

Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BSc (Hons) Environmental Science BSc (Hons) Environmental Science with International Year (see Annex for details) BSc (Hons) Environmental Science with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details)
Award type	Combined 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 subject/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	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Fee for 2024/25 is £9,250*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Fee for 2024/25 is £20,700**</p> <p>The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee</p> <p>The fee for the work placement year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee</p>

Please note that this document applies to Level 6 (Year 3) students only in 2026/27

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 Combined Honours programme?

NB: All students who study a science Principal subject are candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Science (with Honours) (BSc Hons) irrespective of their second Principal subject.

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

In a Combined Honours degree you must take at least 135 credits in each Principal Subject (270 credits in total), accrued over all three levels of study, with at least 45 credits at each level of study (Levels 4, 5 and 6) in each of two Principal Subjects (90 credits per year). The remaining available credits can be filled with modules from these subjects or other subjects entirely.

As a Combined Honours student you can choose to study just one subject in your final year of study, taking a minimum of 90 credits in this subject. This will result in an X with Y degree title.

3. Overview of the Programme

The Combined Honours Environmental Science degree programme at Keele enables students to combine their interests in environmental science with a second subject in one of the subject combinations available at Keele. The course is interdisciplinary and focuses on the application of environmental science techniques and knowledge to address environmental issues such as climate change, water pollution, and biodiversity loss and food security. The programme places strong emphasis on developing practical, laboratory and field-based skills which enables students to develop a wide range of both subject-specific and transferable skills to take into future employment. The first year highlights the basic principles of the chemical and ecological sciences underpinning the field of environmental science. The second year places an emphasis on developing practical and research skills, and developing deeper scientific understanding behind a range of environmental issues. The broad selection of modules in the final year allows the student to specialize or to maintain a broad environmental science portfolio, while maintaining a strong basis in the skills and techniques of the environmental scientist. This degree structure is designed to cater for those students with general interests in the environment and environmental issues, and for those with a clear environmental science career aspiration through a clear emphasis throughout the course on applied environmental issues. Environmental Science is an exciting and relevant subject for today's society with ever-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 scientific understanding of the chemical and ecological sciences that underpin the field of environmental science, irrespective of students' scientific background prior to studying at Keele University, and to be able to apply these to environmental 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, atmospheric pollution;
- gain a wide-range of field and laboratory skills, including the ability to carry out independent research, relevant to the investigation of environmental issues;
- develop to a high professional standard, generic employability skills in report writing, information technology, numeracy, oral presentation, team work and independent work, problem solving and searching and evaluating literature and related-resources.

In addition, students taking the four year 'with work placement year' programme will:

- gain substantial experience of work in the environment and sustainability sector, including familiarisation with the professional working environment. These aims are achieved through a range of module-specific intended learning outcomes that describe the key knowledge and skills successful students will acquire during the course of the degree programme.

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 nature of the course and the wide choice of options available in the third year (Level 6) emphasises the multi-disciplinary context of the course. From the core grounding in the natural sciences, the wide range of options available enables the individual student to explore the contribution of the natural and social sciences to an understanding of current environmental issues. Core modules also stress the interdisciplinary interaction of different facets of sciences in the environment. The acquisition of knowledge and understanding underpins the entire programme.

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

- the application of the ecological, biological and chemical sciences to environmental science
- fundamental principles of chemistry relevant to the Environmental Sciences
- the application of fundamental chemical principles to a range of applications in environmental chemistry
- the ways in which populations and communities function and interact
- basic theories and concepts in ecology and conservation
- the ecology and environmental issues of a specified ecosystem
- the impact of human activity, particularly resource exploitation on the Earth's surface and near surface environments (using well-established principles and examples from the forefront of the discipline)
- pressures and threats on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems as well as the Earth's climate that are related to human activity
- possible options for alternative solutions to environmental problems and their implications for nature and society
- environmental management issues in a range of different environments
- the process and application of a range of analytical techniques relevant to the analysis of the composition of different environmental media (including soil, water, vegetation)
- a key multidisciplinary issue/problem reflecting the student's interests at the forefront of Environmental Science

Subject specific skills

The acquisition of subject specific skills is an important part of the Environmental Science programme. Individual module specifications should be consulted for information on subject-specific skills covered within individual modules.

Successful students will be able to:

- carry out and record practical chemistry experiments relevant to the environmental sciences, including the analysis and interpretation of data generated
- demonstrate competency in a range of skills necessary for successful study of environmental science in higher education (e.g. numeracy, IT, visual, oral and written communication)
- demonstrate familiarity with a range of ecological and geochemical laboratory and field techniques
- collect, synthesize, evaluate and present environmental (geochemical, ecological, geological) data
- perform calculations involving simple population dynamics models
- 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
- apply relevant quantitative techniques to the analysis of environmental problems
- manipulate, analyse and interpret data sets relating to an area of environmental science
- design an achievable piece of research applicable to the field of environmental science, showing an ability to synthesize and interrogate the research literature and evaluate and select appropriate techniques
- integrate biological, geological and chemical aspects of field (and laboratory) study by preparing a report/presentation on investigations of several habitats
- evaluate solutions to problems of managing a disturbed/degraded area
- evaluate possible options for alternative solutions to environmental problems
- demonstrate familiarity with a range of field and laboratory techniques appropriate to Environmental Science investigation
- demonstrate technical appreciation of the process and application of a range of analytical techniques relevant to the analysis of the composition of different environmental media
- 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
- apply their own knowledge, skills and experience to an aspect of current Environmental Science research (through the use of established, analytical scientific methods, literature review, data collection and interpretation etc.) and to have developed the skills necessary to exercise own independent analysis,

initiative and self-learning

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 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
- 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
- use the internet as a means of communication and a source of information
- 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
- recognise responsibilities as a local, national and international citizen

In addition to the above, students on the four year 'with work placement year' programme will be able to:

- 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.

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, environmental and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

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 and workshops
- Practical classes
- Field courses
- Individual progress interviews, including profiling/personal development planning (PDP)

- Work experience in a professional environment
- Directed reading
- Group presentations and linked discussion
- Use of e-learning/the Keele Learning Environment (KLE)

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their 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 Environmental Science is such an interdisciplinary subject, staff that deliver our degree programmes come from the Schools of Chemical and Physical Sciences, and Life Sciences, with option modules from other Schools.

There is a strong emphasis on enhancing throughout the Environmental Science programme on enhancing the student learning experience, as evidenced by the number of environmental staff who hold teaching qualifications, such as the MA in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, who are fellows, Senior Fellows and Principals Fellows of the Higher Education Academy (HEA) and who have won awards for their excellence in teaching (e.g. Keele Teaching Excellence Awards, National Teaching Fellowships). Recent curriculum developments within our environmental programmes have been supported by external funds from the Higher Education Academy (HEA) Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences (GEES) subject centre and the HEA Education for Sustainable Development project. Several staff are actively involved with pedagogic research that seeks to identify ways in which the student learning experience within the environmental sciences can be enhanced.

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.

Modern Language modules: You are able to take up to 60 credits across your degree programme as Faculty Funded additional Modern Language modules in order to graduate with the Enhanced Degree Title. [Please see [link](#) for more information on Enhanced degree titles.]

For further information on the content of modules currently offered, including the list of elective modules, please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows, with a minimum of 90 subject credits (compulsory plus optional) required for each year across both of your Principal Subjects. This document has information about *Environmental Science* modules only; please also see the document for your other subject.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 6	0	60	60

In year 3 there is the option to choose to specialise in one of your subjects, taking a minimum of 90 subject-

specific modules, made up of 60 credits of compulsory modules and a minimum of 30 credits (maximum 60 credits) of optional modules. You may take 0-30 credits of elective modules.

Module Lists

Level 6

Field courses:

The field courses undertaken during the third year will depend on the modules chosen. It should be noted that for many students their Independent Project work is likely to include a significant amount of fieldwork.

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Glaciers and Glacial Geomorphology	ESC-30006	15	Semester 1
Natural Hazards	ESC-30009	15	Semester 1
Global Environmental Change	ESC-30018	15	Semester 1
Clean Technology	ESC-30040	15	Semester 1
Applied GIS	ESC-30044	15	Semester 1
Ecotoxicology and Risk Assessment	ESC-30056	15	Semester 1
Extinction!	ESC-30106	15	Semester 1
Geomorphology: Earth Surface Processes and Landscapes	ESC-30158	15	Semester 1
Conservation Biology	LSC-30043	15	Semester 1
Insect Ecology and Pest Management	LSC-30070	15	Semester 1
Dissertation	ESC-30047	30	Semester 1-2
Hydrological and Engineering Geology	ESC-30022	15	Semester 2
Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus	ESC-30108	15	Semester 2
Animal Welfare	LSC-30072	15	Semester 2
Plant Science and Sustainability	LSC-30076	15	Semester 2

If you choose to specialise in this subject in your final year you will study the following modules:

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Dissertation	ESC-30047	30	Semester 1-2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Glaciers and Glacial Geomorphology	ESC-30006	15	Semester 1
Natural Hazards	ESC-30009	15	Semester 1
Global Environmental Change	ESC-30018	15	Semester 1
Clean Technology	ESC-30040	15	Semester 1
Applied GIS	ESC-30044	15	Semester 1
Ecotoxicology and Risk Assessment	ESC-30056	15	Semester 1
Extinction!	ESC-30106	15	Semester 1
Geomorphology: Earth Surface Processes and Landscapes	ESC-30158	15	Semester 1
Conservation Biology	LSC-30043	15	Semester 1
Insect Ecology and Pest Management	LSC-30070	15	Semester 1
Advanced Environmental Field Skills	ESC-30110	30	Semester 1-2
Hydrological and Engineering Geology	ESC-30022	15	Semester 2
Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus	ESC-30108	15	Semester 2
Animal Welfare	LSC-30072	15	Semester 2
Plant Science and Sustainability	LSC-30076	15	Semester 2

Level 6 Module Rules

All students continuing with Environmental Science at Level 6 must take a dissertation module.

Major route students take ESC-30047 (30 credits) as compulsory.

For major route students specialising in Environmental Science at level 6, at least 60 credits must come from the following list of modules:

- ESC-30056
- ESC-30110 (30 credits)
- LSC-30070
- LSC-30076
- ESC-30018

For students specialising in this subject at Level 6, a minimum of 90 credits must be taken in this subject (see the lower tables of compulsory and optional modules below). For students specialising in another subject, the first list should be used.

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 key multidisciplinary issue/problem reflecting the student's interests at the forefront of Environmental Science	Dissertation - ESC-30047
the biological, geological, chemical and social aspects of the fields of environmental science and sustainability	Level 6 modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
manipulate, analyse and interpret data sets relating to an area of environmental science	also the dissertation
design an achievable piece of research applicable to the field of environmental science, showing an ability to synthesize and interrogate the research literature and evaluate and select appropriate techniques	also the dissertation
integrate biological, geological and chemical aspects of field (and laboratory) study by preparing a report/presentation on investigations of several habitats	also the dissertation

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
work effectively with a variety of types of information technology to analyse and present information and data, as well as solve numerical problems	All modules but specifically: Studying the Environment; Introductory Environmental Chemistry; Biodiversity, Ecology and Environment; Environmental Analytical Methods; Dissertation
use the internet as a means of communication and a source of information	All modules
demonstrate competence in spatial awareness and observation	Level 6 modules
conduct field and laboratory studies	Level 6 modules
reference work in an appropriate manner	All modules
work with information handling and retrieval systems using data from a wide range of sources	Level 6 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	Level 6 modules
work effectively both as an individual and as part of a group or team, recognising and respecting the viewpoints of others	All modules
sustain motivation to work towards a goal over an extended period of time	All modules
recognise responsibilities as a local, national and international citizen	All modules

9. Final and intermediate awards

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

Honours Degree	360 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6</p> <p>You must accumulate a minimum of 135 credits in each Principal Subject (270 credits in total), with at least 45 credits at each level of study (Levels 4, 5 and 6) in each of two Principal Subjects (90 credits per year). Your degree title will be 'subject X and subject Y'.</p> <p>If you choose to study one Principal subject in your final year of study a minimum of 90 credits in that subject is required. Your degree title will be 'subject X with subject Y'.</p>
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 'work placement year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the 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. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- **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.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

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

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

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	32.5%	67.5%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	31.9%	68.1%	0%
Year 3 (Level 6)	22.0%	78.0%	0%

12. Accreditation

This programme is accredited by the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) and by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). Students enrolled on IES accredited programmes may apply for Student Membership of the institution which provides a range of benefits: <http://www.ies-uk.org.uk>

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'.

Students should note that it is not possible to take both the Work Placement Year and International Year options.

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

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. Students can make arrangements to see their Academic Mentor or other staff at any time and an open door policy is operated by all Environmental Science 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 Environmental Science course.

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 course 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.

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities or medical problems, who are admitted onto the Environmental Science degree programme, will meet with a member of the University's Disability Services department, the Environmental Science Course Director and the School Disability Officer 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 Environmental Science careers tutor. Students are encouraged to seek the careers tutor for any help with deciding on postgraduate courses 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

Environmental Science has its own building (the William Smith Building) that contains well-equipped laboratories and lecture theatres, and also uses the state-of-the-art teaching facilities in the Central Science Laboratory

building. The School Office in the William Smith Building is currently open during the week from 8.45am to 5.00pm to answer student queries. Teaching on specific modules takes place elsewhere in the University when there is a need for more specialised teaching facilities allowing the Environmental Science 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 Environmental Science for individual work.

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 an environmental scientist's training, providing both the opportunity to acquire and practice field-based skills, to develop skills of observation and recording and to work as effective members of a team. Keele is ideally located to be able to integrate a large component of field work into its environmental science programmes with a wide range of habitats in easy reach, including 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

Mandatory costs

You can expect some additional costs as a student on this course, which may support learning activities, specialist equipment, fieldwork, placements, or other course-related requirements. Details of these mandatory costs are outlined below to help you plan accordingly.

Field Course Costs

COMPULSORY FIELD TRIPS

ALL students undertake **compulsory field courses** as part of their studies - these are provided at no cost.

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 costs

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

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 subsidized 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. Costs may vary, and will depend on students' choices of any optional field courses.

Activity	Estimated cost
Mandatory costs	
Field courses - compulsory - travel and accommodation:	£0
Field courses - compulsory - approx. £35 a day to cover subsistence costs for lunches and dinners.	£35 a day
Equipment - waterproof clothing and footwear for fieldwork:	£200
Optional costs	
Optional international field course:	£700
Optional international field course - approx. £35 a day to cover subsistence costs for lunches and dinners.	£35 a day
Total estimated additional costs:	£235 - £1,635

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%.

Students may also incur general expenses related to university study, such as for printing, textbooks and other materials. Students who undertake a placement may be responsible for additional costs, such as travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs. For further information, please refer to the [additional costs](#) information.

NB: as detailed in the Programme-Specific Regulations, should you be required to retake the Introductory Environmental Chemistry module you will be charged additional fees.

We try to ensure that core text books are supplied by the library in adequate number or are available as E-books. However, students may choose to purchase their own copies of books for ease of access.

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:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

b. 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>

c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

d. Accreditation guidelines of the Institution of Environmental Sciences: <https://www.the-ies.org/accreditation>

21. Annex - International Year

Environmental Science with International Year

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

International Year Programme

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

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

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

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

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

Course Regulations

Students registered for the 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 to be studied on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

Additional costs for the International Year

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

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

Environmental Science 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: Environmental Science

Final Award and Award Titles	BSc Environmental Science (Combined Honours) BSc Environmental Science (Single Honours) BSc Environmental Science with Work Placement year (SH/Combined Honours) BSc Environmental Science with International year (SH/Combined Honours)
Intermediate Award(s)	Diploma in Higher Education Certificate in Higher Education
Last modified	January 2025
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 D1,12.3

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 Life Sciences 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:

Life Science (LSC) module attendance

Attendance at practical classes, tutorials and seminars is compulsory in the School of Life Sciences. Registers will be taken at all compulsory sessions. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they are recorded on the register as present. The office should be contacted by telephone on (01782) 733028 or (01782) 733677 or by e-mail at lifesci-office@keele.ac.uk as soon as possible to report an absence.

Failure to attend one compulsory session without good cause will result in an informal warning letter from the year tutor. Failure to attend any subsequent sessions without good cause will lead to the issuing of a formal warning from the Head of School. A maximum of two formal warnings will be issued and a fourth absence will result in a 3rd and final warning from the Director of Academic Services, which could result in the requirement to **withdraw** from the University.

The following School (Life Sciences) regulations will also apply:

- A student who is absent without good cause from 50% or more of the compulsory sessions in any module may be deemed to have failed the module.
- Self-certification of illness as a reason for absence from compulsory classes will be accepted for no more than two classes per module. Any subsequent absence for reasons of illness must be accompanied by a doctor's note.

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 Life Sciences, 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: 20 March 2026

What's Changed

ESC-30027 replaced by ESC-30158 (optional module change)

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2025/26	MICHAEL MONTENARI	13 March 2025	
1	2024/25	MICHAEL MONTENARI	05 June 2024	
1	2023/24	PETER KNIGHT	07 February 2023	
1	2022/23	ADAM MOOLNA	10 May 2022	Removal of optional module ESC-30020 Water Resources
1	2021/22	ADAM MOOLNA		
2	2020/21	IAN OLIVER	30 April 2020	At Level 4, 'Biodiversity, Ecology and the Environment' has been replaced by 'Introductory Geology for the Environmental Sciences' as a compulsory module, and there is a 15 instead of 30-credit Dissertation module at Level 6. There is also an additional compulsory module at Level 6 if specialising in this subject ('The Science of Soil').
1	2020/21	IAN OLIVER	25 February 2020	
2	2019/20	IAN OLIVER	01 May 2020	Changes to Level 5 and Level 6 modules including two new optional modules at Level 6
1	2019/20	EDWARD MCCAULEY	03 September 2019	