

Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BSc (Hons) Environment and Sustainability BSc (Hons) Environment and Sustainability with International Year (see Annex for details) BSc (Hons) Environment and Sustainability with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details) NB: the default award for the Single Honours Environment and Sustainability is a BSc Honours degree. However, students who complete 60 credits or more of Social Sciences modules at Level 6 will receive a BA Honours degree. The 60 credits can be made up of Human Geography modules and 30 credits from the Dissertation if it is of a social science nature.
Award type	Single Honours
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 6
Normal length of the programme	3 years; 4 years with either the International Year or Placement Year between years 2 and 3
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	This programme is accredited by: the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) and by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). For further details see the section on Accreditation.
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	UK students: Fee for 2024/25 is £9,250* International students: Fee for 2024/25 is £20,700** The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee The fee for the work placement year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee

Please note this document applies to Level 5 (Year 2) and Level 6 (Year 3) students in 2025/26.

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.

** 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/>*

*** These fees are for new students. 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. What is a Single Honours programme?

The Environment and Sustainability single honours programme at Keele University allows you to focus on this exciting and increasingly important subject area. However, in keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the programme also allows you to take some modules in other disciplines and modern foreign languages as part of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus, it enables you to gain and demonstrate a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

The Environment and Sustainability degree is highly interdisciplinary. It draws on multiple subject areas that integrate natural and social science perspectives of the environment. Hence, this Single Honours programme is in keeping with Keele's tradition of a broad education.

The Environment and Sustainability programme may lead to either a BA or BSc award based on the nature of the modules and Dissertation carried out in the final year (Level 6). The Environment and Sustainability programme aims to create graduates who understand environmental and sustainability issues from both natural and social science perspectives. The programme is therefore designed so that Levels 4 and 5 students gain a background in both these areas but can then specialise in either the social science or natural science aspects of environment and sustainability issues (or combine both natural and social sciences) in their final year.

3. Overview of the Programme

The study of environmental and sustainability problems and solutions is a rapidly growing academic field as societies worldwide face increasing environmental threats posed by climate change, loss of biodiversity, depletion of resources and pollution of water bodies and the atmosphere. In order to tackle contemporary environmental and sustainability problems effectively, it is essential to have people conversant with both the scientific aspects and the human causes and costs of these complex problems.

The Environment and Sustainability degree at Keele University aims to produce graduates who can cross the traditional natural science-social science divide, providing tremendous opportunities to work in various sectors. Graduates will have a broad and deep understanding of environmental problems and be conversant with strategies for moving towards sustainability in many different contexts.

This multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary programme covers topics within the fields of conservation, ecology, economics, environmental science, geoscience, green technology, physical geography and human geography. The first year provides students with the background and training in tackling environmental and sustainability issues using various approaches and disciplinary backgrounds. The training becomes more specialist in the second year, covering more applied sustainability areas and providing students with training in independent research.

The four-year Work Placement option allows students to undertake a sustainability-focussed work placement (minimum 30 weeks full time (1,050 hours), or equivalent) between the 2nd and 3rd year of their degree programme.

There is much flexibility in the final year for students to study in depth the areas of environment and sustainability which are of most interest to them, through a combination of independent study and taught modules, allowing students to specialise or to maintain a broad environment and sustainability portfolio and mould their degree to their interests and determine whether they graduate with a BSc or BA degree. This degree structure is designed to cater to students with general interests in the environment and environmental and sustainability issues and those with clear environmental or sustainability career aspirations. Environment and sustainability is a highly innovative degree programme and a leader in its field across the United Kingdom. Environmental sustainability is a fascinating and relevant subject for today's society, with increasing employment prospects and career opportunities.

4. Aims of the programme

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

- develop a sound understanding of different natural science and social science perspectives of environment and sustainability issues and how these can be applied to tackle the world's environmental and sustainability problems, and be able to apply these different perspectives to these problems.
- be able to integrate scientific knowledge, and an awareness of social, economic and ethical issues, to address the management of the environment and tackle environmental problems such as climate change, water pollution, water resource scarcity and atmospheric pollution as well as wider sustainability issues.
- gain a wide-range of data collection and analysis skills, including the ability to carry out independent research relevant to the investigation of environmental and sustainability issues across the social and natural sciences.
- have developed to a high professional standard, generic employability skills in report writing and other written communication styles, information technology, numeracy, oral presentation, team work and independent work, problem solving and searching, and evaluating literature and related-resources.
- have gained experience of work in the environment and sustainability sector, including familiarisation with the professional working environment.

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
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

The structure of the programme and the options available emphasise the interdisciplinary context of the programme, with core modules covering natural and social sciences as well as management perspectives, and optional modules further developing some of these themes from a range of subject areas.

Interdisciplinary sustainability modules

The interdisciplinary sustainability modules will allow successful students to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of core issues of sustainability and the concepts of environment and sustainability as seen by different disciplines
- demonstrate an awareness of how interdisciplinary approaches work together and/or in tension
- explain the environmental and social sustainability responsibilities of organisations
- explain the environmental and social impacts of different sectors and activities within organisations (e.g. energy, transport, waste)
- explain the processes by which organisations can audit, improve, and monitor environmental and social impacts within the workplace
- research the environmental and social impacts and their potential solutions, of an area of an organisation's operations
- describe the ways in which people interact with their environment and their approaches to dealing with environmental problems
- explain the complementary nature of physical science and social science approaches to tackling environmental issues
- account for the relationship between 'hard scientific facts' and the contested nature of their interpretation in the environmental context
- enhance their career knowledge
- research an environmental issue relating to a specific geographical area, utilising a wide range of different sources and synthesise and present this as an oral presentation
- apply theoretical knowledge and understanding of environment and sustainability issues to specific geographical and environmental contexts
- carry out an in depth, interdisciplinary sustainability analysis of a specific case, using well-defined tools, as part of team and in a timely fashion
- identify and explain the main models, methods and criteria for carrying out a sustainability analysis
- apply key theoretical concepts and ethical principles in the field of sustainability in order to analyse critically a complex 'real life' case or problem
- review and summarise the research and technical literature of a particular clean technology
- develop a detailed critical appraisal in a report format of their chosen technology
- critically evaluate the potential of their chosen clean technology in society's progress towards a more sustainable future

Natural Sciences

The natural science modules will allow successful students to:

- outline the ways in which ecological populations and communities function and interact
- evaluate basic theories and concepts in ecology and conservation
- describe the ecology and environmental issues of a specified ecosystem
- discuss a broad range of human impacts on the environment and their wider significance and possible solutions
- communicate effectively in written form about an environmental issue, including possible solutions and barriers to their adoption, in an interesting, engaging and informative way
- describe and explain, in scientific terms, the key causes of negative environmental impacts on air, water and soil quality

Social Sciences

The social science modules will allow successful students to:

- explain the emergence of 'the environment' as an object of social scientific study and political debate
- explain the development of, and debates about, the concepts of 'sustainable development' and 'sustainability'
- identify and critically discuss - by applying relevant conceptual tools - the social, political, economic, and cultural factors that have led to the problem of 'unsustainability'
- analyse the historical origins and the evolution of the concepts of corporate governance and social responsibility
- understand the use of relevant theoretical frameworks to analyse corporate governance and social responsibility issues
- systematically and critically evaluate corporate governance, social issues, and environmental issues
- critically assess the role of the accounting profession in encouraging development of corporate governance codes, examining their impacts on corporate performance
- critically assess the role of green policies and socially responsible investment in the development of accounting for corporate responsibility
- critically appraise the key issues of corporate governance and environmental accounting for business strategy
- demonstrate the complex way in which businesses governance relates to internal and external stakeholders, and to the natural environment
- use of tools, techniques and strategies for managing and supporting corporate governance and social responsibility in practice
- contribute to the future of corporate governance practice and social responsibility performance and reporting, to enhance the *skills of reviewing and presenting scholarly work, and to develop skills of theorizing empirical observations*
- distinguish between a range of perspectives on environmental issues and appreciate how environmental issues may be understood as political issues
- identify and explain the political dimensions of environmental issues, while understanding the particular historical, cultural and social contexts in which they arise
- identify and explain the range of strategies available for bringing about environmental-political change, including the policy process at different levels, corporate environmental responsibility, and social movement activism
- apply conceptual tools in order to analyse critically environmental problems and controversies
- interpret and distinguish between different theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of global and transboundary environmental problems
- analyse key problems in the international relations of the environment, integrating theoretical concepts and empirical material
- demonstrate knowledge, understanding and the ability to critically evaluate the effects differing environmental factors can have on human mental and physical health
- understand the effect the changing environment may have on human mental and physical health and to demonstrate knowledge and the ability to critically evaluate these changes

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- collect and record qualitative and quantitative information in the field pertinent to solving environmental problems
- plan, design and execute an independent piece of project work relevant to environment and sustainability, including acquisition and recording of data in the field, followed by the processing, interpretation and presentation of this data, and the production of a final report
- develop practical skills, including note-taking and representation of data in graph or table formats

- make safe and effective use of a range of field equipment commonly used by the environmental science profession and develop an understanding of the scope and limitations of such equipment
- undertake effective fieldwork with due regard for safety, risk assessment, rights of access, relevant health and safety regulations and sensitivity to the impact of investigations on the environment
- work safely in a scientific laboratory, with awareness of standard methods and procedures and with due regard for risk assessment and relevant health and safety regulations
- employ a variety of technical and laboratory-based methods for the collection and analysis of information relevant to the environment
- combine and interpret different types of living and non-living evidence relevant to the environment using quantitative and qualitative approaches
- appreciate the issues of sample selection, accuracy, precision and uncertainty during collection, recording and analysis of environmental data in the field and laboratory
- use powers of observation, analysis and imagination to make decisions in the light of uncertainty
- critically evaluate the different approaches to sustainability in an urban context and frame policy questions in relation to a variety of temporal and spatial scales
- apply theoretical tools in the analysis of environmental problems and controversies
- appreciate the dynamic nature of the discipline and understand the contribution of research to the development of knowledge
- apply appropriate methods and approaches to the assessment of a particular environmental problem or case
- understand the principles, theory and practice of risk assessment
- be able to conceptualise the interaction of human and physical systems and the operation of natural hazards at their interface
- identify a range of interdisciplinary strategies and methods for analysing and responding to environmental problems in order to promote sustainability
- demonstrate an awareness of how interdisciplinary approaches work together and/or in tension
- demonstrate familiarity with a range of ecological and geochemical laboratory and field techniques and collect, synthesize, evaluate and present environmental (geochemical and ecological) data
- describe and apply appropriate techniques and methodologies within the context of environment and sustainability field data collection

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- recognise and use subject-specific theories, concepts and principles to make reasoned decisions and solve problems
- analyse, synthesise and summarise data and information critically, including undertaking prior research
- collect and integrate several lines of evidence to formulate and test hypotheses, and make critical judgements
- apply knowledge and understanding to address familiar and unfamiliar problems
- assess the merits of contrasting theories, explanations and policies
- recognise the moral and ethical issues of investigations and appreciate the need for professional codes of conduct
- develop an adaptable and flexible approach to study and work
- identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development
- take responsibility for their own learning and develop a habit of reflection upon that learning
- employ good presentation skills
- undertake research work independently
- employ self-directed modes of learning
- practically apply academic research
- analyse, evaluate and report published research
- develop collaborative and leadership skills through working as a member of a team to prepare a team oral presentation, and through participation in tutorial discussions
- use good oral and written communication skills
- identify and formulate effective arguments
- develop and sustain effective approaches to learning and study, including time management, flexibility, creativity and intellectual integrity
- communicate effectively to a variety of audiences in written, verbal and graphical forms
- work with numerical data using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, as well as computer software packages
- work effectively with a variety of types of information technology to analyse and present information and data, as well as solve numerical problems
- demonstrate competence in spatial awareness and observation
- conduct field and laboratory studies
- reference work in an appropriate manner
- work with information handling and retrieval systems using data from a wide range of sources

- work effectively both as an individual and as part of a group or team, recognising and respecting the viewpoints of others
- sustain motivation to work towards a goal over an extended period of time
- evaluate their own employability skills (via a SWOT Analysis) and develop their own intended learning outcomes (ILOs)
- develop, through practice in the work place, the work-related skills identified through their SWOT analysis and ILOs
- apply academic theory learnt as part of the taught degree to real situations in the work place
- critically evaluate their learning from the work placement
- explain how the professional environmental sector operates and what skills are needed to develop their career
- gather and synthesize information and use this information to discuss, in written form, a variety of environmental issues
- communicate ideas and arguments effectively in a range of written and oral formats including the use of standard academic requirements such as referencing
- work with team members to identify, distribute and undertake tasks necessary to complete a project
- reflect on and evaluate his/her own learning experience in order to improve the learning experience in future stages of the programme
- communicate professionally in video format the conclusions and recommendations for future improvements from research into an aspect of the sustainability operations of the University
- reflect on their own learning and the links between course material and their own lives
- design a piece of research achievable as a third year dissertation project and applicable to the field of environment and sustainability, showing an ability to synthesize the research literature, select appropriate techniques for data collection and analysis, and understand ethics and risk assessment
- present their research in an engaging poster format and discuss their research with their peers
- effectively and fluently communicate complex arguments supported by appropriate evidence in oral form
- recognise responsibilities as a local, national and international citizen

The 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 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.

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 and workshops
- Practical classes
- Field courses
- Work placements
- Individual progress interviews, including profiling/ personal development planning (PDP)
- Directed reading
- Group presentations and linked discussion

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 Academic Mentors 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

As Environment and Sustainability is such an interdisciplinary subject, the current staff that deliver the Environment and Sustainability Programme have a range of backgrounds and specialisms. The teaching and research profiles of the staff that currently deliver and support the Environment and Sustainability programme can be found on the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment website: [Our people - Keele University](#).

There is a strong emphasis on enhancing the student learning experience within the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment, which has developed a national reputation for its learning and teaching activities. The Environmental programmes at Keele have received several Keele Teaching Innovation Awards and course developments within the Environment and Sustainability programme have received external funding and recognition from the Higher Education Academy Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences subject centre, the HEA Education for Sustainable Development project and the Higher Education Funding Council for England. In recent years, several University and National awards for Excellence in Learning and Teaching have been awarded to staff within the Environment and Sustainability teaching team. Staff actively participate in teaching and learning activities, many staff hold a Postgraduate Certificate qualification in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education and are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy (the professional body for teaching and learning in higher education), and several staff members are actively involved with pedagogic research that seeks to identify ways in which the student learning experience within environmental programmes can be enhanced. The Environment and Sustainability programme has also been shortlisted within the 'Courses' category in the high profile 'Green Gown' awards.

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

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

Global Challenge Pathways

This programme includes the option for you to take a Global Challenge Pathway. These modules offer you an exciting opportunity to work with students and staff from different disciplines to explore topical global issues such as power and conflict, health inequalities, climate change, generative AI, social justice, global citizenship, and enterprise from different perspectives.

Global Challenge Pathways can either be taken as one 15-credit module at Levels 4, 5 and 6, or one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6. For more information about our Global Challenge Pathways please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/>

Modern Languages or Certificate in TESOL

Alternatively, you could choose to study modules with the University Language Centre. The Language Centre offers three pathways; The Language Specialist, The Language Taster, and The Trinity Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL). Language Centre modules are available separately for students at Level 4. At Levels 5 and 6 they are included within the Global Challenge Pathways.

If you choose the Language Specialist pathway, you will automatically be enrolled on a Semester 2 Modern Language module as a continuation of your language of choice as a faculty funded 'additional' module. Undertaking a Modern Languages module in Semester 2 is compulsory if you wish to continue to the Language Specialist Global Challenge Pathway the following academic year.

For more information about Language Centre option modules available to you please visit the following webpages.

For new (Level 4) students please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/languagecentre/>

For current (Level 5 and Level 6) students please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/academiclife/global-challenge-pathways/>

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

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	105	15	15
Level 5	60	60	60
Level 6	30	90	90

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Human Geographies	GEG-10013	15	Semester 1
Studying the Environment	ESC-10061	15	Semester 1-2
Academic, Fieldwork and Employability Skills	ESC-10094	30	Semester 1-2
People and the Environment	ESC-10041	15	Semester 2
Sustainability Policy and Practice	ESC-10097	15	Semester 2
Nature, Conservation & Society	GEG-10015	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Fundamentals of Physical Geography	ESC-10039	15	Semester 1
Environmental Chemistry	ESC-10095	15	Semester 1
Planet Earth - Our Environment	ESC-10096	15	Semester 1

Level 4 Module Rules

Please note: You cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) and Flexible Work Placement (Level 6). You also cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 6) and Professional Experience in Education.

Compulsory field courses at Level 4

Please note: field course provision may change depending on factors such as staff availability, staff changes, staff expertise, costs, student numbers, and other factors outside of our control (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, disease outbreaks etc.). Locations of 'local area' field days change on a year by year basis.

Module	Typical period	Field course details
ESC-10094 Academic, Fieldwork and Employability Skills	Semester 2, Easter vacation	Typically includes single day field trips to the local area over the course of a week during which students apply field approaches appropriate to their discipline.

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Human Impact on the Environment, scientific perspectives	ESC-20017	15	Semester 1
Environmental Impact Assessment: practical geographical and environmental skills	ESC-20108	15	Semester 1
Research Methods in Human Geography and Environmental Sustainability	GEG-20050	15	Semester 1
Geographical and Environmental Field Skills	ESC-20106	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Earth's Changing Landscapes	ESC-20110	15	Semester 1
Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing	ESC-20132	15	Semester 1
Flexible Work Placement (Level 5)	NAT-20011	15	Semester 1-2
Water in the Environment	ESC-20100	15	Semester 2
Geoethics and Environmental Justice	ESC-20142	15	Semester 2
Making Better Worlds	GEG-20046	15	Semester 2

Compulsory field courses at Level 5

Please note: field course provision may change depending on factors such as staff availability, staff changes, staff expertise, costs, student numbers, and other factors outside of our control (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, disease outbreaks etc.). Locations of 'local area' field days change on a year by year basis.

Module	Typical period	Field course details
ESC-20106 Geographical and Environmental Field Skills	Semester 2, Easter vacation	Residential field course of typically five days - past locations include options for the Lake District in the UK or the south of France.

Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Independent Research Dissertation	ESC-30144	30	Semester 1-2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Global Environmental Change	ESC-30018	15	Semester 1
Geomorphology: Earth Surface Processes and Landscapes	ESC-30158	15	Semester 1
Sustainability in the Global South	GEG-30043	15	Semester 1
Sustainable Futures Consultancy	ESC-30148	30	Semester 1-2
Applied GIS	ESC-30152	30	Semester 1-2
International geographical field course	GEG-30045	30	Semester 1-2
Flexible Work Placement (Level 6)	NAT-30008	15	Semester 1-2
Professional Experience in Education	NAT-30012	15	Semester 1-2
Clean Technology	ESC-30040	15	Semester 2
Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus	ESC-30108	15	Semester 2

Level 6 Module Rules

Please note: You cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) and Flexible Work Placement (Level 6). You also cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 6) and Professional Experience in Education.

Field courses: any field courses undertaken during the third year will depend on the modules chosen. It should be noted that for many students their Dissertation research is likely to include a significant amount of fieldwork.

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
a range of core issues of sustainability and the concepts of environment and sustainability as seen by different disciplines	Delivered through compulsory modules
how interdisciplinary approaches work together and/or in tension	Delivered through compulsory modules
the environmental and social sustainability responsibilities of organisations	Delivered through compulsory modules
the environmental and social impacts of different sectors and activities within organisations (e.g. energy, transport, waste)	Delivered through compulsory modules
the processes by which organisations can audit, improve, and monitor environmental and social impacts within the workplace	Delivered through compulsory modules
the ways in which people interact with their environment and their approaches to dealing with environmental problems	Delivered through compulsory modules
the complementary nature of physical science and social science approaches to tackling environmental issues	Delivered through compulsory modules

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
the relationship between 'hard scientific facts' and the contested nature of their interpretation in the environmental context	Delivered through compulsory modules
the ways in which populations and communities function and interact in an ecosystem context	Delivered through compulsory modules
basic theories and concepts in ecology and conservation	Delivered through compulsory modules
the ecology and environmental issues of a specified ecosystem	Delivered through compulsory modules
the emergence of 'the environment' as an object of social scientific study and political debate	Delivered through compulsory modules
the development of, and debates about, the concepts of 'sustainable development' and 'sustainability'	Delivered through compulsory modules
a broad range of human impacts on the environment and their wider significance and possible solutions	Delivered through compulsory modules
the key causes of negative environmental impacts on air, water and soil quality	Delivered through compulsory modules
the biological, geological, chemical and social aspects of the fields of environmental science and sustainability	Delivered through compulsory modules
the ideological and philosophical underpinning of different approaches to environmental and sustainability research	Delivered through compulsory modules
the historical origins and the evolution of the concepts of corporate governance and social responsibility	Delivered through compulsory modules
the role of the accounting profession in encouraging development of corporate governance codes, examining their impacts on corporate performance	Delivered through compulsory modules
the role of green policies and socially responsible investment in the development of accounting for corporate responsibility	Delivered through compulsory modules
the key issues of corporate governance and environmental accounting for business strategy	Delivered through compulsory modules
the complex way in which businesses governance relates to internal and external stakeholders, and to the natural environment	Delivered through compulsory modules
the tools, techniques and strategies for managing and supporting corporate governance and social responsibility in practice	Delivered through compulsory modules
the range of strategies available for bringing about environmental-political change, including the policy process at different levels, corporate environmental responsibility, and social movement activism	Delivered through compulsory modules
the political dimensions of environmental issues, while understanding the particular historical, cultural and social contexts in which they arise	Delivered through compulsory modules
the effects differing environmental factors can have on human mental and physical health	Delivered through compulsory modules
the effect the changing environment may have on human mental and physical health	Delivered through compulsory modules

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
the main models, methods and criteria for carrying out a sustainability analysis	Delivered through compulsory modules
different aspects of a particular clean technology	Delivered through compulsory modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
demonstrate familiarity with a range of ecological and geochemical laboratory and field techniques and collect, synthesize, evaluate and present environmental (geochemical and ecological) data	Delivered through compulsory modules
research the environmental and social impacts and their potential solutions, of an area of an organisation's operations	Delivered through compulsory modules
reflect on their own learning and the links between course material and their own lives.	Delivered through compulsory modules
describe the ways in which people interact with their environment and their approaches to dealing with environmental problems	Delivered through compulsory modules
identify and critically discuss -- by applying relevant conceptual tools -- the social, political, economic, and cultural factors that have led to the problem of 'unsustainability'	Delivered through compulsory modules
assess solutions to problems of managing disturbed/degraded/ disadvantaged areas and demonstrate an understanding of environmental management issues in a range of environments and contexts	Delivered through compulsory modules
apply theoretical knowledge and understanding of environmental science and sustainability issues to specific social, geographical and environmental contexts	Delivered through compulsory modules
understand the use of relevant theoretical frameworks to analyse corporate governance and social responsibility issues	Delivered through compulsory modules
systematically and critically evaluate corporate governance, social issues, and environmental issues	Delivered through compulsory modules
distinguish between a range of perspectives on environmental issues and appreciate how environmental issues may be understood as political issues	Delivered through compulsory modules
apply conceptual tools in order to analyse critically environmental problems and controversies	Delivered through compulsory modules
carry out an in depth, interdisciplinary sustainability analysis of a specific case, using well-defined tools, as part of team and in a timely fashion	Delivered through compulsory modules
apply theoretical concepts and ethical principles in the field of sustainability in order to analyse critically a complex 'real life' case or problem	Delivered through compulsory modules

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
communicate ideas and arguments effectively in a range of written and oral formats including the use of standard academic requirements such as referencing	Delivered through compulsory modules
work with team members to identify, distribute and undertake tasks necessary to complete a project.	Delivered through compulsory modules
reflect on and evaluate his/her own learning experience in order to improve the learning experience in future stages of the programme	Delivered through compulsory modules
communicate professionally in video format the conclusions and recommendations for future improvements from research into an aspect of the sustainability operations of the University	Delivered through compulsory modules
gather and synthesizing information and use this information to discuss, in written form, a variety of environmental issues	Delivered through compulsory modules
develop an argument and assemble a coherent analysis that is communicated effectively, using an appropriate academic writing style and correctly apply the Harvard system of referencing	Delivered through compulsory modules
participate with confidence in tutorial discussions, having prepared effectively in advance. Skills of effective speaking, listening, and question posing will be developed	Delivered through compulsory modules
communicate effectively in written form about an environmental issue, including possible solutions and barriers to their adoption, in an interesting, engaging and informative way	Delivered through compulsory modules
search for and assimilate information from the literature on a key environmental issue	Delivered through compulsory modules
carry out a personal skills audit in relation to their work placement and identify their skills gaps and translate these into achievable learning outcomes	Delivered through compulsory modules
relate academic theory learnt as part of the taught degree to real situations in the work place	Delivered through compulsory modules
develop needed work-related skills through practice	Delivered through compulsory modules
critically evaluate their learning from the work placement	Delivered through compulsory modules
enhance their career knowledge	Delivered through compulsory modules
design a piece of research achievable as a third year dissertation project and applicable to the field of Environment & Sustainability; showing an ability to synthesize the research literature, select appropriate techniques for data collection and analysis, and conduct research ethically and safely	Delivered through compulsory modules
identify and formulate effective arguments	Delivered through compulsory modules
communicate effectively verbally and in writing	Delivered through compulsory modules
source, interpret and synthesize literature that is relevant to a chosen topic	Delivered through compulsory modules
critically review relevant literature within the dissertation	Delivered through compulsory modules

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
plan, design and execute, using appropriate research methods and processes, an independent piece of research relevant to Environment and Sustainability	Delivered through compulsory modules
communicate effectively and persuasively the results of independent research in written form	Delivered through compulsory modules
work as a team member and make individual contributions to team process and products (presentation and report)	Delivered through compulsory modules
synthesise research and communicate the results of an analysis in different forms (written and graphic) to different audiences (lay-people and specialists)	Independent Research Dissertation - ESC-30144 Delivered through compulsory modules
reflect on and critically evaluating a team project, including the quality of the process and final products and the quality of one's own contributions to the team	Delivered through compulsory modules
plan and carry out a piece of collaborative research	Delivered through compulsory modules
explain specialist material in lay terms using appropriate illustrations	Delivered through compulsory modules

9. Final and intermediate awards

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

Honours Degree	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6 You must accumulate at least 270 credits in your main subject (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 90 credits in each of the three years of study*, to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject. The default award for the Single Honours Environment & Sustainability is a BSc Honours degree. However, students who successfully complete at Level 6 60 credits or more of Social Sciences modules receive a BA Honours degree. The 60 credits can be made up from Education, Human Geography, Politics and Criminology based modules, and may include the 30 credits from the Dissertation if it is of a social science nature. *An exemption applies for students transferring from a Combined Honours programme - see point 3.4 here: https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/regulationc3/
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

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

Work Placement Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the work placement year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'with Work Placement Year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the work placement year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme 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.

Students experience a wide-range of assessment types throughout the Environment and Sustainability degree programme, the exact combination of assessments and split between coursework and exams is dependent on the option module choices that students make throughout their degree. The range of assessments that students will encounter has been designed to promote engagement with employability skills and subject-specific skills.

The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used within Environment and Sustainability:

- **Unseen closed and open book examinations** in different formats test students' knowledge and understanding of the subject. Examinations may consist of essay, short answer and/or multiple choice questions, and paper comprehension.
- **Technical reports** require you to describe the process and progress of a scientific investigation, including engagement with and analysis of scientific data, and present this in a clear and concise format. Some technical reports may require you to make recommendations.
- **Poster presentations:** enable students to develop their communication skills and summarize the findings of their research in a clear, concise and professional format. Posters may be presented in the form of a 'conference-style' presentation session whereby students give an oral summary of their work. Posters may be completed in small groups or as individuals.
- **Oral presentations** assess individual students' 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 Portfolios** document a range of activities and exercises undertaken in the field, either individually or in small groups.
- **Field Notebooks** allow you to document and record your field-based observations, including the use of field sketching, to enable you to better understand the unfamiliar field environment in which you are working in.
- **Reflective Diaries** enable you to critically reflect on your learning experiences, for example as part of a work placement experience. 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.
- **Essays** allow you to demonstrate your 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).
- **Laboratory reports** - structured proformas and full lab reports are formal summaries of work carried out in the laboratory and test students' understanding of the practical aspects of the programme and develop the skills necessary to enable students to present and analyse their results.
- **Class tests** 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.
- **Dissertations** enable students to explore in depth an area of particular interest through a substantial piece of focused research and writing, and test their ability to formulate and answer research questions.
- **Research projects and reports** 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.
- **Peer assessment:** in some cases students will be involved in marking other students' work, usually with a prescriptive marking guide. This helps students to appreciate where marks are gained and lost and gives them the opportunity to see the common mistakes made by other students.
- **Reviews** of other scholars' work test students' ability to identify and summarise the key points of a text and to evaluate the quality of arguments and the evidence used to support them. In the case of work based on empirical research, reviews also assess students' knowledge of research methodologies and their ability to make critical judgements about the appropriateness of different strategies for collecting and analysing data.
- **Group videos** demonstrate students' ability to present research in a video format, requiring careful consideration of the key material to be included, and how best to effectively communicate a message. Such projects also require students to gain experience in working effectively in a group environment.

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 or workshops, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	25.2%	74.8%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	33%	65.8%	1.1%
Year 3 (Level 6)	24.5%	75.5%	0%

12. Accreditation

This programme is accredited by the Institution of Environmental Science (IES) and 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 IES. Graduates will be able to upgrade from Student membership to GradISEP membership and make a fast-track application to PractitionerISEP membership.

13. 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'.

14. 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/>

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.

English for Academic Purposes

Please note: All new international students entering the university will provide a sample of Academic English during their registration. Using this sample, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory. This will replace any GCP modules. *NB:* students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

English Language Modules at Level 4:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 5:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 6:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2); ENL-90005 Advanced Business English Communication
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

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/>

15. How are students supported on the programme?

Academic Mentors: All students are allocated an Academic Mentor for the duration of their studies as part of the University's Academic Mentor system. The role of the Academic Mentor is to meet formally with their mentees at least once per semester to discuss progress and performance, to discuss profiling/ PDP, and to offer support and advice. In addition, to an Academic Mentor allocated to the student, students are encouraged to seek support from any of the Environment and Sustainability teaching and administrative staff. Students can make arrangements to see their Academic Mentor or other staff at any time and an open door policy is operated by the majority of the teaching staff so students can easily get in contact with staff either personally or via email or phone. There are very strong communication links between students and staff and a friendly and supportive environment throughout the Environment and Sustainability programme.

Work Placement Tutor: All students undertaking the work placement degree programme will be provided with an academic tutor, based at Keele. Students will be expected to find their own work placements however, support will be provided throughout the placement process. This will involve support ensuring the appropriateness of the placement prior to starting the Placement Year, and email/telephone/face-to-face contact with the academic tutor throughout the placement at regular intervals.

Use of e-learning/the Keele Learning Environment (KLE): All modules are supported by learning materials that are accessible to students via the KLE. The School supports the University's policy on module support on the KLE.

Health and Safety: All students admitted to the programme are expected to read the Geography, Geology and 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. The handbook can be accessed from:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/eesg/handbooks/>

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities or medical problems, who are admitted onto the Environment and Sustainability degree programme, will meet with a member of the University's Disability Services department, and the Environmental and Sustainability Course Director and the Geography, Geology and Environment Disability Officer where appropriate, at the very 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.

Careers: In addition, to the University's central Careers service there is a specific Environment and Sustainability careers tutor. Students are encouraged to seek the careers tutor for any help with deciding on postgraduate programmes and funding opportunities, discussing career options, discussing option choices in relation to specific career routes, and for help and assistance in applying for jobs and placements. Within the Keele Learning Environment there is a dedicated page to careers including several subject specific careers sites.

16. Learning Resources

The Geography, Geology and Environment section of the School has its own building (the William Smith Building) that contains well-equipped laboratories and lecture theatres that are used throughout the Environment and Sustainability programme. 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 currently open during the week from 9.00am to 5.00pm to answer student queries and deal with administrative tasks such as the handing in and return of assignments. Teaching on specific modules takes place elsewhere in the University when there is a need for more specialised teaching facilities allowing the Environment and Sustainability programme to benefit from a wide-range of cutting-edge teaching facilities and analytical instrumentation based elsewhere within the University. Students also have access to computing facilities within the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment Sciences.

17. Other Learning Opportunities

Study abroad (semester)

Students on the programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities. Please note that students cannot take both a Global Challenge Pathway (GCP) and the semester abroad option.

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 who meet external eligibility criteria 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 in the Annex for the International Year.

Work Placement Year

A summary of the Work Placement Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the Work Placement Year.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork is an essential part of the training in the field of Environment and Sustainability, 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.

Keele is ideally located to be able to integrate a large component of field work into its environmental programmes with a wide range of habitats in easy reach. These include the Keele campus itself with its lake system and extensive woodlands, in addition to the mining and industrial heritage of the local area providing ideal opportunities for the study of the impact of these activities on the environment. The field courses in the second year provide the opportunity to investigate environmental science and management issues and environmental change within an unfamiliar environment. Students are also encouraged to make the most of other opportunities for field work with external organisations such as Operation Wallacea, which can form part of students third year independent project work.

18. Additional Costs

Field Course Costs

ALL students undertake compulsory field courses as part of their studies - these are provided at no cost. 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. Independent project work carried out by students for their final year dissertation may be associated with additional costs.

The University provides significant financial support for the compulsory fieldwork elements of the degree programme and the costs of travel and accommodation for compulsory field courses are fully paid for by the University up to and including Year 2. Students are responsible for their own subsistence.

OPTIONAL FIELD TRIPS:

In addition to compulsory field courses, the programme offers optional overseas field trips as part of second- or third-year modules. The cost of this is subsidised by the University but you will incur additional costs of independently arranged student international travel.

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. The first instalment is non-refundable due to the need to pre-book accommodation etc. in advance. The costs of field courses are indicated at the start of the year, with details clearly communicated to students.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

ALL students undertake an independent research project in their final year, which MAY include fieldwork. 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. We reserve the right to change the venues of field courses due to both cost and academic considerations. Some field courses are fully or partly catered for. Others are self-catered and students are expected to purchase meals (e.g., lunch and/or evening meal).

The costs below are only for indicative purposes and correct at the time of printing:

Activity	Estimated Cost
Travel to optional field course	£200.00 -£1,200.00 - depending on destination
Equipment - waterproof and appropriate clothing and footwear for field courses	£200.00
Total estimated additional costs	£400.00 -£1,400.00

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. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

19. 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 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 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 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 programme described in this document has 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/quality-code>
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies (2014): <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements?indexCatalogue=document-search&searchQuery=Earth%20Sciences&wordsMode=AllWords>
- Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>
- Accreditation guidelines of the Institution of Environmental Sciences: <https://www.the-ies.org/accreditation>

21. Annex - International Year

Environment and Sustainability with International Year

International Year Programme Students registered for this Single Honours programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the International Year option. Students accepted onto this option will have an extra year of study (the International Year) 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 standard programme 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 the International Year option.
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 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.

Student Support

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

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Academic Mentoring 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:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
3. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.
4. Apply their experiences abroad to the specific Graduate Attributes associated with their Environmental Science degree programme;
5. Integrate, apply and develop fundamental environmental science principles to describe and explain phenomena and solve problems in the context of selected topics within contemporary Environmental Science

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.

Regulations

Students registered for the International Year are subject to the programme-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 area.

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 module with significant overlap to the Level 6 modules they will study 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

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 who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible 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.

22. Annex - Work Placement Year

Environment and Sustainability with Work Placement Year

Work Placement Year summary

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Work Placement Year' option (NB: for Combined Honours students the rules relating to the work placement year in the subject where the placement is organised are to be followed). Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Work Placement Year) with a relevant placement provider after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Work Placement Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Work Placement Year will normally revert to the 3-year programme 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 the Work Placement Year option.

Work Placement Year Programme Aims

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

1. the opportunity to carry out a long-term work-based learning experience
2. first-hand experience of the work place environment in a role highly relevant to the degree

Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year

Admission to the Work Placement Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module, (* or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

* We recommend where possible students undertake a placement of between 9 - 12 months on a full-time basis to maximize academic and personal growth. However, the Faculty of Natural Sciences Work / Professional Placement Year mandates a minimum of 24 weeks in duration, ideally on a full-time basis, but no less than 21 hours per week. This enables those undertaking an unpaid placement to work on a part-time basis alongside their placement.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Academic Performance (an average of 50% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the Work Placement Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 50% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 50% requirement may progress to the Work Placement Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application(s) to relevant placement providers with prior agreement from the Programme Lead, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and Programme Lead)
- Students undertaking work placements will be expected to complete a Health and Safety checklist prior to commencing their work experience and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.
- (*International students only*) Due to visa requirements, it is not possible for international students who require a Tier 4 Visa to apply for direct entry onto the 4-year with Work Placement Year degree programme. Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with student support, the academic tutor for the work placement year, and the Programme Lead. Students should be aware that there are visa implications for this transfer, and it is the student's responsibility to complete any and all necessary processes to be eligible for this programme. There may be additional costs, including applying for a new Visa from outside of the UK for international students associated with a transfer to the work placement programme.

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Work Placement Year.

Student Support

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

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff who will be assigned to the student as their University supervisor. The University supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year, and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic) and liaise with the Placement supervisor on the student's behalf if required.
- Two formal contacts with the student during the placement year: the University supervisor will visit the student in their placement organization at around the 5 weeks after placement has commenced, and then visit again (or conduct a telephone/video call tutorial) at around 15 weeks into the placement.
- Weekly supervision sessions will take place with the placement supervisor (or his/her nominee) throughout the duration of the placement.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Critically evaluate their learning from the work placement.
2. Explain how the professional environmental sector operates and what skills are needed to develop a career within it.
3. Apply academic theory learnt as part of the taught degree to real situations in the work place.

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module which involves:

1. 10 hours of scheduled learning and teaching activities comprising workshops covering: CV and cover letter production, finding a placement, personal skills audits, internship/placement preparation, and pre-departure briefing including completion of necessary paperwork.
2. Mid-Placement Portfolio completion (a strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) self-analysis; a personal action plan aimed at strengthening employability skills; and a performance report from the placement host).
3. End of placement Portfolio (a reflective diary of the placement experience; and a final performance report from the placement host).

Regulations

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

- Students undertaking the Work Placement Year must successfully complete the zero-credit rated 'Work Placement Year' module
- In order to ensure a high quality placement experience, each placement agency will sign up to a placement contract (analogous to a service level agreement).
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will make a pre-placement visit and a member of staff identified within the placement contract will be assigned as the placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the agreed contract agreed with the University.
- The placement student will also sign up an agreement outlining his/her 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 School and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

Additional costs for the Work Placement Year

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear 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. If it is paid, this is likely to affect student finance eligibility, however if it is voluntary and therefore unpaid, should not affect student finance eligibility. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider.

International students who require a Tier 4 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.

23. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: Environment and Sustainability

Final Award and Award Titles	BSc (Hons) Environment and Sustainability BSc (Hons) Environment and Sustainability with International Year (see Annex A for details) BSc (Hons) Environment and Sustainability with Work Placement Year (see Annex B for details)
Intermediate Award(s)	Diploma in Higher Education Certificate in Higher Education
Last modified	October 2023
Programme Specification	https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>)[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions, variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- **No exemptions apply.**

B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

Variation 1: Re-assessment and alternative assessment of missed work

This programme varies from Regulation C3 12.1.

Reassessment, or alternative work to replace a missed assessment supported by exceptional circumstances, may sometimes take a different form from the original assessment where it is not feasible to recreate the original circumstances of assessment, for example in the case of fieldwork, group work or peer-assessed activities. Appropriate alternative assessments may be substituted in these situations. Where fieldwork is missed and supported by exceptional circumstances where appropriate students may be given the option of taking the field course the following year or completing alternative assessment.

Additional Requirements

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

Additional requirement 1: Attendance Requirements

Students are required 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. Any absences due to exceptional circumstances should be notified as soon as possible to the School Office who will then pass on this information to tutors, as necessary. Any exceptional circumstances must be notified using the appropriate form following University regulations. Students who display a poor attendance record for no good reason are likely to be subject to disciplinary action. In addition, when taking modules from subjects other than those in the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment students must inform themselves of, and abide by, any additional attendance and notification requirements of that particular School.

Self-certification of illness as a reason for absence from compulsory classes will be accepted for no more than three occasions per Semester. Any subsequent absence for reasons of illness must be accompanied by a doctor's note.

Individual modules within the Environmental Science programmes have specific attendance regulations.

Additional requirement 2: Regulations governing fieldwork

Students are expected to read the online Safety Handbook for the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment at registration in Year 1. Students are required to sign an agreement that they have read the Safety Handbook, and that they will abide by the rules and regulations governing the efficient working, safety and welfare of all members both within the School and in the field

Students are required to follow all instructions provided by course staff within the Safety and Field Course Handbooks and in person in the field. This includes instructions given by postgraduate demonstrators. Students must make staff aware of any pre-existing medical conditions or other issues that may be relevant to field course safety prior to attending the field course.

Students, who by thoughtless actions or rowdy behaviour put the course, other students and the reputation of the University in jeopardy, will be immediately sent home to face disciplinary procedures by the University. Additionally, they will be required to attend the next scheduled field course as a re-assessment and at their own expense. Examples of serious misconduct include: wilful damage to property, injury to persons, ingestion of alcohol or illegal substances in the field so as to endanger themselves or other members of the course, improper use of safety equipment and/or failure to attend commitments.

Additional requirement 3: Form and submission of in-course assessments

The form and submission of coursework are determined by module leaders and announced in module documentation. Unless otherwise stated, work should be word processed. Students must familiarise themselves with the module documentation for information about how specific coursework assessments should be submitted. When taking modules from subjects other than those from within Geography, Geology and the Environment, students must inform themselves of, and abide by, the assessment and submission requirements of that School.

In the absence of agreed exceptional circumstances, work submitted late but within one week of the deadline will be marked to a maximum of 40%. Work submitted more than one week late will be given a mark of zero. Requests for extensions to deadlines should be made to the relevant module tutor and the Programme Director in advance of the coursework deadline using the University's exceptional circumstances online system.

Marks indicated on returned work are provisional and subject to change until ratified by the appropriate examination board. Although marked assignments are returned to students to provide feedback, any work that counts towards the final degree result has to be made available for consultation by the External Examiner at the end of the programme. Students must be in a position to be able to resubmit work in good condition when required by the School.

Additional requirement 4: Field work expenses

Fieldwork is a compulsory part of the Environmental Science degree programme and forms components of assessed modules. The University provides significant financial support for the compulsory fieldwork elements of the degree programme and the costs of travel and accommodation for compulsory field courses are fully paid for by the University up to and including Year 2.

ALL Environmental Science students undertake an independent research project in their final year, which MAY include fieldwork. 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.

Additional requirement 5: Requirements governing Study Abroad

Students spending a semester abroad in year two must agree a programme of study with the Study Abroad tutor before they leave, and must agree any changes that become necessary. They should study an equivalent number of credits to that which they would have studied at Keele. They must submit a portfolio of work on their return. Marks will be converted into their Keele equivalents according to the agreement between Keele and the partner universities.

[1] References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 27 June 2025

What's Changed

Accreditation updated. Optional module changes: ESC-20092 and ESC-20037 replaced with NAT-20011 and ESC-20142; optional modules ESC-30027, GEG-30047, ESC-30060, ESC-30044, GEG-30033 replaced with ESC-30158, GEG-30043, ESC-30148, ESC-30152, GEG-30045. Optional modules NAT-30008 and NAT-30012 added. Module rule added.

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2025/26	MARK ASHBY	19 May 2025	ESC-30047 (Dissertation) replaced by ESC-30144 (Independent Research Dissertation)
1	2024/25	MARK ASHBY	04 June 2024	
1	2023/24	ADAM MOOLNA	07 February 2023	
1	2022/23	ADAM MOOLNA	28 March 2022	Removal of optional module ESC-30020 Water Resources
1	2021/22	ADAM MOOLNA		
2	2020/21	IAN OLIVER	01 May 2020	Module changes: Level 4 module 'Biodiversity, Ecology and the Environment' replaced by 'Ecology and Plant Biology'; Level 5 compulsory module 'Health and the Environment' changed to an optional module
1	2020/21	IAN OLIVER	25 February 2020	
2	2019/20	IAN OLIVER	01 May 2020	'Health and the Environment' changes from compulsory to optional at Level 5; additional Level 6 optional modules
1	2019/20	EDWARD MCCAULEY	15 July 2019	