Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught

For Academic Year 2026/27

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MSc Environmental Sustainability and Green Technology MSc Environmental Sustainability and Green Technology with Placement (see Annex for details)
Award type	Taught Masters
Mode of study	Full-time Part-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	1 year full-time or 2 years part-time Entry points: September or January
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	ISEP (The Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals, formerly IEMA)
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	**UK students:** Full-time fee for 2026/27 is £11,700 Part-time fee for 2026/27 is £6,400 per year* **International students:** Full-time fee for 2026/27 is £18,200

How this information might change: *Please read the important information at http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.*

** We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/*

2. Overview of the Programme

The world is facing increasing environmental threats which are posing severe scientific, social and economic challenges to the human race. These challenges include: the depletion of natural resources, the loss of diversity and the need to develop new forms of energy generation whilst efficiently utilising existing energy sources. Tackling these environmental problems and establishing a sustainable environment requires the adoption of appropriate policies and managerial strategies. The interdisciplinary nature of this postgraduate course provides a broad understanding of these environmental problems whilst embedding the appropriate specialist scientific, managerial and generic skills for a career in the environmental sustainability sector.

The course incorporates Keele University's internationally recognised expertise in research and teaching on environmental issues. It is taught by a team of environmental specialists working in the fields of environmental

technologies, climate change science, biological sciences, chemical science, project management, and environmental social science, policy and politics.

The MSc in Environmental Sustainability and Green Technology provides you with an interdisciplinary understanding of environmental challenges whilst giving the opportunity to specialise in several sustainability themes related to geosciences, energy generation, biological science, green information technology, environmental policy and politics, and project management. The course is designed to allow you to develop a portfolio of knowledge, experience and skills strongly aligned to support your career aspirations. We emphasise employability in our Programme and you will be able to work with external partners during your study. This is possible through our Collaborative Project module and/or our 'with Placement' option, which offers a 6 - 12 month placement.

Our unique interdisciplinary course leads our graduates into a diverse range of careers. Graduates from this programme have chosen careers in research; in local, regional and national government; multi-national corporations; environmental consultancies and charities. For more information on what our graduates are doing now, visit: https://www.keele.ac.uk/gge/applicants/postgraduatetaughtpgtcourses/msc-esgt/employmentcasestudies/.

3. Aims of the programme

You will gain:

- An understanding of knowledge in the areas of science, technology, policy and 'green' social action relevant to environmental sustainability
- Experience in analytical and computer techniques which would allow you to contribute to the solving of environmental challenges
- A conceptual understanding to evaluate critically current research and advance scholarship in environmental sustainability
- A comprehensive understanding of experimental design, planning and scientific techniques within a research project
- Problem-solving and team-working skills relevant to the implementation of sustainable technologies and policies

4. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what you should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

You will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of knowledge in the areas of science, technology, policy and 'green' social action relevant to environmental sustainability
- Demonstrate competency using analytical and computer techniques which would allow you to contribute to the solving of environmental challenge
- Use a conceptual understanding to critically evaluate current research and advance scholarship in environmental sustainability

Subject specific skills

You will be able to:

- Apply a comprehensive understanding of experimental design, planning and scientific techniques within a research project

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

You will be able to:

- Use problem-solving and team-working skills relevant to the implementation of sustainable technologies and policies

Keele Graduate attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social, environmental and ethical responsibility.** You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

5. How is the Programme taught?

The Programme can be completed as a full time programme over one year or as a two-year part time programme. The Programme is structured into two taught terms and one term where you will complete your independent research for the Dissertation project.

You can start the programme either at the start of Semester 1 (September) or at the start of Semester 2 (January). The MSc programme comprises 120 credits of taught 15- or 30-credit modules and a 60-credit Dissertation developed from an independent research project which is conducted over the summer (Semester 2 - 3). This structure allows you to obtain a postgraduate certificate (60 credits) or a postgraduate diploma (120 credits) depending on the number of modules studied. Modules are assessed by coursework assignments.

You can undertake you Dissertation project either at Keele University, or in collaboration with an external industrial or public sector partner. Your Dissertation involves the preparation of a 15-20,000 word report that is undertaken with the guidance of with an academic supervisor and, where appropriate, an external collaborator.

The taught component is underpinned by a foundation of core modules covering sustainable technologies and environmental social action, academic and research skills, project planning and management. These modules equip you with relevant analytical and management skills and knowledge necessary to complete your research project under the supervision of a member of Keele's teaching and research staff and, where appropriate an external collaborator from industry or the public sector.

You will be able to specialise by choosing from a range of options that align your skills and knowledge with your career aspirations. Interdisciplinary combinations are encouraged. Lectures are delivered by staff experienced in relevant research and teaching areas and invited external experts and industry leaders. This provides you with a real-world context and commercial awareness that enhances your employability. A focus on student-led learning in Case Studies provides the necessary teamwork and problem-solving skills to formulate strategies to address a range of environmental and sustainability challenges.

Virtual support is provided throughout the programme. Learning resources and support are made available online via the Keele Learning Environment (KLE).

Once you have completed all taught modules, including the Dissertation, you may undertake a placement for the 'with Placement' degree option (see Annex).

6. Teaching Staff

The programme is delivered by a Programme Director, and a core teaching team drawn from School of Life Sciences staff (see: https://www.keele.ac.uk/lifesci/ourpeople/)

All academic staff are active in relevant research areas and many are involved in collaborations, consultancy work and strategic developments with industrial and commercial development of energy and clean technology nationally and internationally. In addition, many staff are involved in outreach, public engagement and media activities.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

7. What is the structure of the programme?

There are two types of module delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this programme
- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 7	135	45	45

The structure of the programme is as follows:

Full-time students

September start:

Period	Modules	Module Code
Sem 1 Autumn	Clean and Green Technologies (30 credits)	ESC-40097
	Option Modules (15 credits x 2)	
Sem 2 Spring	Case Studies in Sustainability and Sustainability Technologies (30 credits)	ESC-40095
	Research Design (15 credits)	ESC-40093
	Option Module (15 credits)	
Sem 2-3 Spring-Summer	Dissertation (60 credits)	ESC-40089

January start:

Sem 2 Spring	Case Studies in Sustainability and Sustainability Technologies (30 credits)	ESC-40095
	Research Design (15 credits)	ESC-40093
	Option Module (15 credits)	
Sem 2-3 Spring-Summer	Dissertation (60 credits)	ESC-40089
Sem 1 Autumn	Clean and Green Technologies (30 credits)	ESC-40097
	Option Modules (15 credits x 2)	

Part time students:

September start:

Sem 1, Year 1 Autumn	Clean and Green Technologies (30 credits)	ESC-40097
Sem 2, Year 1 Spring	Case Studies in Sustainability and Sustainability Technologies (30 credits)	ESC-40095
Sem 3, Year 1 Summer	Start Dissertation	ESC-40089
Sem 1, Year 2 Autumn	Option Modules (15 credits x 2)	
Sem 2, Year 2 Spring	Research Design (15 credits)	ESC-40093
	Option Module (15 credits)	
Sem 3, Year 2 Summer	Complete Dissertation (60 credits)	ESC-40089

January start:

Sem 2, Year 1 Spring	Case Studies in Sustainability and Sustainability Technologies (30 credits)	ESC-40095
Sem 3, Year 1 Summer	Start Dissertation	ESC-40089
Sem 1, Year 1 Autumn	Clean and Green Technologies (30 credits)	ESC-40097
Sem 2, Year 2 Spring	Research Design (15 credits)	ESC-40093
	Option Module (15 credits)	
Sem 3, Year 2 Summer	Complete Dissertation (60 credits)	ESC-40089
Sem 1, Year 2 Autumn	Option Modules (15 credits x 2)	

Module Lists

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Clean and Green Technologies	ESC-40097	30	Semester 1
Research Design	ESC-40093	15	Semester 2
Case Studies in Sustainability and Sustainability Technologies	ESC-40095	30	Semester 2
Dissertation	ESC-40089	60	Semester 2-3

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Academic English for Postgraduate Science Students	ENL-40005	15	Semester 1
Green IT	ESC-40047	15	Semester 1
Key Themes in Human Geography and Sustainability	GEG-40020	15	Semester 1
Climate and Sustainable Development	GEG-40036	15	Semester 1
Collaborative Project	ESC-40101	15	Semester 1-2
Advanced Traineeships in Geography, Geoscience and Sustainability	GEG-40030	15	Semester 1-2
Academic English for Postgraduate Science Students	ENL-40005	15	Semester 2
Climate Change Science	ESC-40060	15	Semester 2
Advanced GIS and Remote Sensing	ESC-40109	15	Semester 2
Collaborative Project	ESC-40101	15	Semester 2-3
Advanced Traineeships in Geography, Geoscience and Sustainability	GEG-40030	15	Semester 2-3

Level 7 Module Rules

Barred combination: For ESC-40101 Collaborative Project and GEG-40030 Advanced Traineeships in Geography, Geoscience and Sustainability, students may enrol on only one of these two options.

Notes on Optional modules:

The optional modules ESC-40101 Collaborative Project and GEG-40030 Advanced Traineeships in Geography,

Geoscience and Sustainability are normally taken by September starters in SEM1-2 and by January starters in SEM2-3.

Academic English for Postgraduate Students - ENL-40005 (or equivalent) (15 credits) This is an advanced English module for international students who are undertaking postgraduate study at Keele University, offered by the Language Centre. If appropriate, you are encouraged to complete this module in your first Semester at Keele. The module develops your specific vocabulary, writing, critical reading, oral communication and study skills to support your success with academic assignments. You can include this module in your degree as an **additional** 15 credits.

ESC-40101 Collaborative Project: For this module, the Language Centre will provide you with additional 1:1 support to help you engage with your external project partner if you have already completed one Semester of study (e.g. ENL-40005 or equivalent) with their team.

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Demonstrate an understanding of knowledge in the areas of science, technology, policy and green political theory relevant to environmental sustainability	Green IT - ESC-40047 Climate Change Science - ESC-40060 Dissertation - ESC-40089 Research Design - ESC-40093 Case Studies in Sustainability and Sustainability Technologies - ESC-40095 Clean and Green Technologies - ESC-40097 Collaborative Project - ESC-40101 Advanced GIS and Remote Sensing - ESC-40109 Key Themes in Human Geography and Sustainability - GEG-40020 Advanced Traineeships in Geography, Geoscience and Sustainability - GEG-40030 Climate and Sustainable Development - GEG-40036
Demonstrate competency using analytical and computer techniques which would allow them to contribute to the solving of environmental challenge	Green IT - ESC-40047 Climate Change Science - ESC-40060 Advanced GIS and Remote Sensing - ESC-40109
Use a conceptual understanding to critically evaluate current research and advance scholarship in environmental sustainability	Dissertation - ESC-40089 Research Design - ESC-40093 Case Studies in Sustainability and Sustainability Technologies - ESC-40095 Advanced GIS and Remote Sensing - ESC-40109 Key Themes in Human Geography and Sustainability - GEG-40020 Climate and Sustainable Development - GEG-40036

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Apply a comprehensive understanding of experimental design, planning and scientific techniques within a research project	Dissertation - ESC-40089 Research Design - ESC-40093 Collaborative Project - ESC-40101 Advanced Traineeships in Geography, Geoscience and Sustainability - GEG-40030

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Use problem-solving and team-working skills relevant to the implementation of sustainable technologies and policies	Green IT - ESC-40047 Dissertation - ESC-40089 Case Studies in Sustainability and Sustainability Technologies - ESC-40095 Clean and Green Technologies - ESC-40097 Collaborative Project - ESC-40101 Climate and Sustainable Development - GEG-40036

8. Final and intermediate awards

Master's Degree **MSc Environmental Sustainability and Green Technology**	You will require at least 150 credits at Level 7
Postgraduate Diploma	You will require at least 90 credits at Level 7
Postgraduate Certificate	You will require at least 40 credits at Level 7

9. How is the Programme Assessed?

The variety of assessment in the course ensures you will develop employability, research and academic skills, appropriate for a career in research or industry. The assessments promote independent learning, autonomy and responsibility for personal learning and the development of problem solving skills. You will be tested on more than just your ability to recall information. You will be taught to contextualise and apply information to solve problems and to discuss complex issues related to sustainability and technology.

Undertaking essays and written assessments in several modules and a literature review in the Case Studies module gives you experience in forming academic literacy skills, developing professional and technical writing ability, critically evaluating of peer reviewed articles, and finding, evaluating and applying information and articulating your own knowledge.

Presentation skills are important for employability. These are developed and evidenced through the use of oral and poster presentations. This enables you to demonstrate an understanding of knowledge in the areas of science, technology, policy and green social action relevant to environmental sustainability.

Research design and project management are key skills in both academia and industry. Two compulsory modules support you to design a detailed professional project plan and to prepare an academic research project proposal. This introduces you to the process and level of detail needed to secure support or funding for professional research and consultancy activities.

If you do not speak English as a first language, or are an international student who is new to the UK Higher Education system, you may enrol on an optional additional module, ENL-4000x, offered by the Language Centre. This module is strongly encouraged because it helps you to develop skills and prepare coursework assessments effectively. This module is particularly valuable to support your attainment in the independent research required for the Collaborative Project and Dissertation assessments.

The Dissertation module provides the opportunity for you to combine key learning outcomes from across the Programme and to formulate, manage, conduct, interpret and present a new piece of scientific research.

Reflection is a key tool employed by practicing professionals to evidence their professional development and to identify areas for further development. You will submit a reflective diary during the Case Studies module which supports you to digest and contextualise theoretical and general information provided during lectures, site visits, class debates, and informal group presentations. The reflective diary exercise enables you to articulate your own thoughts and ideas on the subject matter covered in the module and to identify aspects of your skills and knowledge gaps to target for your further development

You will build confidence and competency via formative feedback, both written and verbal, on performance throughout the course, including during student-led debates, informal group presentations and non-assessed field visits. You will also have the opportunity to submit your draft written work for formative feedback at key

points across all modules to support your learning and success in summative assessments.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be provided with formative feedback to enable you to monitor your own progress and enhance your attainment on summative work. Formative exercises and workshops assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs which you will be able to discuss with your assigned Academic Mentor. Written feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that require this period to be extended. Verbal, group and formative feedback is also delivered more informally in the course of in-class exercises, workshops and seminar discussions.

10. Accreditation

This programme is accredited by The Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) - formerly known as IEMA.

Successful completion of the programme will enable students to become Graduate members of the ISEP. Graduates will be able to upgrade from Student membership to GradISEP membership and make a fast-track application to PractitionerISEP membership.

11. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

12. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme: https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/

It is expected that you will already hold the equivalent of an honours degree in a scientific discipline appropriate to the area of your intended Dissertation research project although consideration will be given to related programmes and professional experience. The minimum degree category for entry onto this programme is 2:2, in line with the 50% pass mark required for successful completion of this course. Consideration will be given to your application if you do not meet these criteria, but can evidence appropriate, alternative professional qualifications and/or experience.

If you have not received your secondary or tertiary education in an English language medium, you are expected to have attained the equivalent of an IELTS score of at least 6.5 (with no sub-test lower than 5.5) from a provider approved by Keele University.

ENL-40005 If you do not speak English as a first language, or are an international student who is new to the UK Higher Education system, you are encouraged to enrol on an optional additional module, ENL-4000x, offered by the Language Centre. This module helps you to develop essential skills in locating and presenting academic sources and preparing your coursework assessments effectively. This module is particularly valuable to support your attainment in the independent research required for the Collaborative Project and Dissertation assessments.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here: https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/

Placement To be eligible to progress onto the placement for the 'with Placement' option, students will need to have i) achieved minimum academic standards and ii) secured a placement via a competitive, employer-led selection process. (See Annex)

13. How are students supported on the programme?

The Programme Director is responsible for overseeing the course and organising induction sessions for new students. Induction includes introductory talks on content, teaching and assessment methods during the course, points of contact for support, library services, academic good conduct and avoiding plagiarism, and procedures for accessing support.

The University provides 'Keele Essentials' training on how to access and use the KLE and receive feedback which all students are responsible for reviewing and completing. Together, these induction materials set out clear

expectations for academic standards and conduct and responsibilities of staff and students.

You can then contact the Programme Director directly about problems and concerns either directly by email or Teams message or book an appointment (online or in situ) during their office hours.

You will have an assigned Academic Mentor who acts as your point of contact for general advice and guidance on academic and career development and other pastoral issues. Your Academic Mentor will meet with you in your first week at Keele and at regular points during the course. They will offer you advice and support on your attainment and signpost you to other specialist support services in the University where appropriate.

Module Managers are available either in person or via email for module-specific problems. You may arrange one-to-one meetings as necessary for consultation. It is the responsibility of Module managers to ensure that appropriate feedback is provided to all students for submissions of both formative and summative assessment. They will ensure your feedback is of a high quality and delivered in a timely fashion.

You will be assigned a primary advisor and a second supervisor for your Dissertation project during the Research Design module. This ensures that consistent advisory support can be provided to you during the summer months when the dissertation project is carried out, even if your primary advisor may be away from the University on fieldwork or Annual Leave. Advisory meetings can be conducted in situ or via video calls to support flexible working and remotely-based projects.

You are encouraged to participate in the Student Staff Voice Committee (SSVC). This is a student voice mechanism that gives student representatives, elected by their peers, an opportunity to give valuable feedback on the course content and delivery. All students are entitled and encouraged to make use of all central university services, including the Keele Postgraduate Association, which provides activities, advice and support for postgraduate students.

14. Learning Resources

The Programme is taught in teaching rooms across the University which are have computers, internet access and projection equipment. Rooms may be arranged either in traditional lecture format or more informally to allow you to work together with others in small groups. Much of the teaching for the MSc in Environmental Sustainability & Green Technology takes place in the William Smith Building. Students have access to flexible teaching spaces, a dedicated computer suite and a range of rooms for study and group study with Wi-Fi access. Students are also able to interact with the on-site technologies at Keele including:

- Solar thermal and PV
- Climate control, underfloor heating and smart lighting systems
- Rainwater harvesting and waterless urinals
- Ground source heat via six one hundred meter boreholes in the Hub courtyard
- Bio-fuel woodchip burner
- Vertical axis wind turbine.

The Programme Handbook provides information and guidance on procedures, module information and points of contact for advice. Individual modules provide a recommended Library reading list via the KLE. While traditional text-based resources are accessed via the Library, a range of multimedia resources may be offered through the KLE. The MS Teams platform may also be used to enhance student the student experience, providing a forum for remote delivery or external speakers and resource people, and other forms of access to staff support.

Guest sessions are delivered by invited speakers from industry and the public sector on a range of issues from policy and economics to technology challenges. This gives you a commercial and public policy awareness that enhances your employability and gives you insight to help you make informed decisions on your career development.

The Library has a suite of resources relevant to the course, both on campus and online. You will have access to a designated Life Sciences Link Librarian to help you locate resources and be able to access appropriate research skills training either in in situ sessions or via online resources. You may also access the Study Skills team via the Library and benefit from 1:1 advice on your skills development and your draft coursework.

Further information about the Library can be found at: https://www.keele.ac.uk/library/.

You will be able to obtain a username and password from the Library IT Helpdesk to access library services. Via the Helpdesk, you will access Keele IT Services. IT Services are responsible for the computing infrastructure in the University and for the support of all staff and students undertaking academic computing tasks. Open access PCs are available for all students via the Library. All student PCs use a standard platform, which includes software such as Microsoft Office, web browsers, and other standard applications you may need. Network printing facilities are available to you in the Library building, the William Smith Building and most other buildings on campus.

15. Other Learning Opportunities

Seminars

You are encouraged to take full advantage of the research seminar opportunities taking place in the School of Life Sciences or across the University, including those offered on campus by relevant professional associations.

In addition, you are encouraged to work with external partners either on the Collaborative Project module and/or during your Dissertation project and optional Placement.

Placement

A summary of the 'with Placement' option, which is available to students after completion of all taught modules, is provided in the Annex.

16. Additional Costs

Optional costs

There may be optional costs that students can choose to incur to enhance their learning experience. These are not required to complete the course. Details of these optional costs are outlined below to help you plan accordingly.

Travel:

For the ESC-40101 Collaborative Project module, you may be able to apply to the University to cover some of the travel costs you would incur. Any such costs will be discussed with you before the project is confirmed. It will be possible for you to select an entirely remote working project that will not incur any additional travel costs.

(Similar provisions apply to fieldwork for the Dissertation, see below.)

Site visits:

Travel to on-campus and nearby sites will be organised and any costs covered by the University.

Dissertation:

All students on the MSc Environmental Sustainability and Green Technology undertake a dissertation, which may in some instances include fieldwork.

You will be responsible for organising your own transport and accommodation as well as paying costs incurred whilst carrying out any Dissertation fieldwork. Dissertation costs are variable because they depend on the design and location of your specific project. You are encouraged to factor these costs into your assessment of feasibility for your project design and to plan accordingly.

Projects which are desktop-based or campus-based will be available. If your approved project requires you to undertake off-campus research activities, the School will make available a limited pot funds to support travel and/or other research expenses for which you may apply with the support of your project advisor.

Placement:

Students taking the MSc Environmental Sustainability and Green Technology with Placement Programme will be responsible for organising their own placement with the support of the University. This allows students to take into consideration the potential living and travel expenses incurred and the effect of their placement commitment on time available for part-time or full-time employment. Students should consider the potential costs incurred in carrying out a placement at the time of setting up their placement relationship with the external partner. Further guidance and support is available from the University.

For international students transferring onto the MSc Environmental Sustainability and Green Technology with Placement Programme, there may be implications and additional cots incurred by this transfer relating to applying for a new student Visa from outside the UK before the transfer takes place. Please consult Visa Advice and Compliance for tailored individual advice.

Students may also incur general expenses related to university study, such as for printing, textbooks and other materials. Students who undertake an independent Dissertation project, collaborative project or Placement option may be responsible for additional costs, such as travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs. For further information, please refer to the additional costs information.

17. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students on the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all module marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:
http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/

18. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code
b. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations

In addition the Programme supports the University Strategic Objectives by engaging employers to ensure timely, commercially relevant content with a basis in practice and management. You will develop high level employability and research skills through the Clean and Green Technologies module, the Case Studies module, and the Dissertation module. IT skills development is integrated into the course through the specific Green IT module and also the use of modelling software and online communication and presentation tools. This high level of IT competency, project management and professional working is developed during the teaching phases of the course then practiced in the dissertation phase when you will work either independently on a given topic or in collaboration with external partners, often on strategic plans related to corporate and/or community project development.

19. Annex - Placement

MSc Environmental Sustainability and Green Technology with Placement

PGT Placement Summary

Students can apply directly for the 'with Placement' degree programme, or transfer onto the 'with Placement' degree programme by the end of May or the end of October each academic year for students starting their studies in September or January, respectively.

International students can apply directly for the 'with Placement' degree programme. However, if they wish to transfer onto this programme while studying, they should discuss this with Visa Compliance and Advice and their Programme Director. If the transfer request can be approved in line with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) rules, students should be aware that a visa extension would be required.

Students accepted onto the 'with Placement' programme will complete an extra 6 - 12 months of study (the placement), depending on the duration of their placement, with a relevant placement provider after they have completed the taught component of their programme.

Admission to the Postgraduate Placement module is dependent on students i) achieving minimum academic standards and, ii) securing a placement via a competitive, employer-led selection process. The University does not guarantee placements for students who have registered for the 'with Placement' programme or for those who transfer on to the programme. All students will be provided with a detailed timeline, including deadlines, of the date by which their placement would need to be secured.

Students who successfully pass 180 credits plus the non-credit bearing Postgraduate Placement module will be awarded the degree title of 'MSc Environmental Sustainability and Green Technology with Placement'. Students who are unable to secure a placement, fail to satisfactorily complete their placement, or who fail the non-credit bearing Postgraduate Placement module will revert to the standard degree title of the one-year master's programme. Failure of the placement will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 7 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this Annex will pertain solely to students registered for the 'with Placement' option.

Placement Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the with Placement programme aims to provide students with:

1. In-depth experience of a relevant workplace and the variety of ways in which their skills can be used in the world outside the university.
2. The opportunity to further develop their employability through skills development and reflection, enhanced organisational and sector knowledge, and networking and interpersonal communication.

Entry Requirements for the Postgraduate Placement Module

Admission to the Postgraduate Placement module is dependent on students i) achieving minimum academic standards and, ii) securing a placement via a competitive, employer-led selection process including successful application and interview. Therefore, the University cannot guarantee placements for students who have registered for the 'with placement' programme.

To be eligible to progress onto placement, students will need to have:

- Passed all of their Semester 1 and 2 modules (i.e., obtained an average mark of ≥ 50%). Where no final Semester marks have been awarded, performance on individual assessments in these modules will be considered.
- Completed an online Health and Safety training session prior to commencing their placement and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.
- Secured a relevant placement via a competitive, employer-led selection process including successful application and interview.

Progression onto the Postgraduate Placement module is then conditional on passing all taught modules from the Spring and Autumn semesters, excluding the research project/dissertation.

Students with up to 30-credits of re-assessment awarded as first attempts owing to approved exceptional circumstances, and who otherwise meet the progression requirements, may progress onto the Postgraduate Placement module and retrieve their outstanding credits during their placement. All other students who have failed one or more modules will not be eligible to progress onto the Postgraduate Placement module. This applies even if they have assessment attempts remaining. These students will revert to the standard degree title of the one-year master's programme.

International students only:

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on their placement via the following methods:

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff from the Placement and Project Managers (PPM) team who will be assigned to the student as their placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic). If the student has any academic queries whilst on placement they will be signposted to the relevant member of academic staff (i.e., Academic Mentor, Programme Director or module leader)
- Formal contact with the student during the placement. The placement supervisor will meet once with the student, and their line manager (physically / virtually) at the midway point of their placement. Additional meetings may be arranged if required.
- Placement providers will be issued with guidance on how to raise concerns about students as part of the placement approval process.

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Placement programme will be able to:

1. Understand and discuss the variety of ways in which skills developed during their study can be deployed in non-academic contexts.
2. Develop broader organisational/sector understanding and reflect upon their activities in this context.
3. Assess their own strengths and weaknesses in an employment context.
4. Articulate their placement skills and experiences effectively and through a variety of means (verbal and written)

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Postgraduate Placement module which provides a structure to ensure that students make the most of the placement as an integrated learning experience. Students will complete an initial skills audit and placement plan when they begin their placement and submit a final placement portfolio which includes a reflective diary completed during placement.

Regulations

Students registered for the 'with Placement' programme are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the placement, the following regulations will apply:

- Students undertaking the 'with Placement' programme must successfully complete the zero-credit rated module 'Postgraduate Placement'.
- In order to ensure a high-quality placement experience, each placement provider will sign a tripartite learning agreement (analogous to a service level agreement), and a health and safety checklist.
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will submit a placement proposal and will be assigned a placement supervisor (from the PPM team). The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the required criteria, the placement organisation meets all health and safety expectations, and a tripartite learning agreement is signed by all parties.
- The placement student will also sign up to an agreement outlining their responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

(i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation; and

(ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the University and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

Additional costs for the Placement

Tuition fees for students on the 'with Placement' programme will be charged at 20% of the standard Undergraduate annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1.

Students will be responsible for meeting the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement, but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider. As part of the placement approval process, all students will be referred to the Student Financial Support team for advice and guidance regarding scholarships, bursaries and access to additional funding.

International students who require a visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 10 June 2026

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.1	2025/26	DEIRDRE MCKAY	26 June 2025	B10 accreditation details updated.
1	2025/26	DEIRDRE MCKAY	12 June 2025	
1	2024/25	DEIRDRE MCKAY	30 August 2024	Reinstated LAW-40043 (SEM1 optional module)
1.4	2023/24	DEIRDRE MCKAY	15 December 2023	Added GEG-40018 as option for students focussing on more social aspects of sustainability who are seeking qualitative methods training
1.3	2023/24	DEIRDRE MCKAY	25 August 2023	Changing ESC-40047 from Sem 2 to Sem 1. Added all the ENL modules and extra text on ENL offer.
1.2	2023/24	DEIRDRE MCKAY	17 July 2023	Change GEG-40030 Advanced Traineeship and ESC-40101 Collaborative Project and ENL-40001 so they run in BOTH Semesters as 15-credit optional modules.
1.1	2023/24	DEIRDRE MCKAY	19 May 2023	Due to the removal of an MSc programme in the School of Computer Science & Mathematics - remove ESC-40061 Smart Grid which will no longer run
1	2023/24	DEIRDRE MCKAY	08 March 2023	New version for 2023/24 supporting both September and January starts, sharing core research training modules with the MSc Geoscience Research for teaching efficiencies. Introduces a new *required* 60-credit module - Case Studies in Sustainability and Green Technology to ensure students engage core content of degree but have sufficient options for breadth.
1.1	2022/23	DEIRDRE MCKAY	22 August 2022	
1	2022/23	SHARON GEORGE	22 August 2022	