

MA/MRes in Environmental Politics
MA/MRes in European Environmental Politics and Regulation

Additional Information for Prospective Students from North America



Welcome

This page is designed to answer some of the questions often asked by prospective students from Canada and US

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need other kinds of answers.

Environmental politics at Keele

Studying environmental politics in SPIRE at Keele is the one of the best experiences students could hope for. A degree from SPIRE is a solid foundation for either continued postgraduate study or an excellent provision for prospective employers. The department historically has always been the place of choice for students due to its diversity, standard of education, and quality of staff. SPIRE has a reputation as a leader in environmental scholarship and over the years has been (and is) home to such well-known academics as Michael Redclift, Paul Ekins, John Barry, John Proops, Karina Shaw, Ed Page, Matthew Patterson, Andrew Dobson, Timothy Doyle, John Vogler, Brian Doherty, and David Schlosberg.

The teaching staff in Environmental Politics are all leading experts of international renown in their fields. Please follow this link to view their profiles:

http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/spire/prospectivegrads/Masters/envpol/environmental_politics.htm#staff

To view the main Environmental Politics site at Keele follow this link:

http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/spire/prospectivegrads/Masters/envpol/environmental_politics.htm

One-year study towards an MA or MRes

The two Master's degrees in environmental politics we offer at Keele are **ONE-YEAR programs**.

Candidates may enrol in the ‘taught’ masters degree program (MA) or the ‘research’ masters degree program (MRes). While both can be completed in one year, the MRes places greater emphasis on research training and students take two fewer courses than in the taught MA.

For the taught masters degree (MA) students do the following:

- Dimension of Environmental Politics (1 semester core course)
- Research Training in Politics and International Relations (1 semester course)
- Four option courses
- 15,000 word dissertation on an approved topic

For the research master degree (MRes) students do the following:

- Research Design and Process (1 semester course)
- Research Skills (1 semester course)
- Data Analysis (1 semester course)
- Dimensions of Environmental Politics (1 semester core course)
- Two option courses
- 15,000 word dissertation on an approved topic

(NB: It may be helpful to know that in the UK a graduate program is often called a ‘postgraduate course’ and what North Americans call a ‘course’ is called a ‘module’.)

Sample Plan of Study – Taught Masters in Environmental Politics		
Semester 1 (October to January, with 3 weeks off over Christmas)	Semester 2 (January to May, with 3 weeks off over Easter)	Summer (June to September, no classes)
Dimensions of Environmental Politics (core course) Two optional courses	Research training course Two optional courses	Dissertation research and writing. Due first weekday in September

Optional Courses

(not all of these will necessarily be available in each year, please check with the course director if you need to know before applying).

- Environment, Risk and Regulation in the EU
- Environmental Diplomacy
- The European Union and the Global Commons
- Feminist Perspectives on Environmental Politics
- Green Movements and Parties
- Green Political Thought
- Nature, Politics and Society
- US Environmental Politics and Policy
- Wilderness and Civilisation
- Environment and Development in the Global South

How much will it cost in dollars?

Tuition fees for one year, full time study for international students is £8,300 (2006/07) which is approximately \$16, 150 (USD) or \$19,000 (CND).

Living expenses

You should be aware that postgraduate study is a twelve-month annual commitment, and you should ensure that you have sufficient funds to cover living expenses for the full period. Living costs are difficult to estimate because much will depend on the standard of living you expect, and whether you have family responsibilities. You should expect to pay £6,300 to £8,600 for living costs (including accommodation) per year for yourself. This estimate does not include the costs of traveling to and from your home country. Campus prices for accommodation and meals are very reasonable and further discounts can be obtained by purchasing food with a Keele Card.

Here is an estimate of living expenses (using 2006/7 rates):

Accommodation

51 weeks in single room on campus = £2,835-£4,415

12-months contract off campus = £2,400-£3,120

(£200-260 plus per month, plus bills, except telephone)

General Living Expenses

Including food, toiletries, entertainment, clothing, laundry, telephone calls, stationery, equipment, photocopying.

52 weeks at £80 a week = £4,160.

Total maximum = £8,575

Total minimum = £6,995

Fees plus maximum living expenses = £15,295

This means that Americans might pay roughly \$32,000 (USD), for a one-year master's degree, all costs included.

(For reference, a two-year master's degree in the US starts at about \$40,000 (USD), all costs included).

Canadians might pay roughly \$38,000 (CND) for a one-year master's degree, all costs included.

(For reference, a two-year master's degree in an Ontario university will cost roughly \$50,000 CND, all costs included.)

Funding for North American students studying in the UK

Some useful sites for North American students wishing to study in the UK include the following:

Fulbright Scholarships

http://www.cies.org/about_fulb.htm

<http://www.iie.org/Template.cfm?section=Fulbright1>

Commonwealth Scholarships for Canadian students

<http://www.csfp-online.org/about.html>

<http://www.scholarships.gc.ca/csp/CWCAD1-en.html>

SPIRE offers a number of bursaries (i.e., tuition subsidies) on a competitive basis. These bursaries can be up to the value of your tuition fees. They are available to UK, EU and overseas students. Students are expected to undertake in return a limited amount of administrative work (not more than 50 hours in the year). **The deadline for in-school bursary applications is normally the last day of May.** It is a good idea to apply as early as possible. Please contact Kath Ainsworth for details.

Entry Requirements

To be considered for the MA in environmental politics program, applicants are normally expected to have an undergraduate degree in a social science (graduating with a 'B' average or 3.0 GPA or higher) and a demonstrated interest in environmental issues. However applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. You may also be eligible if you have equivalent professional qualifications or substantial relevant professional experience. ***You do not require a GRE score to apply for graduate study in the UK.***

Where English is not your first language, you will be required to fulfill our English Language requirements.



How and when to apply

There is no closing date for applications. Forms may be submitted at any time during the year. However, **we advise that applications for courses that start in September should, if possible, be made by the end of April.** If you would wish to live on campus it is particularly important that you apply early. If you apply later than one month before the start of your intended course, we cannot guarantee that all the paperwork will be completed by the start date.

Apply by email or post to Keele's central Postgraduate Office, not to the School of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy. However, staff in SPIRE will be happy to answer your questions about the program by e-mail, phone, or in person. Please contact our postgraduate administrator Kath Ainsworth (k.s.ainsworth@pol.keele.ac.uk) who will put you in touch with an appropriate member of our teaching staff. You are most welcome to arrange a visit and a tour.

Making an Application

For information on applications and further information on postgraduate study at Keele please follow the links below:

Postgraduate Office Home Page <http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/aa/postgraduate/>

Graduate School <http://www.keele.ac.uk/gradschool/>

You should complete an [application form](#) (MS Word Format) and send two copies, together with two copies of additional documents, which will confirm your qualifications (e.g. copies of certificates and transcripts). We will also need two references, from referees who can comment on your academic and professional work as appropriate. You may use a reference form which can be downloaded [here](#) (MS Word format).

An [application form](#) (PDF) and an [equal opportunities form](#) (PDF) may also be downloaded in Adobe PDF format if you prefer to write your application manually and post it to us. Acrobat Reader can be downloaded free from Adobe from the link below.

The application form will require the following information:

- relevant qualifications and results to date, including copies of certificates and transcripts where possible
- details of any courses you are completing at the time the application is submitted – if you are currently completing an undergraduate degree or equivalent and have transcripts of your progress, please submit these with your application
- where appropriate, details of employment and professional experience
- a personal statement demonstrating clearly why you are applying for the course, the nature of your interest in it, and what benefits you expect to gain
- the names of two referees and from each of these a reference placed in a sealed envelope with the signature of the referee across the seal (a reference form is available for this purpose and may be used to provide a reference, although its use is not required)

You will also be asked to complete a separate form indicating your ethnicity and any disability. This is for the purposes of equal opportunities monitoring and will not be taken into account in making any academic decisions on your application.

You can complete and send an application form [online](#) but you must post, fax or email copies to us of transcripts and certificates. We can accept [e-mailed](#) references submitted from the referee's email address only, which must be from a corporate or academic domain (e.g., @keele.ac.uk) and not from a free e-mail account. All applications should be sent to the Postgraduate Office.

Please note that we cannot acknowledge receipt of applications.

The Postgraduate Office
Keele University
Staffordshire
ST5 5BG
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1782 584472
Fax: +44 (0)1782 632343
Email: postgrad@keele.ac.uk

The application process is explained in detail at:
<http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/aa/postgraduate/index.htm>

About Keele University



A campus university

Set in over 600 acres of wood and parkland, Keele is also one of the most beautiful campuses in the UK. There are walking trails and an arboretum.

As a campus university, Keele offers a safe and friendly environment where everything you need is on the doorstep. There are several cafés and eateries on campus (all offering a good selection of fair trade products) as well as a bookstore, a stationary shop, a bank, a small grocery store, postal outlet, and two recycling centres. The sports complex has a full range of fitness equipment, a wide variety of classes (e.g., pilates, yoga, spinning), a climbing wall, and a Kinesis studio.

On-campus accommodation is guaranteed for students holding Keele as their firm choice. This is the case for both national and international students. Postgraduate rooms are located within dedicated blocks separate from undergraduate accommodation, which ensures that postgraduate students have the peace and quiet they need for their studies. All rooms are single rooms, ensuring a degree of privacy, and have shared kitchen facilities, ensuring interaction with other students. Accommodation is designed to provide the student with the necessary balance between social and research commitments so that they may gain the most from their postgraduate experience.

A great university experience for graduate students

High standards of teaching and an excellent student support system ensure that Keele graduate students get the best out of their time here. There is a graduate student pub, called the KPA, and a new state-of-the-art graduate studies building is now under construction (to be completed in 2008). For more information about the KPA and postgraduate social activities the KPA has a comprehensive web site that introduces the prospective student to life at Keele:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/socs/kpa>



A convenient location

Keele is centrally located in Staffordshire, about one hour by car from Manchester or Birmingham (both cities have international airports) and about two and a half hours from London. Nearby rail stations (Crewe and Stoke-on-Trent) enjoy direct links to these locations and more.

Local area and attractions

Keele is situated in a relatively rural setting, about 10 minutes' drive (or a 20 minute bike ride, downhill going, uphill on the way back!) to the Newcastle-under-Lyme/Stoke-on-Trent urban area. There are numerous retail areas and many good restaurants close by, along with chain and independent cinemas and a well-respected theatre called The New Vic.

Keele is located in an area of England known as 'the Potteries' due to its rich history in the pottery industry. It was here that Josiah Wedgwood established his Wedgwood factories, one of many to appear in the area. The Potteries was the foremost pottery producing area in England by 1740 and in the world by the early 1800s. To find out more about the region, activities and history, here are a couple of helpful sites.

<http://www.visitstoke.co.uk/>

<http://www.thepotteries.org/other.html>

<http://www.stoke.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/leisure/museums/gladstone-pottery-museum/>

To the east of Keele is the Peak District National Park, which has stunning landscapes and unlimited opportunities including hiking, rock climbing and 'pot holing'. It is also the location for a popular, long running television series 'Peak Practice'. For more information on the region please look at the links below.

<http://www.visitpeakdistrict.com/>

<http://www.cressbrook.co.uk/>

To the west is Shropshire (a fabulous if somewhat forgotten county), which has something for everyone, from walking along the Long Mynd at Church Stretton to the Secret Hills Discovery Centre at Craven Arms. For more information please click the link below.

<http://www.shropshiretourism.info/>

To the west is North Wales which, in addition to being a stunning part of the UK, is home to an important hub of environmental research, education and action: Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth. An excellent website detailing the history of Machynlleth and the connection with Owain Glyndwr - the last Prince of Wales to rebel against the English is at: <http://cyber-space.co.uk/Machynlleth/>