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.
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.
**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**
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 Hazelrigg 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.
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.

Learning on location

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

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.

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.
Renowned experts, at the forefront of their fields, are shaping our understanding of the world. Their work feeds into our degree programmes, ensuring that your education is informed by cutting-edge thinking. During your degree you’ll conduct your own independent research project where you’ll benefit from the research experience of our internationally renowned staff and be exposed to the latest technology used in cutting-edge research laboratories.

Life-saving pollution tracker

Professor Kevin Jones, one of the world’s leading experts in chemical pollution, is working with a team of researchers and businesses across the UK and China to provide real-time street-level air pollution information.

The study seeks to develop models which forecast air quality on a street-by-street basis in Guangzhou, China, with the end goal being a publicly-accessible app which enables businesses, environmental monitoring agencies, and members of the public to identify where air pollution levels are at their highest.

According to the World Health Organisation, seven million people die every year prematurely from the effects of air pollution. This research can provide key information to tackle the issue by empowering the general public and minimising their exposure.

The researchers hope that improving public understanding of air quality in urban environments will not only raise awareness of the implications of air pollution, but also lead to improvements in government policy.

Professor Kevin Jones, alongside his team of researchers continue to work towards delivering detailed real-time data, already established in Guangzhou, to the UK and more widely on an international scale.

Volcanoes & glaciers: Powerful methane producers

Research led by Dr Peter Wynn, a glacial biogeochemist, looks at how the Sólheimajökull glacier, Iceland, which flows from the active ice-covered volcano, Katla, releases methane into the atmosphere.

The Lancaster University-led study shows that up to 41 tonnes of methane is being released through the glacial meltwaters every day during the summer months – this is roughly equivalent to the methane produced by more than 136,000 belching cows!

The amount of methane lost from the glacial meltwater rivals some of the world’s most methane-producing wetlands, and represents more than twenty times the known methane emissions of all Europe’s other volcanoes put together.

Dr Rebecca Burns, who carried out this research as part of her PhD, took water samples from the Sólheimajökull glacier, and compared the methane levels with those found in nearby sediments and surrounding rivers.

The research team found that the highest concentrations were sourced from microbiological activity occurring underneath the glacier. The connection between the Katla volcano and the Sólheimajökull glacier demonstrated the volcano does not produce the methane directly, but instead provides the optimal conditions which allow the microbes to thrive underneath the glacial ice and release methane into the surrounding meltwaters.

This is the first published field study to show methane release from glaciers on this scale. The findings provide important and new information on the origin and fluxes of methane at the Earth’s surface, including the significance of glaciers in contributing to the atmospheric greenhouse gas budget.

Understanding energy

Professor Gordon Walker is co-director of a leading research centre, focusing on understanding the changing ways we use energy in our everyday lives.

In the context of climate change, it is clear that we need to radically reduce carbon emissions at both scale and speed; introducing new low carbon energy technologies, such as solar and wind power, is vital to achieving this.

The concept of de-energising society (reducing energy consumption) is an important initiative to achieve de-carbonisation (reducing energy use) of our energy system.

The work of the research centre focuses on a range of examples of where our energy use in everyday life has not only been evolving, but also escalating. Many aspects of human geography are relevant to this research, including the growth of cities, changing methods of travel, the ageing population and the rise of the ‘networked society’ where digital communication is central; all of which are related to changing patterns of energy demand.

To find ways to reduce energy consumption, the research centre aims to demonstrate the importance of underlying reasons behind our energy use. This research seeks to act as a catalyst to develop new policies and initiatives, and steer households, businesses and other organisations towards using less energy, ultimately challenging the assumption that using more energy is a positive indicator of economic progress.
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.

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.

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
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

Broaden 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 MA or MSci.

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

Europe

Through the Europe scheme you can spend three months abroad at the end of your second year, undertaking a research project in Switzerland, Croatia or the Czech Republic. Alternatively, you could study modules taught in English for four months at a university in the Netherlands at the start of your third year. Whatever you choose, it will be an unforgettable experience and a unique addition to your degree.*

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.

Sophie’s study abroad year

“In the second year of my Geography degree at Lancaster I took an incredible opportunity to spend the year studying abroad. I flew across the pond to the University of Calgary, Canada in the heart of the Rockies.

Studying in Canada offered me the best opportunities. I made friends for life from all over the world and experienced Canadian culture including ice hockey and of course Tim Horton’s coffee!

It was also hard work, don’t get me wrong but going abroad gives you a greater incentive to get out, go see the world and try new things. Whether that’s ice skating on frozen lakes in the middle of winter or skiing in -32 degrees (no I’m not joking). I also got to study modules I would not have otherwise been able to such as human ecology in the Circumpolar North where I learnt about the lives of Inuit people in the Canadian North West Territories.

Most importantly I have made memories that will last forever, and I would encourage anyone that seeks to add some adventure into their years at university to do the same.”

Fees and funding

Studying abroad might not cost as much as you think! Those undertaking a Europe placement will continue paying tuition fees to Lancaster and will not have to pay any tuition costs to the host university. If you are studying overseas for a year, we will waive 85%** of your tuition fees for your year abroad and you may also receive an increased maintenance loan.

** Subject to change

* The Europe scheme is EU funded. The funding situation beyond academic year 2020/21 currently remains unclear. As soon as the situation is confirmed then information will be communicated to students at Lancaster University.

** Subject to change
Emily Christopherson  
BSc Geography

What was it about the course that made it the right one for you?

It was definitely the variety of the course and the opportunities provided beyond my studies. The course was a great transition from studying Geography at A level and focused on enhancing my skills to the next level. We have many opportunities to undertake field work, both within the UK and abroad as well, and as a geographer, I’ve always loved exploring and getting out there, and that’s exactly what my course enabled me to do.

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

When I was studying geography at school, my teacher always told me that when I go to university, I would have to choose to study either physical or human geography – I loved both and I didn’t want to necessarily focus on just one.

At Lancaster, I’ve had the opportunity to continue studying both aspects of geography, and the first year of my course gave me a great taster of both, leading me to specialise more in my second year. I personally chose to balance my studies between physical and human geography, but you can choose to focus more on one or the other, if that’s what you’d like to do. The degree is yours to be flexible with.

There’s a really great selection of modules, including interdisciplinary modules, for example - I went on a water management trip to Croatia which combines aspects of physical and human geography, so there’s definitely something for every kind of geographer.

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

There are loads of opportunities to develop your learning at Lancaster; on my course, through internships, and in our state-of-the-art laboratories to put my theory to practice. Field work is the main one for me; I’ve visited Kendal to focus on implementing field management measures, I’ve visited White Scar Caves to look into hydrology and water systems, and in laboratory sessions I’ve done everything from studying rock formations in geology to studying flow rates in water. Not only has it been really varied and interesting, it’s been brilliant to learn these industry skills to prepare me for life after my degree.

The Careers Service at the University also ran a module for us, which was a four week course on how to write a CV, the best places to look for jobs, and how to create a good cover letter, which was really invaluable.
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.
Geography
BA, BSc, MArts and MSci Hons

BA Hons Geography
L700 (3 years)
BA Hons Geography (Study Abroad)
L701 (3 years with Year 2 spent overseas at a partner university)
BA Hons Geography (Placement Year)
L704 (4 years with Year 3 spent on placement)
BSc Hons Geography
F800 (3 years)
BSc Hons Geography (Study Abroad)
F802 (3 years with Year 2 spent overseas at a partner university)
BSc Hons Geography (Placement Year)
F803 (4 years with Year 3 spent on placement)

Entry requirements for BA/BSc Hons Geography and BA/BSc 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 BA/BSc Hons 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.

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, Biology, Chemistry, Classics, Economics, English Literature, Environmental Studies, Geology, History, Mathematics, Philosophy, Physics, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, World Development.
GCSE Mathematics grade C or 4
GCSE English Language grade C or 4

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, Cairo 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.

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

Year 1
- Double Part 1 Geography + one other subject
- Placement Preparation (Placement Year students)

Year 2
Core modules
- Geographical Pioneers and Concepts
- Research Project 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
- Introduction to Eco-Innovation
- Investigating Mediterranean Environments ♦
- Interacting Landscapes: Catchment Science
- 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 inequity
- Geological Hazards ♦
- Glaciers Systems
- Global Change and the Earth System ♦
- Global Change Biology: Challenges and Solutions ♦
- Global Consumption
- Hydrogeology ♦
- Hydrological Processes (Slapton) †
- Introduction to Geophysical Techniques ♦
- Issues in Conservation Biology ♦
- Lakes, Rivers and Estuaries
- New York †
- Sustainable Agriculture
- THE Dynamic Earth ♦
- Urban Infrastructure in a Changing World
- 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.
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**
  - 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 BA Hons Human 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.

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), Development.

Religious Studies, Sociology, World History, Philosophy, Psychology, subjects: Anthropology, Classics, or alternatively one of the following

- A level Geography is recommended,
- Required subjects

Admissions Office for further advice.

- an alternative cognate subject.
- Please contact the

**Year 1**

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

**Year 2**

- Human Geographical Pioneers and Concepts
- Research Project 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

**Entry requirements for BA Hons Human 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

**Entry requirements for BA Hons Human 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

**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.

Jessica Gonzalez-Green
BA Human Geography

“The degree has given me the opportunity to tackle a broad range of current real-world societal issues. My second year modules have allowed me to concentrate on particular sub-disciplines within human geography. In particular, I’ve enjoyed the Development, Geography and the Majority World module, as international development interests me greatly.”

### 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
- Global Consumption
- New York Field Course
- Urban Infrastructure in a Changing World
- 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

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

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 variant), 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: Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Environmental Studies, Mathematics, Physics

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

**Degree overview and structure**

Physical geography considers the processes and patterns occurring within our natural environment, including the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and geosphere. You will discover how 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 provides 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.

**Year 1**

- Double Part 1 Geography + one other subject
- OR
- Part 1 Physical Geography + two other subjects
- Placement Preparation

**Year 2**

**Core modules**

- Physical Geographical Pioneers and Concepts
- Research Project Skills
- Spatial Analysis and Geographical Information Systems
- Work Based Learning Preparation

**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
- Work Based Learning Reflection

**Field trip**

- Prerequisites required
- Dissertation with Work Placement not available to students on a Study Abroad degree scheme

**Georgia Kwan**

**BSc Physical Geography**

“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.”

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

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### Year 1

- **Double Part 1 Geography and Economics**
- **OR**
- **Part 1 Human Geography, Economics and one other subject**

### Year 2

**Core modules**

- Human Geographical Pioneers and Concepts
- Spatial Analysis and Geographical Information Systems

**Optional geography modules**

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

**Optional modules in economics**

(please see website for more modules and details)

- Applied Economics
- Economic Policy
- Macroeconomic Analysis
- Microeconomic Analysis
- Introduction to Econometrics
- Game Theory
- Managerial Economics

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### Year 3

**Core modules**

- Geography Joint Majors 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
- Global Consumption
- New York†
- Urban Infrastructure in a Changing World
- Water, Society and the Istrian Landscape†

**Optional modules in economics**

(please see website for more modules and details)

- Labour Economics
- Development Economics
- Monetary Macroeconomics
- Industrial Organisation
- International Business

† = Field trip

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**Gabriela Wydrzynska**

**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 best three Higher 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/Spanish/German, 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 on the corresponding degree scheme.

GCSE English Language (C or 4), or an alternative cognate subject, and GCSE Geography.

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:

- Cultural Geography
- Development, Geography and the Majority World
- Economic Geography
- Geosocial Spaces
- Introduction to Geo-Innovation
- People and the Sea
- Political 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 inequtiy
  - Global Consumption
  - New York
  - Urban Infrastructure in a Changing World
  - Water, Society and the Ixtrian Landscape

Plus modules in...
- Modern Languages (please see website for more details)

† Field trip

Leyla Page
BA French Studies and Geography

My third-year modules were excellent, in particular the module on Food and Agriculture in the 21st Century. I also loved the field trip in my third year, to the Brazilian Amazon, which unearthed my ongoing love of research and inspired me to undertake a Masters.”
Hello Future

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
- 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

“...My time at Lancaster allowed me to grow as an individual and develop my interest in specific geographical topics, such as hydrology and GIS. The University and department were both so welcoming and immediately I felt like part of the community which helped me to make friends and try new hobbies. Whilst studying at Lancaster, I had part-time jobs working with young people and these jobs made me realise my passion for teaching.

Since graduating, I have completed my teacher training year and I am now going to start my NQT year as a geography teacher in a secondary school, using many of the skills I gained from the diverse range of experiences I had whilst at Lancaster University.”

Josh Fryer
BSc Geography, 2018
Geography Teacher, The Skipton Academy

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.

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.

96% of our graduates were in full-time employment and/or undertaking further study six months after finishing their degree *

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 transferrable 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.

* DLHE 2014-2017
** Not available to students on a Study Abroad degree scheme
Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

We’d obviously love to meet you face-to-face and show you Lancaster’s campus and the department. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected how we can meet people on our campus at the moment. As the pandemic declines, we hope that restrictions on access to campus can be reduced and that you’ll be able to come and meet us in Lancaster. However, if this isn’t possible then we will be offering digital events at which you can meet us and learn about our degrees and the University. More information will be made available at Lancaster University’s dedicated Covid-19 webpages: www.lancaster.ac.uk/coronavirus/applicants/

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

Applicant Visit Days

If you are offered a place on one of our degrees, you will be invited to visit us again in February or March. You’ll have the opportunity to tour our scenic campus, take part in interactive activities and spend the day with geography staff and students. Applicant Visit Days are lively and informative events, designed to give you a taste of what it is like to be a student here. Parents and other guests are also welcome to attend these events.

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 2021/22 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2020. 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

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