureate 35 points overall with 16 points from the best three Higher Level subjects including Geography at HL grade 6 or an alternative cognate subject.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| BTEC | DDD | International Baccalaureate 36 points overall with 16 points from the best three Higher Level subjects including Geography at HL grade 6 or an alternative cognate subject. |

#### Degree overview and structure

Geography is a distinctive subject; you will learn about the Earth’s landscapes, species, places and environment in a unique discipline that merges natural and social sciences.

Situated between the rural settings of the north and the bustling cities of Liverpool and Manchester, Lancaster’s location enables us to explore some of the UK’s most unique areas of geographic interest. You will gain a wealth of hands-on experience with field trips to places such as the Yorkshire Dales, Cumbrian coast and Lake District, as well as international locations such as the Brazilian Amazon, New York, Croatia and Sicily.

In first year you will study the ‘Double Part 1’ enabling a broad understanding of human, physical and environmental geography to be obtained. This comprises two thirds of your study, with the remaining time being spent studying another subject (known as the ‘minor’ subject) either from Lancaster Environment Centre, or from another department. This enables you to tailor your studies to your area of interest whilst keeping a broad outlook on your first year of learning.

Specialisation begins in second year, enabling you to choose topics that match your interests. Core modules will focus on practical work, giving you a range of analytical and research project skills, while optional modules feature exciting field trips to Spain and France. In the third year, you will undertake a dissertation project, guided by your academic supervisor, which offers a chance to perform original geographical research on a topic of your choice, whilst also being offered further module choices. Throughout your degree, considerable weight is placed upon enhancing your employability and such skills are greatly valued by potential employers.

Those returning from their placement will spend fourth year completing the module structure for Year 3.

### Year 1

- Double Part 1 Geography
- Placement Preparation (Placement Year students)

### Year 2

#### Core modules

- Beyond LEQ: Steps to career success
- Research methods in Human Geography
- Research methods in Physical Geography
- Being a Geographer: Issues, Ethics and Skills
- Spatial Analysis and Geographic Information Systems
- Work Based Learning Preparation (Placement Year students)

#### Optional modules

- Atmospheric Science
- Catchment Hydrology
- Communicating Geography
- Cultural Geography
- Development, Geography and the Majority World
- Economic Geography
- Energy, Economy and Environment
- Evolution
- Geoscience in Practice
- Geosocial Spaces
- Glacial and Fluvial Landscape Processes
- Integration to E-Innovation
- Investigating Mediterranean Environments
- People and the Sea
- Political Geography
- Populations to Ecosystems
- Principles of Biodiversity Conservation
- Soil Science

### Year 3

#### Core modules

- Dissertation OR Dissertation with Work Placement

#### Optional modules

- Africa: Geographies of Transformation
- Alpine Environmental Processes
- Causes and Consequences of Environmental Radioactivity
- Cities and Globalization
- Climate and Society
- Coastal Processes
- Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Brazilian Amazon
- Coral Reef Ecology
- Environment, Politics and Society in Amazonia
- Environmental Governance and the Biodiversity Crisis
- Environmental Remote Sensing and Image Processing
- Geographical Information Systems: Principles and Practice
- Geographies of Health: understanding tackling inequality
- Geological Hazards
- Glacial Systems
- Global Change and the Earth System
- Global Change Biology: Challenges and Solutions
- Hydrogeology
- Hydrological Processes (Slapton)†
- Introduction to Geophysical Techniques
- Issues in Conservation Biology
- Lakes, Rivers and Estuaries
- New York zob
- Sustainable Agriculture
- The Dynamic Earth
- Volcanic Processes Field Course
- Water Resources Management
- Water, Society and the Istrian Landscape

### Year 4

Placement year students study the modules described in Year 3.

**Work Based Learning Reflection**

† = Field trip

* = Prerequisites required

‡ = Dissertation with Work Placement not available to students on a Study Abroad degree scheme.

We also offer Geography as a MSci or MArts degree. See website for details.
Human Geography

BA Hons

BA Hons Human Geography L720 (3 years)
BA Hons Human Geography (Study Abroad) L721 (3 years with Year 2 spent overseas at a partner university)

BA Hons Human Geography (Placement Year) L723 (4 years with Year 3 spent on placement)

Requirements for BA Hons Human Geography and BA Hons Human Geography (Placement Year)

A-level
ABD

International Baccalaureate
35 points overall with 16 points from the best three Higher Level subjects including Geography at HL grade 6 or an alternative cognate subject.

Entry requirements for BA Hons Human Geography (Study Abroad)

A-level
AAA

International Baccalaureate
36 points overall with 16 points from the best three Higher Level subjects including Geography at HL grade 6 or an alternative cognate subject.

1 Distinction required in a related subject but we may additionally require a supporting A level in Geography at grade B (grade A for Study Abroad variants), or an alternative cognate subject. Please contact the Admissions Office for further advice.

Required subjects
A level Geography is recommended, or alternatively one of the following subjects: Anthropology, Classics, Economics, English Literature, History, Philosophy, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, World Development.

GCSE English Language (C or 4), Mathematics (C or 4)

Degree overview and structure

With a unique blend of social sciences and geography, gain first-hand experience of the ways in which people interact with their environment and how they form communities, cultures and economies.

In first year you can choose to study either the ‘Double Part 1’ enabling a broad understanding of human, physical and environmental geography to be obtained, or you can choose to specialise immediately by just studying Part 1 Human Geography. This latter option is ideal for those of you who know for certain that Human Geography is your passion. If you choose to study the Double Part 1, this comprises two thirds of your study, with the remaining time being spent studying another subject from a different department (this is known as the ‘minor’ subject). If you study just the Part 1 Human Geography, this comprises only one third of your study, with the remaining time being spent studying two additional subjects from other departments. These additional ‘minor’ subjects provide the opportunity to explore other social sciences such as Sociology or Politics, or gain transferable skills in Economics or Marketing, for example.

In the second year, you will undertake a series of core modules that focus on human geography skills and concepts. Optional choices include a field trip to Spain and modules that address individual topics in culture and politics, as well as our Communicating Geography module in which you can help teach the subject in a local school, gaining valuable classroom experience.

In the third year you will undertake a dissertation project, guided by your academic supervisor, which offers a chance to perform original geographical research on a topic of your choice. While completing the dissertation, you will use the key research, analytical and academic writing skills you have learnt throughout your degree. In addition, you may select from a range of optional modules which cover topics such as food and agriculture, health, enterprise and global consumption, as well as field trips to New York, Croatia and the Brazilian Amazon. Those returning from their placement will spend fourth year completing the module structure for Year 3.

Year 1
+ Double Part 1 Geography + one other subject
OR
+ Part 1 Human Geography + two other subjects
+ Placement Preparation (Placement Year students)

Year 2
Core modules
+ Beyond LEC: Steps to career success
+ Research methods in Human Geography
+ Being a Geographer: Issues, Ethics and Skills
+ Spatial Analysis and Geographical Information Systems
+ Work Based Learning Preparation (Placement Year students)

Optional modules
+ Communicating Geography
+ Cultural Geography
+ Development, Geography and the Majority World
+ Economic Geography
+ Geosocial Spaces
+ Introduction to Eco-Innovation
+ Political Geography
+ People and the Sea

Year 3
Core modules
+ Dissertation OR
+ Dissertation with Work Placement €

Optional modules
+ Africa: Geographies of Transformation
+ Cities and Globalization
+ Climate and Society
+ Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Brazilian Amazon ¶
+ Environment, Politics and Society in Amazonia
+ Environmental Governance and the Biodiversity Crisis
+ Geographical Information Systems: Principles and Practice
+ Geographies of Health: understanding tackling inequity
+ New York Field Course £
+ Water, Society and the Istrian Landscape ¶

Year 4
For Placement Year students: The core and optional modules described above for Year 3
+ Work Based Learning Reflection

Emma Johnston
BA Geography

“During my three years at Lancaster University, this degree has given me the opportunity to choose from a diverse range of modules. From physical topics, such as Principles of Biodiversity Conservation to more human topics, such as Cities and Globalisation, I love that I could make these choices and stay engaged with content that I am really interested in, as well as keeping my studies broad.”
Physical Geography
BSc and MSci Hons

BSc Hons Physical Geography
F840 (3 years)

BSc Hons Physical Geography (Study Abroad)
F847 (3 years with Year 2 spent overseas at a partner university)

BSc Hons Physical Geography (Placement Year) F841 (4 years with Year 3 spent on placement)

Entry requirements for BSc Hons Physical Geography & BSc Physical Geography (Placement Year)
A level AAB
BTEC DDD

International Baccalaureate 35 points overall with 16 points from the best three Higher Level subjects including Geography at HL grade 6, or an alternative cognate subject.

Entry requirements for BSc Hons Physical Geography (Study Abroad)
A level AAA
BTEC DDD

International Baccalaureate 36 points overall with 16 points from the best three Higher Level subjects including Geography at HL grade 6 or an alternative cognate subject.

Year 1
- Double Part 1 Geography + one other subject OR
- Part 1 Physical Geography + two other subjects
- Placement Preparation (Placement Year students)

Year 2
Core modules
- Beyond LEC: Steps to career success
- Research methods in Physical Geography
- Being a Geographer: Issues, Ethics and Skills
- Research Project Skills
- Spatial Analysis and Geographical Information Systems
- Work Based Learning Preparation (Placement Year students)

Optional modules
- Atmospheric Science
- Catchment Hydrology
- Communicating Geography
- Energy, Economy and Environment
- Evolution
- Geoscience in Practice
- Introduction to Eco-Innovation
- Investigating Mediterranean Environments
- Populations to Ecosystems
- Principles of Biodiversity
- Soil Science

Year 3
Core modules
- Dissertation OR Dissertation with Work Placement

Optional modules
- Alpine Environmental Processes
- Causes and Consequences of Environmental Radioactivity
- Coastal Processes
- Coral Reef Ecology
- Environmental Remote Sensing and Image Processing
- Geological Hazards
- Glacial Systems
- Global Change and the Earth System
- Global Change Biology: Challenges and Solutions
- Hydrogeology
- Hydrological Processes (Slapton)
- Introduction to Geophysical Techniques
- Issues in Conservation Biology
- Lakes, Rivers and Estuaries
- Sustainable Agriculture
- The Dynamic Earth
- Volcanic Processes
- Water Resources Management

Year 4
For Placement Year students:
The core and optional modules described above for Year 3

Year 5
- Work Based Learning Reflection

We also offer Physical Geography as an MSci degree. See website for details.

Georgia Kwan
BSc Physical Geography

© Statement
The environment has changed in the past, the controls on environmental processes in the present, and how we can predict changes in the future.

Lancaster proves to be an exceptional location for studying a degree in physical geography. You will gain a wealth of hands-on experience with field trips to places such as the Yorkshire Dales, Cumbrian coast and Lake District, as well as international locations such as Switzerland, the Mediterranean and Croatia.

In first year you can choose to study either the Double Part 1 "enabling a broad understanding of human, physical and environmental geography or you can choose to specialise by just studying Part 1, Physical Geography. This latter option is ideal for those of you who know for certain that Physical Geography is your passion. If you choose to study the Double Part 1, this comprises two thirds of your study, with the remaining time being spent studying another subject (known as the 'minor' subject). If you study just the Part 1 Physical Geography, this comprises only one third of your study, with the remaining time being spent studying two additional subjects (one from Lancaster Environment Centre, and the other from wider afield in the University). The additional (otherwise known as 'minor') subjects provide the opportunity to broaden your understanding of environmental processes, whilst providing flexibility of subject choice.

In the second year, you will learn a variety of physical geography skills and concepts in preparation for your final year of study. Optional module choices include a field trip to Spain, where you will study environmental problems in Mediterranean environments, and modules that address individual topics, for example Fluvial processes and glaciology.

In the third year you will undertake a dissertation project, guided by your academic supervisor. This offers a chance to perform original geographical research on a topic of your choice.

While completing the dissertation, you will use the key research, analytical and academic writing skills you have learnt throughout your degree. In addition, you will be offered further optional module choices including exciting fieldwork opportunities in Croatia and Switzerland. Those returning from their placement will spend fourth year completing the module structure for Year 3.

What I love most about my degree is that I am able to study physical geography as its own subject, excluding the human side. Lancaster allowed me to focus solely on what I enjoy the most and delivered this in fun and engaging ways, such as in the GIS practicals."
Degree overview and structure
Take advantage of the complimentary aspects of economics and geography with this combined degree programme and benefit from expert teaching in both subjects.

In economics you will explore the production and distribution of resources at local, national and international levels and address important contemporary topics like public policy, banking, global poverty, climate change and regional and urban growth. In geography you will consider the spatial and environmental impacts of such topics including natural resource management, environmental conservation planning, sustainable development, urban neighbourhood dynamics, transport policy and geopolitics.

You’ll be taught jointly by academic staff in the quadruple-accredited Lancaster University Management School and the award-winning Lancaster Environment Centre.

In first year you can choose to study either ‘Double Part 1’ Geography, enabling a broad understanding of human, physical and environmental geography to be obtained, or you can choose to specialise by just studying Part 1 Human Geography. If you choose to study the Double Part 1, this comprises two thirds of your study, with the remaining time being spent studying modules from Economics. If you study just the Part 1 Human Geography module, this comprises only one third of your study, with the remaining time being spent studying modules from economics and one additional subject from another department.

The additional (otherwise known as ‘minor’) subject provides the opportunity to broaden your disciplinary understanding whilst providing flexibility of subject choice.

Through studying economics and geography, you will acquire an incisive perspective and analytical skills that are greatly valued by employers in many fields, including corporate planning, economic consultancy, the financial sector and the civil service.

Gabriela Wydzynska
BA Geography and Economics

“Studying Geography and Economics has made me appreciate the interconnectivity of both disciplines in a global context. I particularly enjoyed the 2nd year Development module which enabled me to connect the theories and models from both subjects and provided a baseline for my 3rd year field trip to the Brazilian Amazon.”
Modern Languages and Geography BA Hons

BA Hons French Studies and Geography
LR71 (4 years including a year abroad)
BA Hons German Studies and Geography
LR72 (4 years including a year abroad)
BA Spanish Studies and Geography
LR74 (4 years including a year abroad)

Entry requirements for BA Hons
French/German/Spanish Studies and Geography
A level AAB
BTEC DDD

International Baccalaureate
35 points overall with 16 points from the three highest Level subjects including Geography at HL grade 6, or an alternative cognate subject, and appropriate evidence of language learning ability.

1 Distinction required in a related subject but we may additionally require a supporting A level in Geography at grade B, or alternative cognate subject. We further require appropriate evidence of language ability. Please contact the Admissions Office for further advice.

Required subjects
A level Geography is recommended or alternatively one of the following subjects: Anthropology, Classics, Economics, English Literature, History, Philosophy, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, World Development.

A level French/German/Spanish, or if this is to be studied from beginners’ level, AS grade B or A level grade B in another foreign language, or GCSE grade A or 7 in a foreign language. Native language speakers will not be accepted onto the corresponding degree scheme.

GCSE English Language (C or 4), Mathematics (C or 4)

Degree overview and structure
These exciting programmes will allow you to gain a detailed understanding of geography, while giving you the skills and knowledge to engage with the discipline overseas in a French, German or Spanish speaking country.

In first year you can choose to study either Double Part 1 Geography, enabling a broad understanding of human, physical and environmental geography, or you can choose to specialise by just studying Part 1 Human Geography. If you choose to study the Double Part 1, this comprises two thirds of your study with the remaining time being spent studying modules from the Modern Languages Department. If you study just the Part 1 Human Geography module, this comprises only one third of your study with the remaining time being spent studying modules from Modern Languages and one additional subject from another department. The additional (otherwise known as ‘minor’) subject provides the opportunity to broaden your disciplinary understanding whilst providing flexibility of subject choice.

Specialisation begins in second year, enabling you to choose topics that match your particular interests. Additionally, you will also take a specialist module that will prepare you for your international placement year. You will spend your third year studying or working overseas – either of which provides you with the opportunity to analyse the social, cultural, political and economic issues related to the area, complementing both your language and geography studies. In recent years students who opted to work during their year overseas have found diverse roles using their language skills, such as:

French - Administrative and Commercial Assistant, JCM Conseil Immobilier, Tahiti
German - Transport Logistics Coordinator, LKW Walther, Vienna, Austria
Spanish - Public Relations Intern, Marco de Comunicación, Madrid, Spain

Returning to Lancaster for your fourth year, you will undertake an extended essay, guided by your academic supervisor. This offers you a chance to investigate, in-depth, a topic of your choice related to both aspects of your joint degree. Throughout your degree, considerable weight is placed upon enhancing your employability and such skills are greatly valued by potential employers. Additionally by the end of your fourth year of language study, you will have achieved a level of fluency comparable to C1/C2 of the Common European Framework for Languages.

Georgina Letts
BA Spanish Studies and Geography

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Lancaster University as it has allowed me to grow as an individual and develop interests in specific geographical topics, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Cities and Cultural Geography. LEC offers an extensive range of module choices and I felt my second-year modules were excellent, especially the one on Cultural Geography. I also particularly enjoyed the module on Spatial Analysis and GIS, which ignited a passion for cartography and analysing maps. I am looking forward to my third-year modules of GIS, Cities and Globalization and Geographies of Health. After my undergraduate degree I am hoping to pursue a career in teaching and the university has helped me obtain work experience in this sector.”

Year 1
- Double Part 1 Geography and the language OR
- Part 1 Human Geography and the language + one other subject

Year 2
Core modules
- Beyond LEC: Steps to career success
- Being a Geographer: Issue, Ethics and Skills
- Spatial Analysis and Geographical Information Systems

Optional modules
- Communicating Geography
- Cultural Geography
- Development, Geography and the Majority World
- Geosocial Spaces
- Introduction to Eco-Innovation
- People and the Sea
- Political Geography
- Research Skills in Human Geography

Plus modules in...
- Modern Languages, including oral and written skills and understanding cultures (please see website for more details)

Year 3
- Year abroad

Year 4
Core modules
- Geography Joint Honours Extended Essay

Optional modules
- Africa: Geographies of Transformation
- Cities and Globalization
- Climate and Society
- Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Brazilian Amazon
- Environment, Politics and Society in Amazonia
- Environmental Governance and the Biodiversity Crisis
- Geographical Information Systems: Principles and Practice
- Geographies of Health: understanding tackling inequity
- New York World
- Water, Society and the Istrian Landscape

Plus modules in...
- Modern Languages (please see website for more details)
† = Field trip
Ever wonder what sort of career you can progress into with a geography degree? A geography degree doesn’t just equip you with subject-specific knowledge but also a combination of transferrable skills, including problem-solving and critical thinking, making geographers some of the most employable graduates in the country. You could go on to inspire the next generation of geographers through teaching, advise businesses and organisations on how to reduce their environmental impact as an environmental consultant or shape the towns and cities we live in as a transport planner.

Our recent graduates have moved into a diverse range of roles, across a variety of different sectors. Examples of the types of career paths that our recent graduates have followed include:

- Assistant Planning Officer
- Assistant Project Manager
- Data Analytics Associate
- Environment Officer
- Environmental Consultant
- Graduate Engineer
- Graduate Transport Planner
- Kielder Osprey Assistant
- Laboratory Technician
- Low Carbon Sector Adviser
- LUSH Management (Grad Scheme)
- Marketing Executive
- Permitting Officer
- PGCE (Secondary)
- PhD Research
- PR Assistant
- Process Capability Graduate

Project Co-ordinator
Recruitment Consultant
Strategies Account Manager
Sustainability Consultant
Trainee Accountant

You will undertake a module in employability skills, giving you excellent preparation for applying to graduate-level jobs and graduate schemes, and our dedicated Careers Service are here to assist you every step of the way. From helping you make a lasting impression with your CV to ensuring you are well prepared for interviews and assessment centres, they are able to offer you tailored and personalised support. What’s more, they provide lifelong careers support to our graduates so, if you need us, we will always be here to help.

Whatever your career aspirations may be, or even if you’re still not quite sure, we’re here to support you to reach your goals.

Career development

We offer you a wealth of opportunities during your studies at Lancaster to enhance your employability and help you develop the skills to succeed in the workplace.

Internships

Relevant work experience is crucial to achieving a good graduate job, and through our internship programme, you’ll have the opportunity to apply your knowledge to real-world situations whilst developing transferable skills.

Dissertation with external partner

Our in-house enterprise team engages with hundreds of businesses and organisations, giving you the unique opportunity to research environmental solutions to real-world problems.*

Volunteering

Lancaster has a thriving volunteer culture and our Students’ Union provides opportunities to work with schools, charities or other local organisations. This is a great way to enhance your CV whilst making a positive difference in the local community.

* Not available to students on a Study Abroad degree scheme

“Hello Future”

Joseph Earl
BSc Geography, 2019
PhD Geographer, Lancaster Environment Centre

“It was my gut feeling on a campus open day that told me Lancaster University was the right place for me to study at, and I’m so pleased that I did. Lancaster life has been fantastic, from the community feel of the campus & collegiate system to the friendliness & helpfulness of the department staff, everything makes you feel part of the University. During my undergraduate degree, I took advantage of a host of opportunities that LEC offered, including some fantastic human & physical geography modules, a dissertation with an external company, and a week-long excursion to Croatia’s Istrian Peninsula. Away from my studies, I’ve been heavily involved in the Running & Athletics club, enjoyed exploring the local area, and have made some amazing friends.

It was during my undergraduate degree that I built up the necessary academic and life skills that have been essential for continuing my studies as a PhD student. It’s an opportunity that I feel very fortunate to have, both to carry on learning and to continue my university experience here at Lancaster.”
Please note, all activities are subject to current Covid-19 government advice.

**Open Days**
Join us at one of our Open Days to experience what life as a student at Lancaster is like. You will have the opportunity to see what facilities are available and explore our beautiful 560 acre campus including our award-winning accommodation, newly refurbished library, the Students’ Union and sport facilities. You can also visit Lancaster Environment Centre where you have the opportunity to chat with current staff and students about studying geography.

**Campus Tours**
We organise regular campus tours to give you a flavour of life at Lancaster. The tour is designed to acquaint you with our friendly campus, showing you our award-winning student accommodation, social venues, library and a lot more.

You can book onto Open Days and Campus Tours at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/visitus

**Offer Holder Events**
We will be offering both online and in-person events. If you are offered a place on one of our degrees you will automatically be invited to attend one of our Offer Holder Events in February and March. It’s not compulsory, but we highly recommend you take part to get a feel for our community. At these events, you will have the opportunity to hear all about the University and department, watch live demonstrations and speak with academics and current students. Offer Holder Events are designed to give you a real taste of what it is like to be a student with us at Lancaster. You will receive further information about these events over the next few months.

**Visiting us**
Lancaster is very well served by road, rail and air networks and is nearby to major cities such as Manchester and Liverpool. More information about visiting the University can be found at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/travel

**Disclaimer**
The information provided in this brochure relates primarily to 2022/23 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2021. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application.

Further legal information may be found at www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice

**Image credits**
Many of the photographs in this brochure were taken during fieldwork or on campus. Thanks to our students and staff who took these photographs and appear in them. Additional photos appear courtesy of Shutterstock and Pexels.