

Programme Specification: BSc (Hons) Geography

About the course		
1	Name of course and highest award	BSc (Hons) Geography
2	Level of highest award (according to <u>FHEQ</u>)	6
3	Possible interim awards	UniCert, CertHE, DipHE, BScO
4	Awarding/validating institution	University of Gloucestershire
5	Teaching institution	University of Gloucestershire
6	Faculty responsible	Applied Sciences
7	Mode of study	Full-time, part-time and fast-track
8	QAA <u>subject benchmark statement(s)</u> where relevant	Geography (2007)
9	Recognition by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB), to include definition of the recognition	None
10	Other external points of reference	QAA (2008) The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland HESCU (2011) What do graduates do? Career planning for higher education and beyond. Higher Education Careers Services Unit.
11	Date of initial validation	March 2012
12	Date(s) of revision	NA
13	Course aims (Numbers in parenthesis cross-reference to the Geography Benchmark Statement) The course aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop understanding of and abilities to interrogate spatiotemporal relationships in nature, society and earth-human interaction over a range of scales [Geography 2.2] • Provide a structured programme of delivery that is academically rigorous, current and that promotes specialisation and pluralism [Geography 2.3] 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop powers of critical, analytical thinking and logical argument through enquiry and field-based learning [Geography 2.2] • Evolve geographical, transferable and professional skills to support life-long learning and to generate well-rounded graduates predisposed to employment across a broad spectrum of sectors [Geography 2.3]
14	<p>Learning outcomes of the course (Numbers in parenthesis cross-reference to the Geography Benchmark Statement and FHEQ08 Level 6 Descriptor)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The reciprocal connections between physical and human systems, with a critical appreciation of Global Sustainability [Geography 3.2, 3.6, 3.7, 3.13; FHEQ Level 6A] 2. The spatiotemporal patterns, processes, interactions and changes across physical geographical systems [Geography 3.3, 3.5, 3.6; FHEQ Level 6A] 3. The concepts, significance and evolution of place and inequality across human geographical systems [Geography 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.8; FHEQ Level 6A] 4. The provisional nature of geographical knowledge, being dynamic, plural and contested [Geography 3.9; FHEQ Level 6D] 5. Problem-setting and solving through critical analysis, reasoning and decision making [Geography 4.4; FHEQ Level 6C(i), G and I(iii)] 6. Information retrieval, handling, comprehension and critical-interrogation of theories, explanations, data and policies [Geography 4.4, 4.6, 4.7; FHEQ Level 6C(ii), D and G] 7. Independence of and reflection on learning [Geography 4.4; FHEQ Level 6E] 8. Planning, designing and executing a piece of rigorous research or enquiry, including the production of a final report that recognises the geographical implications of findings [Geography 4.5; FHEQ Level 6F] 9. Preparing for and undertaking ethical, safe and risk-assessed field and laboratory work [4.5; FHEQ 6F and I(ii)] 10. Devising an appropriate methodology, drawing on and synthesising primary field, laboratory, GIS, presentation and analytical techniques as necessary [3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 4.5, 4.6; FHEQ Level 6B and C(i)] 11. Communicating with coherence and brevity, in written, verbal and graphical forms [Geography 4.6; FHEQ Level 6H] 12. Responsible, autonomous working and/or teamwork [Geography 4.6, 4.7; FHEQ Level 6E and I(i & iii)]
15	<p>Learning and teaching strategy Student achievement and demonstration of Programme Outcomes is directed by Module Learning Outcomes distributed across each level of study, illustrated by the grid below. All Programme Outcomes are attended to at each Level by a decreasing range of compulsory modules. There are a number of further opportunities across Levels 5 and 6</p>

	<p>for students to demonstrate achievement of Programme Outcomes through optional modules. The Course design is consistent with the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy (2011-2015). There are multiple opportunities for independent and collaborative learning (Programme Outcomes 7 and 12). Learning for life and employment is explicitly represented by NS5001 Internship, but is also subsumed within the compulsory Research and Fieldwork Skills Pathway (NS4301, NS5308, NS6333; Programme Outcomes 5 to12) where Learning and Personal Development is led by Academic Review Tutors and Dissertation Advisers. Learning for the future is captured by the compulsory Thematic Pathway of Global Sustainability (NS5302, NS6301; Programme Outcome 1). Research-informed teaching is delivered on each module through the alignment of each thematic pathway with the contemporary research interests of course staff. Research-informed learning by all students is assured through the compulsory Research & Fieldwork Skills Pathway (Programme Outcomes 4 to10)</p>

		Programme Outcomes											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	NS4301	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	NS4302		✓		✓		✓	✓				✓	✓
	NS4303			✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓
	NS4304				✓		✓				✓	✓	
	NS4305					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
	NS5001					✓		✓				✓	✓
	NS5204	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
	NS5205	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓				
	NS5301	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
	NS5302	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
	NS5303		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
	NS5304	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	
	NS5305			✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓
	NS5306		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	NS5307	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	NS5308					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	NS5403			✓	✓	✓	✓						
	NS6204	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
	NS6206	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓		
	NS6301	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
	NS6302	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓						
	NS6303			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
	NS6304			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
	NS6305	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
	NS6306	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	NS6333	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	NS6504			✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	

Red, bold print indicates compulsory modules

<p>16 Learning and teaching methods</p> <p>The course focuses on academic and personal progression within a research-informed curricula dedicated to contemporary and relevant Geographies. It delivers this progression through Thematic Pathways:</p> <p>Physical Geography Environmental Change; NS4302, NS5303, NS5302 Water; NS4302, NS5306, NS6305 Ecology; NS4302, NS5205, NS6206</p> <p>Human Geography Urban Geography; NS4303, NS5305, NS6304 Globalisation & Development; NS4303, NS5304, NS6303 Geography of Crime; NS4303, NS5403, NS6504</p> <p>Geography Global Sustainability; NS5302, NS6301 Ecology & Society; NS5204, NS6204</p> <p>And Skill Pathways:</p> <p>Research & Fieldwork; NS4301, NS5301 and NS5308, NS6333 Quantitative & Qualitative Analysis; NS4304, NS5308, NS6333 Laboratory work; NS4305 and Levels 5 and 6 of Physical Geography thematic pathways Geographic Information Systems; NS4301, NS5307, NS6306</p> <p>Core knowledge, understanding and skills are acquired through the scheduled learning and teaching activities of lectures, seminars, laboratory practicals, fieldwork, computer-aided learning, workshops and tutorials. Advanced knowledge, understanding and skills are nurtured through guided independent learning, supported by the University's infrastructure. The following table outlines the relative split of direct (scheduled) and indirect (guided) activities on the course.</p>			
<p>Level 4</p>	<p>Scheduled learning and teaching activities</p>	<p>21%</p>	
	<p>Guided independent learning</p>	<p>79%</p>	
	<p>Placement and study abroad</p>	<p>0%</p>	
<p>Level 5</p>	<p>Scheduled learning and teaching activities</p>	<p>20%</p>	
	<p>Guided independent learning</p>	<p>73%</p>	
	<p>Placement and study abroad</p>	<p>7%</p>	
<p>Level 6</p>	<p>Scheduled learning and teaching activities</p>	<p>17%</p>	
	<p>Guided independent learning</p>	<p>83%</p>	
	<p>Placement and study abroad</p>	<p>0%</p>	
<p>17</p>	<p>Assessment strategy</p> <p>To ensure the full spectrum of abilities required by employers and higher degrees are assessed, the course maintains an overall, approximate split of 80% Coursework:20% Exam. Facets of knowledge, understanding and skills are assessed through essays, posters, time-constrained briefing papers, oral & visual presentations, research reports,</p>		

short/essay/multiple-choice in-class tests and exams. Experience of most assessment types occurs at Level 4, which is refined at Level 5; no new assessment types are introduced at Level 6. Research reports culminate with NS6333 Geography Dissertation, supported through learning acquired by group research & reporting on NS4301 and group research & individual reporting on NS5301. This reduction in group-work is mirrored across other pathways, with increased individual responsibility for learning and achievement by Level. The overall assessment load affords students sufficient time to demonstrate their abilities, yet ensures the majority of assessment types are covered at each Level.

The course's approach to assessment, enabling module learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated by the student is outlined in the following table.

			Module Learning Outcomes					
			1	2	3	4	5	6
Modules & Assessments	NS4301	001	✓	✓				
		002			✓	✓		✓
		003	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	NS4302	001		✓	✓	✓	✓	
		002	✓	✓		✓	✓	
	NS4303	001		✓		✓		
		002		✓	✓		✓	
		003	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	NS4304	001	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
		002		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	NS4305	001	✓		✓		✓	✓
		002	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	NS5001	001	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	NS5204	001	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
		002		✓			✓	✓
	NS5205	001	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
		002	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	NS5301	001	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
		001	✓		✓		✓	✓
	NS5302	002			✓		✓	
		003	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
		001	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	NS5304	001	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	NS5305	001	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
		002	✓	✓		✓	✓	
	NS5306	001	✓	✓				
		002			✓	✓	✓	
	NS5307	001	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		002				✓	✓	✓
	NS5308	001	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	NS5403	001	✓	✓				
		002		✓	✓	✓		
	NS6204	001		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		002	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	NS6206	001	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
		002	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	NS6301	001	✓		✓			✓
		002		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	NS6302	001	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		002	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	NS6303	001	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	NS6304	001	✓	✓				
002		✓		✓	✓	✓		
NS6305	001	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
NS6306	001	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
NS6333	001	✓	✓	✓				
	002	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
NS6504	001	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	002	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Red, bold print indicates compulsory modules

18	Assessment methods	The table below shows the proportion of different types of summative assessment within the Geography course. Owing to module optionality at Levels 5 and 6 the associated ratios are typical, based on the average across all Geography modules at the respective Level accounting for the number and weighting of assessments.	
	Level 4	Written exams	39%
		Practical exams	6%
		Coursework	55%
	Level 5	Written exams	12%
		Practical exams	0%
		Coursework	88%
	Level 6	Written exams	9%
		Practical exams	0%
		Coursework	91%
19	Location(s) of the course's delivery	School of Natural & Social Sciences, FCH Campus	
20	Admissions requirements	280 UCAS points Applicants must have a minimum of 2 A Levels or equivalent qualifications in order to be considered. They also expected to have GCSE English and Maths grade C or above	
21	Career and employability opportunities	Employment experience and academic credit can be acquired through the module NS5001 Internship. At Level 5, opportunities to study overseas are available through the Erasmus programme.	
22	Management of Quality and Standards	<p>Information on the University's approach to the management of quality and standards is contained in the Quality Assurance Handbook, Academic Regulations for Taught Provision, Assessment Principles and Procedures, and associated sources of advice. All regulations, policies and procedures are aligned with QAA reference points.</p> <p>Quality assurance is undertaken as close as possible to the point of delivery. There is a route from the module level to courses and through to faculty and University levels so that issues can be addressed and delivery enhanced in the appropriate arena.</p> <p>Externality and comparability are guaranteed via external examiner reports which allow the University to make judgements on the quality and standards of its provision. The University also benefits from the input of externals in its approval and review procedures.</p> <p>Students are able to comment on their modules and courses in various ways including module evaluations, course boards and the NSS.</p>	
23	Support for Students and for Student Learning	At Course level, students' adjustment to, progress in and preparations for after their time in Higher Education are supported by Geography Academic Review Tutors. Direct contact	

with Geography staff is complemented by a Virtual Learning Environment for each module and for the course overall, through the Moodle platform.

At University level, students are able to access information, advice and guidance on a range of issues as well as contacting most Student Services teams through the campus based Helpzones, either in person, accessing materials and advice via the website or by telephone/e-mail contact see www.glos.ac.uk/helpzones.

Available support specific to their studies includes Student Employability (Careers advice and guidance and placement related activity), Disability, Dyslexia and Learning Support team and the Student Achievement team (including study skills tutors for academic and numeracy skills). Full details of all Student Services is available at - www.glos.ac.uk/studentsservices.

Further general and programme specific support is available through the Libraries, ICT and LTS. Library and Information Services support student learning by delivering effective, efficient and learner-focused services. These include traditional academic library resources, electronic information resources, open access IT and media facilities, integrated learner support, enquiry services and a choice of study spaces. Students have access to expert help and advice in using the full range of resources to support their studies, whether they are working on or off campus. Full details of all LIS services are available at <http://insight.glos.ac.uk/departments/lis/Pages/default.aspx>.

24 Current Course Map

BSc Geography (Single Honours Degree)

Course Leader: Dr Phil Toms

Senior Tutor: Dr Jon Hobson

Notes: Students may also take 60 CATS from other map(s)

To achieve your intended award you must meet the overall award requirements and the Course requirements.

Award Requirements

For Single Honours Degree

- Take 360 CATS, with 120 CATS at each Level and at least 270 CATS from the Course map below
- Pass 300 CATS in total with 210 CATS at Levels 5 and 6
- Achieve 30% in the remaining 60 CATS for them to be condoned
- Pass at least 240 CATS from the Course map below with at least 75 CATS at each Level
- Pass compulsory and core modules from the Course map below

Course Requirements:

LEVEL 4

To complete your programme you must pass all of the following compulsory modules:

NS4301 Introductory Geographical Research and Fieldwork <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO107</i>	30 CATS	YEAR
NS4302 Earth Systems and Processes <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO103</i>	30 CATS	YEAR
NS4303 Living in a Globalised World <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO104 or SY114</i>	30 CATS	YEAR

NS4304 Data Handling and Presentation <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with BIO109 or GEO109</i>	15 CATS	SEM 2
NS4305 Practical Environmental Investigation <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO106</i>	15 CATS	SEM 1

LEVEL 5		
To complete your programme you must pass the following compulsory modules:		
NS5301 Fieldwork Elective <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO207</i> <i>Prerequisites: Pass NS4301 or NS4401</i>	15 CATS	SEM 3
NS5302 Threats to Civilisation <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO201</i>	30 CATS	YEAR
NS5308 Geographical Enquiry <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO208, GEO209, GEO210, NS5402</i>	15 CATS	SEM 2
Other modules which can count towards the requirements of your Course are:		
NS5001 Internship <i>Only available to ANB, BIO, CRI, GEO, SY, PY</i>	15 CATS	SEM 1-2; SEM 2-3
NS5204 Ecological Impact Assessment and Monitoring <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with BIO228</i>	15 CATS	SEM 1
NS5205 Biogeography <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with BIO227 or GEO227</i>	15 CATS	SEM 2
NS5303 Ice Age Earth <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO204</i>	15 CATS	SEM 1
NS5304 Conflict and Development <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO211</i>	15 CATS	SEM 2
NS5305 Cities: Urban Worlds <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO202</i>	15 CATS	SEM 1
NS5306 Fluvial Hydrosystems <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO205</i>	15 CATS	SEM 2
NS5307 Geographic Information Systems <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO206</i>	15 CATS	SEM 1
NS5403 Crimes Against Humanity <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with SY231</i>	15 CATS	SEM 2

LEVEL 6		
To complete your programme you must pass the following compulsory modules:		
NS6301 Global Futures <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO301</i>	15 CATS	SEM 1
NS6333 Geography Dissertation <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO333</i> <i>Prerequisites: Pass NS5301, NS4308</i>	30 CATS	YEAR
Other modules which can count towards the requirements of your Course are:		
NS6206 Palaeoecology <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with BIO327 or GEO327</i>	15 CATS	SEM 2
NS6204 Pollution in Ecological Systems <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with BIO328</i>	15 CATS	SEM 1
NS6302 Climate Change <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO305</i>	15 CATS	SEM 2
NS6303 The Postcolonial World <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO304</i>	15 CATS	SEM 1
NS6304 Cities: Space and Culture <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO302</i>	15 CATS	SEM 2
NS6305 River Science and Management <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO306</i>	15 CATS	SEM 1
NS6306 Advanced Geographic Information Systems <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with GEO307</i> <i>Prerequisites: Pass NS5307</i>	15 CATS	SEM 2
NS6504 Global Crime <i>Restrictions: Cannot be counted with CRI304</i>	15 CATS	SEM 1