

## Programme Specification: Undergraduate

### For students starting in Academic Year 2017/2018

#### 1. Course Summary

<b>Names of programme(s) and award title(s)</b>	BA or BSc (Hons) Geography BA or BSc (Hons) Geography with International Year (see Annex A for details)
<b>Award type</b>	Dual Honours/Major/Minor  <i>NB:</i> Students who study Geography with a principal subject from the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences will be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) (BA Hons).  All students who study Geography with a principal subject from the Faculty of Natural Sciences will be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Sciences (with Honours) (BSc Hons).
<b>Mode of study</b>	Full time
<b>Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award</b>	Level 6
<b>Duration</b>	3 years 4 years with International Year
<b>Location of study</b>	Keele University – main campus
<b>Accreditation (if applicable)</b>	Not applicable
<b>Regulator</b>	Office for Students (OfS)
<b>Tuition Fees</b>	<b>UK/EU students:</b> Fee for 2017/18 is £9,250*  <b>International students:</b> Fee for 2017/18 is £13,000**  <i>or</i> £14,150** <i>(if combined with a laboratory-based Principal Subject)</i>  The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee

\* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

\*\* 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/>

<b>Additional Costs</b>	Refer to section 18
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**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.

## 2. What is a Dual Honours programme?

Dual Honours degrees are degrees that are taken in two different subjects, resulting in an *X and Y* degree title, for example *Geography and Geology*. If you are taking a Dual Honours programme, these will be the two subjects you applied for. These are referred to as your Principal Subjects.

In a Dual Honours degree you must take at least 120 credits in each Principal Subject, accrued over all three levels of study, with at least 30 credits in Year 1 (Level 4) and at least 45 credits in each of Years 2 and 3 (Levels 5 and 6) in each of two Principal Subjects. The remaining available credits can be filled with modules from these subjects or other subjects entirely.

### What is a Major/Minor programme?

Major/Minor degrees are degrees that are taken in two different subjects, much like a Dual Honours degree, except that you will specialise in the Major subject. In a Major/Minor degree you will need at least 225 credits in your Major subject over your three years of study with at least two modules (30 credits) taken each year in your Major Subject, although some Principal Subjects will require you to take more than this and this will be stated in the relevant programme specification. You will also need 90 credits in your Minor subject with a minimum of 30 credits (two modules) taken in Year 1 (Level 4) and 45 credits (three modules) taken in Year 2 (Level 5).

Students taking the Minor Route in Geography might not necessarily be able to demonstrate that they have achieved all of the Programme's learning outcomes.

## 3. Overview of the Programme

Geography is the integrated study of the people, places and landscapes of the Earth and is unique in bridging the social sciences (human geography) with its understanding of the dynamics of cultures, societies and economies, and the earth sciences (physical geography) with its understanding of physical landscape and environmental processes. The following excerpt from the Royal Geographical Society explains the important role of geography in modern society:

*"An understanding and enthusiasm for Geography, and the development of geographical knowledge, is essential for the 21st century in a world where population growth, rapid development, global environmental change, social and economic inequality, and resource depletion threaten the very planet on which we live. These problems place increasing burdens on cultural tolerance, the sustainable management of societies, natural resources including bio-diversity, and landscapes. Geographers have a key role to play in understanding and helping to solve these issues."*

The first year involves a broad-based introductory programme that provides a platform from which knowledge, understanding and skills can subsequently be developed. The second year involves more in-depth and critical exploration of key issues with Human and Physical Geography, practical "hands-on" experience of a range of geographical research techniques, and an opportunity to put these skills into practice during an overseas field course. The final year provides the opportunity to specialise in areas of most interest to the student, by selecting from a broad range of option modules that reflect staff members' cutting-edge research interests. Fieldwork is a crucial aspect of any Geography degree programme and field excursions within both the U.K. and overseas are integral to the programme. Students also carry out an independent research project on a topic of their choice in the final year.

## 4. Aims of the Programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- achieve a knowledge and understanding of a range of different specialisms within and approaches to Geography, while recognising both the diversity of the discipline and its unifying themes
- acquire a range of cognitive, generic and transferable skills, including practical and technical skills and techniques appropriate to Geography, and to deploy these skills to tackle a range of geographical issues and problems
- make critical assessments of sources of information, to engage effectively in your own independent research, and to communicate ideas in a concise and effective way.
- explore the key elements of current knowledge and understanding of subjects of study within Geography, including the research foundations and plural and contested nature of that knowledge and understanding.

## 5. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students 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
- Intellectual skills
- Employability skills

### Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the interdependence of human and physical aspects of the geographical environment
- the contribution of research to the development of geographical knowledge
- the dynamic, plural and contested nature of the discipline
- patterns of spatial variation as dynamic characteristics of the human and physical environment
- characteristics, diversity and interdependence of places outside their own everyday experience
- the way that human and physical environments change through time
- the significance of spatial and temporal scale in human and physical processes
- diverse manners of representing human and physical environments
- the use of systems at a range of scales to conceptualise patterns, processes, interactions and change in the human and physical world
- different methodological strategies used in the observation, analysis, interpretation and representation of geographical information
- applications and limitations of Geography in problem solving, equitable and sustainable development, and improving quality of life

Teaching and learning employed to achieve these outcomes includes: formal classes (lectures, practicals, seminars, tutorials, workshops and field courses); directed reading and engagement with VLE resources; independent study and reflection. The development of subject-specific knowledge is a key element of the programme that is most explicitly addressed within the lecture-based modules. The final-year dissertation provides an explicit opportunity in the latter stages of the programme to apply knowledge and understanding to the resolution of a geographical research project.

Assessment of subject-specific knowledge and understanding is achieved by a broad range of assessment types including: formative assessment in individual meetings or small-group tutorials, coursework essays, posters, technical reports, literature reviews, reflective diaries, dissertations, field-course assessments, in-class and online tests, oral presentations and end-of-semester examinations.

### Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- plan, design and execute a piece of research in Geography, including production of a final report
- undertake effective fieldwork with due regard for safety and risk assessment
- work safely in a scientific laboratory, with awareness of standard procedures
- prepare effective maps and diagrams using a range of appropriate technologies
- employ a variety of technical, statistical, qualitative and laboratory-based methods for the collection and analysis of spatial, social, and environmental information
- assess and use different types of documentary data sources
- combine and interpret different types of geographical evidence
- recognise moral and ethical issues involved in geographical debates
- effectively employ a range of specialist software to address a variety of geographical problems (e.g. use of GIS software to visualise and analyse geographical data)

The subject-specific skills listed above are taught most explicitly through the practical and field courses that form key components of modules in years 1 (Geographical Skills) and 2 (Practical Physical Geography, Geographical Research Training, Space & Society). Students have the explicit opportunity to deploy a range of skills and techniques within the final-year ISP module (Double or Single Dissertation).

Assessment of subject-specific skills is achieved primarily through practical assignments and portfolios, formative and summative tutorial exercises, field course exercises and projects, research proposals and the final-year dissertation.

### **Intellectual skills**

Successful students will be able to:

- assess the merits of contrasting theories, explanations and policies
- analyse and solve problems
- make reasoned decisions
- evaluate evidence and make critical judgements
- make critical interpretations of data and text
- abstract and synthesise information
- develop a reasoned argument
- take responsibility for their own learning and develop a habit of reflection upon that learning
- make effective use of a broad range of literature sources (e.g. search for relevant books and journal articles and assess their quality and reliability).

Intellectual skills are developed throughout the programme but are addressed most explicitly within the tutorials, practicals and field courses in year 1 (Geographical Skills); the practicals, seminars and field courses in year 2 (Practical Physical Geography, Geographical Research Training, Space & Society); and the dissertation supervision meetings in the final year. Particular attention is paid to key transition skills in the year 1 practical and tutorial programme, covering for example essay writing skills and information literacy skills. Students also have the opportunity to learn additional intellectual skills within the Development Strand of the DKC and engagement with away day sessions run by Student Learning.

Assessment of intellectual skills is achieved through a range of means including tutorial assignments and group discussions, coursework and examination essays, literature reviews, reflective diaries, practical exercises, practical exercises, fieldwork exercises and the final-year dissertation.

### **Employability skills**

Employability Skills are embedded within the modules in all three years in order to equip students with core skills and knowledge, which are transferable into post-University experience. In addition, where relevant, modules seek to highlight relevant employment opportunities for geography graduates and in some cases involve activities and assignments that replicate those undertaken in related professions (e.g. Practical Physical Geography, Water Resources). Generic employability skills included within the programme include:

- **Written communication skills:** The development of written communication skills is a key element of the programme and students are required to complete various written assignments in all three years including essays, poster presentations, technical reports and a large dissertation. Specific training is provided within the year 1 tutorial programme in particular, which addresses relevant skills including referencing and academic writing skills.
- **Oral presentation skills:** Students gain experience in oral presentation skills within various modules including the year 1 tutorial programme, the year 2 overseas field courses and various option modules.
- **Communication skills:** Students are encouraged to discuss and debate ideas within small-group tutorial sessions within year 1. In addition, students are continually encouraged to discuss specific aspects of their work with their peers, with module tutors and with their module tutors. This is facilitated by the open-door policy operated by the geography staff.
- **Problem solving:** The ability to resolve problems with complex solutions is an important part of the programme and is included within a range of module assessments and fieldwork activities.
- **Fieldwork skills:** Students are introduced to a range of field skills such as surveying during the course of the degree programme. They are also trained in risk assessment techniques that are central to safe working in the field.
- **Numeracy skills:** Numerous practical exercises include the analysis and manipulation of numerical datasets. The first year practical programme in particular involves the geographical application of a variety of statistical techniques.
- **Working independently:** Successful completion of the degree programme requires students to work independently. This ranges from the wider reading required to expand on material covered within the lectures, to the final completion of a major independent research project in year 3.
- **Information literacy:** Effective engagement with a range of advanced sources requires the development of sophisticated search skills and an ability to engage with material at the forefront of the discipline. These skills are introduced in the year 1 tutorials and further developed in years 2 and 3 of the programme.
- **Team working:** Team work is an integral part of the field courses in years 1 and 2 and students therefore have numerous opportunities to work as part of a team. Some modules include assessments that require students to work as a group (e.g. Practical Physical Geography).
- **IT skills:** Key IT skills are taught to all undergraduates at the beginning of Year 1. Instruction is given in core software applications (e.g. spreadsheet software) so that all students have the same level of core knowledge of essential computing techniques. Particular emphasis is placed on the use of industry-standard GIS software (ArcGIS) to analyse, visualise and integrate spatial datasets.
- **Lifelong learning:** The first-year tutorial programme recognises the challenge posed by the transition from Secondary to Higher Education and consequently focuses on introducing students to the key study skills required to work effectively in a university environment (e.g. time management, note taking, use of feedback and reflection, how to find relevant literature, referencing and plagiarism etc.). This is facilitated by the small-group learning and close support from a nominated member of staff from their arrival at Keele. Students are continuously encouraged to reflect on their skills and knowledge, to identify ways in which these can be improved, and to consider their aims and ambitions beyond the degree and how these are best realised.

Specific assessments related to the key employability skills listed above are included in a range of modules including the year 1 and 2 practical modules (Geographical Skills, Space & Society or Practical Physical Geography, Geographical Research Training). Some modules include assessments that are specifically related to geographical careers, such as the environmental baseline survey and associated technical report in module Practical Physical Geography. Students also undertake a personal skills audit and careers scoping exercise in the year 2 away day (see section 17).

### **Keele Graduate attributes**

Geography at Keele University is proud of its distinctive educational environment, which is designed to enable students to develop into *distinctive graduates* able to balance *specialist and expert knowledge* with a *broad outlook* and an *independent approach*. Keele identifies a set of distinctive graduate attributes that characterise successful Keele students.

Engagement with this programme will enable you to develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to become a well-rounded graduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in after your studies are completed.

The preceding section in the Programme Specification illustrates the ways in which these attributes can be achieved through the knowledge and skills integral to the programme. A more detailed analysis of how specific Graduate Attributes relate to specific elements of the programme can be found in the online course materials at:

[http://www.keele.ac.uk/media/keeleuniversity/facnatsci/schpgs/esg/graduateattributes/Graduate%20attributes\\_DH+SH%20Geog.pdf](http://www.keele.ac.uk/media/keeleuniversity/facnatsci/schpgs/esg/graduateattributes/Graduate%20attributes_DH+SH%20Geog.pdf)

Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/>

## **6. How is the Programme taught?**

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. They include the following:

- Lectures
- Tutorials
- Seminars
- Practical classes
- Field courses
- Individual progress interviews, including personal development planning (PDP)
- Directed reading
- Group presentations and linked discussion
- Independent study and project work
- Use of e-learning/the Keele Learning Environment (KLE)

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Personal Tutors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways.

## **7. Teaching Staff**

Dual Honours Geography is a modular degree programme taught within the School of Physical & Geographical Sciences. The teaching team are all actively engaged in the delivery and ongoing development of the geography teaching programme. The teaching staff are committed to excellence in learning and teaching with a number of current staff having won both institutional and national teaching awards in recent years. The team includes Fellows and Senior Fellows of the Higher Education Academy and many of the current staff have established reputations in teaching innovation.

All current staff are involved in active research and most have extensive track records in publication, the generation of grant income and peer review. This ensures that the material delivered within the modules reflects the most recent developments within the discipline. In addition to this geographical research, several staff are actively involved in pedagogic research that seeks to identify ways in which the student learning experience within geography can be enhanced. Additionally, many staff contribute to widening participation and science outreach activities both at Keele and through active involvement in national organisations such as the Royal Geographical Society and the Geographical Association.

The teaching and research profiles of the staff that deliver and support the Geography programme can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/gge/people/>

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.

## 8. What is the Structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from course to course, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April.

Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There are four types of module delivered as part of this programme. They are:

- Compulsory core module – a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional core module – these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules;
- Programme approved elective module – subject-related modules that count towards the number of subject credits required by your degree;
- Free-standing elective module – a free choice of modules that count towards the overall credit requirement but not the number of subject-related credits.

### Year 1 (Level 4)

In Year 1, students take four compulsory core modules.

Compulsory Core modules	Credits	Programme Approved Elective modules	Credits
Geographical Skills	15	None	
Fundamentals of Physical Geography	15		
Human Geographies	15		
People and the Environment	15		

### Year 2 (Level 5)

Compulsory Core modules	Credits	Optional core modules (you must select two modules – ESC-20029 or GEG-20010 AND ESC-20030 or GEG-20015)	Credits
Dynamic Geographies	15	Practical Physical Geography – ESC-20029	15
Geographical Research Training	15	Practical Human Geography – GEG-20010	15
		Regional Landscapes – ESC-20030	15
		Space and Society – GEG-20015	15

### Year 3 (Level 6)

In the final year students can elect to continue with the Dual Honours route in combination with another programme, to focus on Geography as a major route option or to specialise in the other principal subject chosen in which case Geography becomes the minor route. The programme structure and choices for the Dual Honours and Major Routes are detailed below:

## DUAL HONOURS ROUTE

Students take either 60 credits from the list below or 45 credits from this list plus 15 credits from an elective outside this list. Students may take no more than one of the ISPs (Independent Study Projects) on this list, and do not need to take a Geography ISP as long as there is an ISP included within their overall Dual Honours module diet.

Optional Core / Programme Approved Elective modules	Credits	Optional Core / Programme Approved Elective modules	Credits
Double Dissertation (ISP)	30	Applied GIS	15
Single Dissertation (ISP)	15	Inspirational Landscapes	15
Glaciers and Glacial Geomorphology	15	Postcolonialism in South Asia	15
Global Environmental Change	15	Economic Devel. & Env. Transformation	15
Water Resources	15	Animals and Society	15
Coastal Environments	15	Rural Geographies	15
Natural Hazards*	15	Geographies of Health and Illness	15

## MAJOR ROUTE

Students take either 120 credits from the list below or 105 credits from this list plus 15 credits from an elective outside this list. Students MUST take one of the two Dissertation ISP options below.

Optional Core / Programme Approved Elective modules	Credits	Optional Core / Programme Approved Elective modules	Credits
Double Dissertation (ISP)	30	Postcolonialism in South Asia	15
Single Dissertation (ISP)	15	Economic Devel. & Env. Transformation	15
Glaciers and Glacial Geomorphology	15	Animals and Society	15
Global Environmental Change	15	Rural Geographies	15
Water Resources	15		
Coastal Environments	15	Natural Hazards*	15
Applied GIS	15	Trees in their Environment*	15
Inspirational Landscapes	15	Geographies of Health and Illness	15

*\*Please note that the modules marked with an asterisk are Programme Approved Elective modules that are not examined by the geography exam board.*

For further information on the content of modules currently offered please visit:

[www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/az](http://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/az)

## Learning Outcomes

### YEAR 1 (LEVEL 4)

With students arriving at Keele with a diverse range of academic backgrounds, year 1 seeks to provide a firm foundation upon which students can subsequently build. During the first year, students acquire essential academic skills through the practical and tutorial programme, and essential knowledge and understanding concerning key geographical concepts and principles within the lecture programmes. Modules utilise a variety of learning environments and a range of assessment styles.

First Year Material	Module in which this is delivered	Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used
Knowledge and understanding of core Geography topics and concepts.	Fundamentals of Physical Geography, People and the Environment, Human Geographies	Essays, short-answer tests and unseen exams.

Fundamental skills and techniques in practical Geography, including fieldwork.	Geographical Skills	Practical assignments and fieldwork exercises.
Essential study and communications skills.	Geographical Skills	Essays, oral presentations and written exercises.

### YEAR 2 (LEVEL 5)

The year 2 programme develops students' critical understanding of more advanced topics and conceptual issues. The programme also focuses on providing training and experience in the various skills required to undertake year independent research, which includes participation in an overseas field course

<b>Second Year Material</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
Knowledge and understanding of advanced Geography topics and concepts.	Dynamic Geographies, Regional Landsystems, Space & Society	A flexible mix of essays, posters, reports etc.; short-answer tests; unseen exams.
Advanced skills and techniques in practical Geography, including fieldwork.	Practical Physical Geography or Space & Society, Geographical Research Training	Practical assignments, technical report, and fieldwork exercises.
Core skills in research design and project formulation.	Geographical Research Training	Research proposal. Research Design practical exercises.
Advanced study skills and engagement with research-level literature.	All modules	Seminar exercises, lecture-module assignments.

### YEAR 3 (LEVEL 6)

The final year provides students with an opportunity to explore specialised topics of their choice that reflect staff members' research interests and require engagement with the most recent academic research. The programme also requires all students to complete an independent study project.

<b>Third Year Material</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
Specialist knowledge and understanding of Geography topics and concepts at the cutting edge of the discipline	Option-based lecture modules.	A flexible mix of essays, posters, projects, etc., depending on options taken; short-answer tests; unseen exams.
Advanced research skills and practical techniques in Physical Geography, including fieldwork.	Double or Single Dissertation (only compulsory for Major Route students)	Dissertation: report on independent project work

## **9. Final and intermediate awards**

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

<b>Honours Degree</b>	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6 The number of Geography credits you require depends on
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		<p>whether Geography is taken as a Dual, Major or Minor subject.</p> <p><b>Dual Honours:</b> You will require at least 120 credits in both Geography and your other principal subject (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 30 credits in Year 1 (Level 4) and at least 45 credits in each of Years 2 and 3 (Levels 5 and 6) in each of your two Principal Subjects. You will also be required to take at least one Independent Study Project in your final year.</p> <p><b>Major Route:</b> You will require at least 225 credits in Geography and at least 90 credits in your other Minor subject over the course of the degree. Students taking Geography as a Major subject must obtain at least 30 credits in Geography in each level of study. You will also be required to take at least one Independent Study Project in your final year.</p> <p><b>Minor Route:</b> You will require at least 90 credits in Geography and at least 225 credits in your other Major subject over the course of the degree. Students taking Geography as a Minor subject must obtain at least 30 credits in Geography in Year 1 (level 4) and 45 credits in Geography in Year 2 (level 5).</p> <p><i>NB:</i> Students who successfully complete the degree programme receive either a BA or a BSc Honours Degree depending on their other principal subject. If students combine Geography with a principal subject from the Faculty of Humanities &amp; Social Sciences, they are awarded a BA degree. If students combine Geography with a principal subject from the Faculty of Natural Sciences, they are awarded a BSc degree.</p>
<b>Diploma in Higher Education</b>	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
<b>Certificate in Higher Education</b>	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

**Geography with International Year:** in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international year in order to graduate with a named degree in Geography with International Year. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year Geography programme.

### 10. How is the Programme assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used within Geography at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used within Geography:

- **End of semester examinations** test the ability of the student to describe, explain, and critically discuss the principles of the subject and to demonstrate competence in applying these principles to applications and to solve problems from appropriate areas of the discipline.
- **Written Essays** allow students to demonstrate their ability to articulate ideas clearly using argument and reasoning skills and with close reference to the contexts and critical concepts covered in the modules. Essays also develop and demonstrate research and presentation skills (including appropriate scholarly referencing).

- **Technical reports** – structured proformas and reports are formal summaries of work that test students’ understanding of the practical aspects of the programme and develop the skills necessary to enable students to present and analyse their results.
- **Reflective diaries** require students to keep a record of their critical or creative responses to the work of the module. They are assessed on the quality of this reflection and on their ability to respond constructively to the challenges and difficulties they encounter in the process of their own creative development and learning.
- **Poster presentations** demonstrate the ability of the student to present complex concepts and information in a clear and concise manner, to interact and communicate effectively to a wide range of professional environments, including to both scientific and non-scientific audiences.
- **In-class and online exercises** taken either conventionally or online via the Keele Learning Environment (KLE) assess students’ subject knowledge and their ability to apply it in a more structured and focused way.
- **Individual or group oral presentations** assess individual student’s subject knowledge and understanding. They also test their ability to work effectively as members of a team, to communicate what they know orally and visually, and to reflect on these processes as part of their own personal development.
- **Field course notebook and portfolios** assess work that has been carried out in the field, and typically include field notebooks, research proposals, short quizzes and both oral and written presentations. The specific assessment portfolio will vary according to the field course destination and subject focus. Fieldwork is a distinctive core component of all the Geography courses.
- **Independent Project work** test student’s knowledge of different research methodologies and the limits and provisional nature of knowledge. They also enable students to demonstrate their ability to formulate research questions and to answer them using appropriate methods.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. 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 make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

## 11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year/stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity	Year 1 (Level 4)	Year 2 (Level 5)	Year 3 (Level 6)
Scheduled learning and teaching activities	24%	25%	13%
Guided independent Study	76%	75%	87%

Placements	0%	0%	0%
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## 12. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

## 13. 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/>

A student who has completed a semester abroad will not normally be eligible to transfer onto the International Year option.

### Geography Regulations

Students are expected to attend all practical classes, tutorials, seminars, field courses and lectures. Attendance at all these sessions is monitored and checked by the academic support staff and course directors. Students who display a poor attendance record for no good reason may be subject to disciplinary action.

Students are required to follow the guidelines provided in the Safety and Field Course handbooks. Instructions contained in course, year and module handbooks constitute part of the regulations.

## 14. What are the typical admission requirements for the programme?

Subject	A-level	Subjects not included	International Baccalaureate	BTEC	Access to Higher Education Diploma	GCSE requirements
Geography (Dual Honours)	BBC A level Geography or related subject at grade B or above. If related subject includes A level Biology, Chemistry or Physics (England), a pass in Science practical will be required. **  ** Science practical only required from applicants taking reformed A level Biology, Chemistry or Physics in England.	General Studies and Critical Thinking	30 points to include Higher Level Geography at 6 or above.	DDM - DMM  You must have taken sufficient Geography units, please contact us for advice.	Obtain Access to Higher Education Diploma with 30 Level 3 credits at Distinction. You must have taken sufficient Geography credits, please contact us for advice.	Maths or Science @ C (or 4) English Language @ C (or 4)

Applicants who are not currently undertaking any formal study or who have been out of formal education for more than 3 years and are not qualified to A-level or BTEC standard may be offered entry to the University's Foundation Year Programme.

Applicants for whom English is not a first language must provide evidence of a recognised qualification in English language. The minimum score for entry to the Programme is Academic IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

Please note: All non-native English speaking students are required to undertake a diagnostic English language assessment on arrival at Keele, to determine whether English language support may help them succeed with their studies. An English language module may be compulsory for some students during their first year at Keele.

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) 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:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/accreditationofpriorlearning/>

## 15. How are students supported on the programme?

**Personal Tutors:** All students are allocated a Personal Tutor for the duration of their studies as part of the University's Personal Tutor system.

**Subject Tutors:** Each student in Geography is supported by the Year Tutor for their year of study, and also by a Geography tutor with whom the student will meet on a weekly basis throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> year and fortnightly in 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Students have free access to these tutors at all times throughout their studies. They are also supported by the Geography Course Director who is always available to help, and by the Head of Geography Programmes.

**Use of e-learning/the Keele Learning Environment (KLE):** All modules are supported by learning materials that are accessible to students via the KLE.

**Health and Safety:** All students admitted to the programme are expected to read the Geography, Geology & the Environment Safety Handbook. Students are required to sign an agreement that they have read this Handbook, and that they will abide by the rules and regulations governing the efficient working, safety and welfare of all members both within the University and in the field. They are also required to declare any medical conditions that may influence their ability to work in the field so that these can be discussed and suitable adjustments made if necessary. The Geography, Geology & the Environment Safety handbook can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/gge/students/>

**Students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities or medical problems, who are admitted onto the Single Honours Geography degree programme, will meet with a member of the University's Disability & Dyslexia Support service, the Course Director and the GGE Disability Officer at the start of the course in order to discuss any special requirements. Procedures will then be implemented according to the nature of the student's disability or medical problem. These procedures can range, for example, from allowing extra examination time for students diagnosed as dyslexic, to allocating additional staff or demonstrators to field classes to help students with mobility problems.

**Further information:** It is essential that students consult the course website at regular intervals for definitive versions of the Geography handbooks, on-line course materials, and programme and module specifications. These can be accessed at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/gge/students/geography/>

On-line learning and teaching materials related to individual modules are available on the Keele Learning Environment.

## 16. Learning Resources

Geography, Geology and the Environment (part of the School of Physical & Geographical Sciences) has its own building (the William Smith Building) that contains well-equipped laboratories, computing suites and lecture theatres to cater for all geoscience teaching. This concentration of teaching into one building enables students to identify with a specific base within the University. The foyer provides pleasant surroundings for students to meet and socialise with their peers. The Office is open during the week from 9am to 5pm to answer student queries. Staff generally operate an open-door policy so that students can easily obtain support and advice. Students are also welcome to use the computing facilities between 9am to 7pm when they are not being used for teaching. Timetables highlighting when these facilities are not being used for teaching are posted outside each of the computer laboratories within the William Smith Building.

## 17. Other learning opportunities

### Study abroad (semester)

Students on the Geography programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities.

Exactly which countries are available depends on the student's choice of degree subjects. An indicative list of countries is on the website (<http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/>); however this does not

guarantee the availability of study in a specific country as this is subject to the University's application process for studying abroad.

No additional tuition fees are payable for a single semester studying abroad but students do have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad to be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination

Whilst students are studying abroad any Student Finance eligibility will continue, where applicable students may be eligible for specific travel or disability grants. Students studying in Erasmus+ destinations may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible for income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

### **Study Abroad (International Year)**

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of Year 2 (Level 5), is provided at Annex A.

### **Other opportunities**

#### **Fieldwork**

Fieldwork is an essential part of geographer's training, providing both the opportunity to acquire and practice field-based skills, to develop skills of observation and recording and to work as effective members of a team. Fieldwork within the degree programme takes advantage of Keele's campus environment that enables field activities to be included as part of the year 1 and year 2 practical programmes. Overseas field courses at year 2 provide students within an opportunity to visit unfamiliar geographical environment, and to develop a broader social and cultural awareness. Their inclusion also provides an explicitly international dimension to the School's programmes, which is a key component of becoming a Keele Graduate.

## **18. Additional costs**

### **Geography, Physical Geography and Human Geography Programme Costs**

#### **Field Course Costs**

All students will do mandatory field courses as part of their degree programme. There is a range of field courses and costs are dependent on degree route, module choices and the nature of the independent project work taken by students.

The University provides significant financial support to subsidise the cost of the field course programme for students. Students will have the option to choose field course destinations that involve no additional cost, or to choose destinations that, although still subsidised, will involve some additional cost to the student. In order to help students manage their field course costs, the payments are spread over the course of the academic year in which you participate in the field course, normally December, March and May. The first instalment is non-refundable due to the need to pre-book accommodation, flights, etc. in advance. The costs of field courses are indicated at the start of the year, with details posted on student notice boards to enable students to make informed decisions on the choices available.

#### **First Year Students**

There are no charges to year 1 students taking field courses in the first year of their programme. The University pays for these costs.

## Second Year Geography Students

Indicative costs for field courses based on the 2016/17 academic year:

- One-week, compulsory residential field course to EITHER Almeria, southern Spain (no additional cost) OR Barcelona, Spain (no additional cost) OR Iceland (approximately £700) OR Singapore (airfares organised/paid for by student – approx. £500-£850).

## Second Year Physical Geography Students

Indicative costs for field courses based on the 2016/17 academic year:

- One-week, compulsory residential field course to EITHER Almeria, southern Spain (no additional cost) OR Iceland (approximately £700).

## Second Year Human Geography Students

Indicative costs for field courses based on the 2016/17 academic year:

- One-week, compulsory residential field course to EITHER Barcelona, Spain (no additional cost) OR Singapore (airfares organised/paid for by student – approx. £500-£850).

## Third Year Geography, Human Geography and Physical Geography Students

ALL Geography, Physical Geography and Human Geography students may undertake a dissertation, which MAY include fieldwork that is normally carried out during the summer vacation between years 2 and 3. Students are responsible for organising their own transport and accommodation as well as paying any costs incurred whilst carrying out fieldwork. These costs are extremely variable as they are dependent on where the student carries out their project. Costs are minimal if the project work is undertaken in the students' local area.

**IMPORTANT:** Students are expected to have adequate clothing for field trips. Costs are only for indicative purposes and correct at the time of printing. Costs are dependent on the options chosen by students and susceptible to changes in the number of students taking field courses and changes in external factors such as flight and accommodation costs outside the University's control. In addition, we reserve the right to change the venues of field courses due to both cost and academic considerations.

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation ceremonies.

Activity	Estimated cost
Field courses – cost depends on student's choice of destination. Typically Almeria, southern Spain (no additional cost) or Barcelona, Spain (no additional cost) or Iceland (approx. £700) or Singapore (airfares organised/paid for by student – approx. £500-£850).	£500-£850
Equipment – waterproof clothing and footwear for field courses	£100
<b>Total estimated additional costs</b>	<b>£600-£950</b>

## 19. Quality management and enhancement

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

- The Learning and Teaching Committee of the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the Geography 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 and as part of the University's Curriculum Annual Review and Development (CARD) process.

- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Internal Quality Audit (IQA) process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every Geography 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 the Curriculum Annual Review and Development (CARD) process.
- Findings related to the Geography Programmes from the annual National Student Survey (NSS), 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 in all three years of the Geography Programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Programmes Staff/Student Liaison 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 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/>

## 20. The principles of programme design

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

- UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/>
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Geography (2014) [http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-geography-14.pdf?sfvrsn=cb9ff781\\_12](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-geography-14.pdf?sfvrsn=cb9ff781_12)
- Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

## 21. Document Version History

Version history	Date	Notes
Date first created	October 2016	
Revision history	V1.1 April 2019	Replacement optional modules at Level 6 ('Geographies of Health and Illness' and 'Animals and Society' replacing 'Geographies of Children and Youth')
Date approved		

## Annex A for Dual Honours Programmes

Please note: in order to be eligible to take the International Year option your other subject must also offer this option. Please refer to the information published in the course document for your other subject.

### International Year Programme

Students registered for Dual Honours Geography may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the Dual Honours programme in both their principal subjects, providing that they meet the progression criteria outlined in this document. Students accepted onto the International Year programme will have an extra year of study at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the Dual Honours programme without the International Year and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for 'Geography with International Year'.

### International Year Programme Aims

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

1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject
2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially

### Entry Requirements for the International Year

Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.

The criteria to be applied are:

- Academic Performance (an average of 60% across all modules at Level 5 is normally required)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's personal tutor, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year tutors and programme director)

### Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutors, in line with recommended Personal Tutoring meeting points.
- Support from the University's Global Education Team

### Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

- a. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
- b. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
- c. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.

In addition, students who complete 'Geography with International Year' will be able to:

- i) apply their experiences abroad to the specific graduate attributes associated with their Geography degree;
- ii) integrate, apply and develop fundamental geographical principles to describe and explain phenomena and solve problems in the context of selected topics within contemporary geography.

Please note that students on Dual Honours programmes with International Year must meet the subject-specific learning outcomes for BOTH their principal subjects.

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

### **Course Regulations**

Students registered for the 'Geography with International Year' are subject to the course specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline areas.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any Geography module with significant overlap to Level 6 modules to be studied on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

### **Additional costs for the International Year**

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students studying in Erasmus+ destinations may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

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