Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2026/27

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MSci Geography (Physical) MSci Geography (Physical) with International Year (see Annex for details) MSci Geography (Physical) with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details)
Award type	Single Honours (Masters)
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	3 years; 4 years with either the International Year or Placement Year between years 2 and 3 4 years; 5 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)	n/a
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	**UK students:** Fee for 2026/27 is £9,790* **International students:** Fee for 2026/27 is £18,200** 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

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 Single Honours programme described in this document allows you to focus more or less exclusively on this subject. In keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the programme also gives you the opportunity to take some modules in other disciplines and in modern foreign languages as part of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus it enables you to gain, and be able to demonstrate, a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

3. Overview of the Programme

Geography (Physical) MSci is one of several different Geography degrees offered at Keele. Geography is a broad discipline that can be approached from a variety of perspectives and applied in a wide range of contexts, so we appreciate that different students will want to study different aspects of the subject. Each of our Geography degree pathways is distinctive, allowing you to choose a course that most suits your interests and aspirations. However, all our pathways share some common themes and material, as we provide a strong underpinning in the core content of Geography to give you a reliable framework of knowledge and understanding, whichever degree you choose. All our pathways, whether they focus on human or physical geography or maintain a balance between the two, are characterised by a prominent theme of Environmental Geography addressing topics such as sustainability and environmental justice. In addition, all the pathways have a shared focus on employability skills such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Physical geography at Keele allows you to develop a comprehensive understanding of Earth's physical processes, systems and landscapes. You will study a broad range of topics including climate change, geomorphology, hydrology and environmental impact assessment. Exploring the interactions between the atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere, you will discover how natural landscapes are formed and altered over time.

Teaching includes both theoretical and practical components. Classroom learning is supplemented with fieldwork, laboratory activities, and Geographic Information Systems training. These experiences are designed to enhance your ability to analyze data about the natural world and understand complex environmental processes. Field trips are an integral part of your study, offering hands-on experience in data collection and environmental analysis. Your learning will involve a variety of different field courses, including locally based activities and residential courses both in the UK and overseas (optional). You will also benefit from direct access to Keele's unique rural campus, which provides opportunities to study geographical features and sustainability initiatives on your doorstep, including access to our own renewable energy site.

The first year is a broad-based introductory programme that provides a platform from which you can subsequently develop more advanced knowledge, understanding and skills. The second year involves more in-depth and critical exploration of key issues, practical "hands-on" experience of a range of geographical research techniques, and an opportunity to put these skills into practice during a residential field course. The final year provides the opportunity to specialise in areas of most interest to the student, with a range of option modules that reflect important aspects of the discipline. You will also carry out an independent research project on a topic of your choice in the final year. **The MSci fourth year of study is designed to enable you to enhance your employability and subject-specific knowledge through development of advanced problem solving, communication and project management skills. You will develop enhanced research skills in the critical evaluation of scientific literature and in the further design and conduct of an authentic research study.**
This course will equip you with skills to pursue careers in a wide range of areas such as environmental consultancy, geomorphology, natural resource management, conservation, education and research. Throughout your studies you will develop academic and employability skills appropriate for these career options, including the opportunity to undertake supported work placements. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and technical skills, preparing you to address contemporary environmental challenges effectively. **The MSci will support you in developing higher-level independent technical and analytical skills through hypothesis-driven enquiry, supported by your academic supervisor and wider research team. The skills and attributes developed here will be of particular value for those looking to continue in a research career, such as further study to PhD level, working in industry or in the wider governmental agency or consultancy sector.**

4. Aims of the programme

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

- Develop a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of physical geography - including topics such as climate change, landforms, and ecosystems.
- Acquire a range of cognitive, generic and transferable skills, including practical and digital skills and techniques appropriate to geography, and to deploy these skills to tackle a range of geographical issues

and problems
- Enhance your skills in spatial thinking and develop technical skills in geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, and cartography to analyse and interpret spatial data effectively.
- Cultivate the ability to critically analyse geographic phenomena and issues, conduct independent research, and apply scientific methods to investigate and solve geographic problems.
- Explore the key elements of current knowledge and understanding of subjects of study within geography, including the research foundations and plural and contested nature of that knowledge and understanding.
- Promote understanding of sustainable development principles, environmental stewardship, and the impact of human activities on natural systems, fostering a commitment to sustainable practices and policies.
- Understand Geography in a context of interdisciplinarity, sustainability, internationality and employability.

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

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

- The nature and causes of change and variability within physical environments.
- Patterns of spatial variation as dynamic characteristics of the physical environment
- Characteristics, diversity and interdependence of places and landscape systems at different spatial scales
- The contribution of research to the development of geographical knowledge
- The use of systems and theories at a range of scales to conceptualise patterns, processes, interactions and change in the physical world
- Different methodological strategies used in the observation, analysis, interpretation and representation of geographical information
- Applications and limitations of geography in problem solving, equitable and sustainable development, and improving quality of life.
- How to implement sustainability and sustainable development practices in relation to the complex interactions between societies and environments.
- The history of geography as a discipline and the relevant contexts of past and present geographical knowledge production, and contemporary implications of this history.

In addition to those outcomes listed above, which are developed through to level 7, as appropriate, to an advanced level, MSci Geography (Physical) students will also be able to demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of:

- **the principles and applications of cutting-edge research methodologies and techniques in the study of Physical Geography, earth systems and the wider geosciences to an advanced level;**
- **the context of their extended research project in relation to on-going research activity in their field of study and the wider subject area.**

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Plan, design and execute a piece of independent research in geography, including production of a final report.
- Undertake effective fieldwork with due regard for safety and risk assessment
- Work safely in a scientific laboratory, with awareness of standard procedures
- Employ a variety of digital, statistical, qualitative and laboratory-based methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental information.
- Apply and interpret different techniques and approaches involved in analysing geographical information including: instrumentation, remote sensing, cartographic surveying, observation and the use of textual and archival sources.
- Recognise moral and ethical issues involved in geographical debates and research.
- Effectively employ a range of specialist software to address a variety of geographical problems e.g. use of GIS software to visualise and analyse geographical data
- Communicate geographical ideas, principles and theories with flair, accuracy and sophistication by written, oral and graphical means.

In addition to those outcomes listed above, which are developed through to level 7, as appropriate, to an advanced level, MSci Geography (Physical) students will also:

- **identify, engage with, and evaluate geographical information, issues and topics at the forefront of the discipline;**
- **critically evaluate current literature and complex methodologies to an advanced level in relevant areas of contemporary Physical Geography.**

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Organise individual pieces of knowledge or information of different types into connected systems of understanding.
- Assess the merits of contrasting theories, explanations and policies.
- Evaluate evidence and make critical judgements.
- Recognise their positionality and assumptions and critically evaluate the potential implications and consequences of them.
- Use communications and information technology with a high level of competence to select, analyse, present and communicate different forms of data and text.
- Synthesise complex information to inform reasoned arguments appropriate for specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Take responsibility for their own learning and develop a habit of reflection upon that learning
- Work effectively as part of a team supporting participation of others within a group setting to achieve objectives.
- Evaluate evidence and make decisions that promote environmental and societal sustainability.

In addition to those outcomes listed above, which are developed through to level 7, as appropriate, to an advanced level, MSci Geography (Physical) students will also:

develop greater autonomy in the planning and implementation of tasks associated with their research project and taking responsibility for their workload.

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:

- Interactive lectures
- Field courses
- Practical classes
- Project work
- Seminars, group presentations and workshops
- Directed reading and independent study
- A research dissertation
- Individual and small-group consultancy
- Interactive online e-learning via the Keele Learning Environment (KLE)

MSci study at level 7 (fourth year): This will further develop your research skills in the critical evaluation of scientific literature and an extended research project will give you the opportunity to design and conduct an in-depth research project in an area of Physical Geography, including formulating a complete research strategy and producing a grant proposal. Research skills in these areas will also be developed in a series of research seminars and journal club-style presentations/discussion in an Advanced Research Topics module.

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.

Health and Safety: All students admitted to the programme are expected to read the relevant Module / Field Course Handbooks and abide by the rules and regulations governing the efficient working, safety and welfare of

all members both within the University and in the field and laboratory. They are also required to declare any medical conditions that may influence their ability to work in the field so that these can be discussed and suitable adjustments made if necessary.

7. Teaching Staff

Geography is a modular degree programme taught within the School of Life Sciences, which includes lecturers with expertise in Geography, Geology, Environmental Sciences and Sustainability. All Geography teaching staff are actively involved in Geography research and/or scholarship and most are internationally recognised experts in their fields.

Geographers have won the annual Keele University "Excellence in Teaching" award a number of times, including individual awards for excellence in teaching and a team award for excellence to the whole programme. Members of the Geography teaching team have also been awarded prestigious National Teaching Fellowships (NTF) by the Higher Education Academy.

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 three 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 Levels 4 and 5. At Level 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 Level 4 and 5 students please visit: https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/languagecentre/languagecentreoptions/

For 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:

https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/

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

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	105	15	15
Level 5	90	30	30
Level 6	30	90	90
Level 7	120	0	0

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World	GEG-10017	30	Semester 1
Academic, Professional and Field Skills	ESC-10101	30	Semester 1-2
Environment and Sustainability	ESC-10102	30	Semester 1-2
Roots and Future: exploring sustainable places	GEG-10023	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Conservation Policy and Practice	GEG-10021	15	Semester 2

Compulsory field excursions at Level 4

Module	Typical Period	Field Course Details
ESC-10101	Semester 1-2	Day field excursions within the local area including the Peak District

Level 5

Compulsory 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
Environmental and Sustainability Impact Assessment: Methods and Research Design	ESC-20146	30	Semester 1-2
Water in the Environment	ESC-20100	15	Semester 2
Lake District Field Course	ESC-20144	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Palaeoclimatology and Quaternary Studies	ESC-20036	15	Semester 1
Human Impact on the Environment	ESC-20150	15	Semester 1
Flexible Work Placement (Level 5)	NAT-20011	15	Semester 1-2
Geoethics and Environmental Justice	ESC-20142	15	Semester 2
Mobilities: Travel, tourism and sustainability	GEG-20052	15	Semester 2

Level 5 Module Rules

Students can only take one Flexible Work Placement module, either in Level 5 (NAT-20011) or Level 6 (NAT-30008) but not both.

Compulsory field course at Level 5

Module	Typical Period	Field Course Details
ESC-20144 Lake District Field Course	Semester 2, Easter vacation or within semester close to Easter	Residential field course of typically 5 days

Level 6

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

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Extinction!	ESC-30106	15	Semester 1
Glacial Environments	ESC-30162	15	Semester 1
River Conservation & Management	ESC-30164	15	Semester 1
Quaternary Climate Change: from Ice Ages to a Warming World	ESC-30166	15	Semester 1
Tropical Biology Field Course	LSC-30066	15	Semester 1
Professional Environmental Field Skills	ESC-30142	30	Semester 1-2
Sustainable Futures Consultancy	ESC-30148	30	Semester 1-2
Applied GIS	ESC-30150	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
Natural Hazards	ESC-30009	15	Semester 2
Coastal Environments	ESC-30027	15	Semester 2
Clean Technology	ESC-30040	15	Semester 2
Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus	ESC-30108	15	Semester 2
Advanced Geographical Fieldwork	GEG-30051	15	Semester 2

Level 6 Module Rules

Students on the Geography (Physical) degree must select minimum 60 credits from the Physical Geography Module Options Table at Level 6

- Students can only take one workplace / consultancy module at Level 6: NAT-30008 or NAT-30012 or ESC-30148.
- Students can only take one advanced fieldwork / field skills module at Level 6: GEG-30051 or ESC-30142.
- Students can only take one Flexible Work Placement module, either in Level 5 (NAT-20011) or Level 6 (NAT-30008) but not both.

Physical Geography Module Options Table	Module Code	Credits	Period
River Conservation and Management	ESC-30164	15	Semester 1
Glacial Environments	ESC-30162	15	Semester 1
Coastal Environments	ESC-30027	15	Semester 2
Quaternary Climate Change: from Ice Ages to a Warming World	ESC-30166	15	Semester 1

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Literature Review and Grant Proposal	LSC-40065	30	Semester 1
Advanced Research Topics in Geography	LSC-40169	30	Semester 1
MSci Extended Research Project	LSC-40063	60	Semester 1-2

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.

Level 4

In Year 1 (Level 4) and Year 2 (Level 5) these learning outcomes are achieved in the compulsory modules which all students are required to take. Some of these outcomes may also be achieved or reinforced in elective modules together with other outcomes not stated here. In Year 3 (Level 6) the stated outcomes are achieved by taking any of the modules offered in each semester.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
The nature and causes of change and variability within physical environments.	Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World.
Patterns of spatial variation as dynamic characteristics of the physical environment.	Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World
Characteristics, diversity and interdependence of places and landscape systems at different spatial scales.	Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World; Roots and Futures: Exploring Sustainable Places
The contribution of research to the development of geographical knowledge.	Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World; Academic, Professional and Field Skills.
The use of systems and theories at a range of scales to conceptualise patterns, processes, interactions and change in the physical world.	Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World. Roots and Futures: Exploring Sustainable Places
Different methodological strategies used in the observation, analysis, interpretation and representation of geographical information.	Academic, Professional and Field Skills.
Applications and limitations of geography in problem solving, equitable and sustainable development, and improving quality of life.	Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World; Academic, Professional and Field Skills.
How to implement sustainability and sustainable development practices in relation to the complex interactions between societies and environments.	Environment and Sustainability; Roots and Futures: Exploring Sustainable Places
The history of geography as a discipline and the relevant contexts of past and present geographical knowledge production, and contemporary implications of this history.	Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World.

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Undertake effective fieldwork with due regard for safety and risk assessment.	Academic, Professional and Field Skills; Environment and Sustainability.
Work safely in a scientific laboratory, with awareness of standard procedures.	Academic, Professional and Field Skills.
Employ a variety of digital, statistical, qualitative and laboratory-based methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental information.	Academic, Professional and Field Skills; Environment and Sustainability.
Apply and interpret different techniques and approaches involved in analysing geographical information including: instrumentation, remote sensing, cartographic surveying, observation and the use of textual and archival sources.	Academic, Professional and Field Skills; Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World; Environment and Sustainability.
Recognise moral and ethical issues involved in geographical debates and research.	Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World; Roots and Futures: Exploring Sustainable Places
Effectively employ a range of specialist software to address a variety of geographical problems e.g. use of GIS software to visualise and analyse geographical data.	Academic, Professional and Field Skills.
Communicate geographical ideas, principles and theories with flair, accuracy and sophistication by written, oral and graphical means.	Academic, Professional and Field Skills; Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World.

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Organise individual pieces of knowledge or information of different types into connected systems of understanding.	Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World; Academic, Professional and Field Skills; Environment and Sustainability; Roots and Futures: Exploring Sustainable Places
Assess the merits of contrasting theories, explanations and policies.	Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World; Roots and Futures: Exploring Sustainable Places
Evaluate evidence and make critical judgements.	Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World; Environment and Sustainability; Roots and Futures: Exploring Sustainable Places
Recognise their positionality and assumptions and critically evaluate the potential implications and consequences of them.	Academic, Professional and Field Skills.
Use communications and information technology with a high level of competence to select, analyse, present and communicate different forms of data and text.	Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World; Academic, Professional and Field Skills; Environment and Sustainability; Roots and Futures: Exploring Sustainable Places
Synthesise complex information to inform reasoned arguments appropriate for specialist and non-specialist audiences.	Roots and Futures: Exploring Sustainable Places
Take responsibility for their own learning and develop a habit of reflection upon that learning.	Human and Physical Geographies for a Changing World; Academic, Professional and Field Skills; Environment and Sustainability; Roots and Futures: Exploring Sustainable Places
Work effectively as part of a team supporting participation of others within a group setting to achieve objectives.	Roots and Futures: Exploring Sustainable Places
Evaluate evidence and make decisions that promote environmental and societal sustainability.	Roots and Futures: Exploring Sustainable Places ; Environment and Sustainability.

Level 5

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
The nature and causes of change and variability within physical environments.	Earth's Changing Landscape; Water in the Environment; Lake District Field Course.
Patterns of spatial variation as dynamic characteristics of the physical environment.	Earth's Changing Landscape; Water in the Environment; Lake District Field Course.
Characteristics, diversity and interdependence of places and landscape systems at different spatial scales.	Earth's Changing Landscape; Water in the Environment; Lake District Field Course.
The contribution of research to the development of geographical knowledge.	Earth's Changing Landscape.
The use of systems and theories at a range of scales to conceptualise patterns, processes, interactions and change in the physical world.	Earth's Changing Landscape; Water in the Environment.
Different methodological strategies used in the observation, analysis, interpretation and representation of geographical information.	Earth's Changing Landscape; Water in the Environment; Lake District Field Course.
Applications and limitations of geography in problem solving, equitable and sustainable development, and improving quality of life.	Lake District Field Course; Environmental and Sustainability Impact Assessment Methods and Research Design.
How to implement sustainability and sustainable development practices in relation to the complex interactions between societies and environments.	Environmental and Sustainability Impact Assessment Methods and Research Design.
The history of geography as a discipline and the relevant contexts of past and present geographical knowledge production, and contemporary implications of this history.	Earth's Changing Landscape.

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Plan, design and execute a piece of independent research in geography, including production of a final report.	Environmental and Sustainability Impact Assessment Methods and Research Design.
Undertake effective fieldwork with due regard for safety and risk assessment.	Environmental and Sustainability Impact Assessment Methods and Research Design; Lake District Field Course.
Work safely in a scientific laboratory, with awareness of standard procedure.	Environmental and Sustainability Impact Assessment Methods and Research Design.
Employ a variety of digital, statistical, qualitative and laboratory-based methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental information.	Environmental and Sustainability Impact Assessment Methods and Research Design; Lake District Field Course; GIS and remote sensing.
Apply and interpret different techniques and approaches involved in analysing geographical information including: instrumentation, remote sensing, cartographic surveying, observation and the use of textual and archival sources.	Environmental and Sustainability Impact Assessment Methods and Research Design; Lake District Field Course; GIS and remote sensing; Earth's Changing landscape.
Recognise moral and ethical issues involved in geographical debates and research.	Earth's Changing landscape.
Effectively employ a range of specialist software to address a variety of geographical problems e.g. use of GIS software to visualise and analyse geographical data.	GIS and remote sensing.
Communicate geographical ideas, principles and theories with flair, accuracy and sophistication by written, oral and graphical means.	Earth's Changing landscape; Water in the Environment; Lake District Field Course.

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Organise individual pieces of knowledge or information of different types into connected systems of understanding.	Earth's Changing Landscape; Water in the Environment.
Assess the merits of contrasting theories, explanations and policies.	Earth's Changing Landscape; Water in the Environment; Lake District Field Course
Evaluate evidence and make critical judgements.	Earth's Changing landscape; Water in the Environment; Lake District Field Course.
Recognise their positionality and assumptions and critically evaluate the potential implications and consequences of them.	Lake District Field Course.
Use communications and information technology with a high level of competence to select, analyse, present and communicate different forms of data and text.	Environmental and Sustainability Impact Assessment Methods and Research Design; GIS and remote sensing; Lake District Field Course.
Synthesise complex information to inform reasoned arguments appropriate for specialist and non-specialist audiences.	Environmental and Sustainability Impact Assessment Methods and Research Design; Lake District Field Course.
Take responsibility for their own learning and develop a habit of reflection upon that learning.	Environmental and Sustainability Impact Assessment Methods and Research Design; GIS and remote sensing; Earth's Changing landscape; Water in the Environment; Lake District Field Course.
Work effectively as part of a team supporting participation of others within a group setting to achieve objectives.	Lake District Field Course.
Evaluate evidence and make decisions that promote environmental and societal sustainability.	Environmental and Sustainability Impact Assessment Methods and Research Design; Lake District Field Course; Water in the Environment.

Level 6

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
The nature and causes of change and variability within physical environments.	Advanced Geographical Field Course; River Conservation and Management, Glacial Environments, Coastal Environments, Quaternary Climate Change: from Ice Ages to a Warming World; Natural Hazards.
Patterns of spatial variation as dynamic characteristics of the physical environment.	Advanced Geographical Field Course; River Conservation and Management, Glacial Environments, Coastal Environments, Quaternary Climate Change: from Ice Ages to a Warming World; Natural Hazards.
Characteristics, diversity and interdependence of places and landscape systems at different spatial scales.	Advanced Geographical Field Course; River Conservation and Management, Glacial Environments, Coastal Environments, Quaternary Climate Change: from Ice Ages to a Warming World; Natural Hazards.
The contribution of research to the development of geographical knowledge.	Independent Research Dissertation; Advanced Geographical Field Course; River Conservation and Management, Glacial Environments, Coastal Environments, Quaternary Climate Change: from Ice Ages to a Warming World; Natural Hazards.
The use of systems and theories at a range of scales to conceptualise patterns, processes, interactions and change in the physical world.	Independent Research Dissertation; Advanced Geographical Field Course; River Conservation and Management, Glacial Environments, Coastal Environments, Quaternary Climate Change: from Ice Ages to a Warming World; Natural Hazards; Extinction!
Different methodological strategies used in the observation, analysis, interpretation and representation of geographical information.	Independent Research Dissertation; River Conservation and Management, Glacial Environments, Coastal Environments, Quaternary Climate Change: from Ice Ages to a Warming World; Advanced Geographical Field Course; Applied GIS; Natural Hazards; Extinction!
Applications and limitations of geography in problem solving, equitable and sustainable development, and improving quality of life.	Sustainable Futures Consultancy.
How to implement sustainability and sustainable development practices in relation to the complex interactions between societies and environments.	Sustainable Futures Consultancy.
The history of geography as a discipline and the relevant contexts of past and present geographical knowledge production, and contemporary implications of this history.	Advanced Geographical Field Course; River Conservation and Management, Glacial Environments, Coastal Environments, Quaternary Climate Change: from Ice Ages to a Warming World.

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Plan, design and execute a piece of independent research in geography, including production of a final report.	Independent Research Dissertation.
Undertake effective fieldwork with due regard for safety and risk assessment.	Independent Research Dissertation; Advanced Geographical Field Course.
Work safely in a scientific laboratory, with awareness of standard procedures.	Independent Research Dissertation.
Employ a variety of digital, statistical, qualitative and laboratory-based methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental information.	Independent Research Dissertation; Advanced Geographical Field Course.
Apply and interpret different techniques and approaches involved in analysing geographical information including: instrumentation, remote sensing, cartographic surveying, observation and the use of textual and archival sources.	Independent Research Dissertation; Advanced Geographical Field Course; Applied GIS.
Recognise moral and ethical issues involved in geographical debates and research.	All level-6 modules.
Effectively employ a range of specialist software to address a variety of geographical problems e.g. use of GIS software to visualise and analyse geographical data.	Independent Research Dissertation; Applied GIS.
Communicate geographical ideas, principles and theories with flair, accuracy and sophistication by written, oral and graphical means.	All level-6 modules.

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Organise individual pieces of knowledge or information of different types into connected systems of understanding.	All level-6 modules.
Assess the merits of contrasting theories, explanations and policies.	All level-6 modules.
Evaluate evidence and make critical judgements.	All level-6 modules.
Recognise their positionality and assumptions and critically evaluate the potential implications and consequences of them.	Independent Research Dissertation.
Use communications and information technology with a high level of competence to select, analyse, present and communicate different forms of data and text.	All level-6 modules.
Synthesise complex information to inform reasoned arguments appropriate for specialist and non-specialist audiences.	All level-6 modules.
Take responsibility for their own learning and develop a habit of reflection upon that learning.	All level-6 modules.
Work effectively as part of a team supporting participation of others within a group setting to achieve objectives.	Advanced Geographical Field Course; Sustainable Futures Consultancy.
Evaluate evidence and make decisions that promote environmental and societal sustainability.	All level-6 modules.

Level 7

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
the principles and applications of cutting-edge research methodologies and techniques in the study of Physical Geography, earth systems and the wider geosciences to an advanced level;	All Level 7 modules
the context of their extended research project in relation to on-going research activity in their field of study and the wider subject area.	All Level 7 modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
identify, engage with, and evaluate geographical information, issues and topics at the forefront of the discipline;	All Level 7 modules
critically evaluate current literature and complex methodologies to an advanced level in relevant areas of contemporary Physical Geography.	All Level 7 modules

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
develop greater autonomy in the planning and implementation of tasks associated with their research project and taking responsibility for their workload.	All Level 7 modules

9. Final and intermediate awards

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

MSci Geography (Physical)	480 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5, 6 and 7 You must accumulate at least 360 credits in your main subject (out of 480 credits overall) to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject.
BSc (Hons) Geography (Physical)	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.
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. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- Essay
- Literature Review
- Dissertation
- Reflective Diary
- Field Research Report
- Lab Report
- Podcast
- Placement
- Class Test
- Poster
- Presentation
- Research Proposal
- Project

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)	22.9%	77.1%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	32.4%	66.2%	1.4%
Year 3 (Level 6)	27.4%	72.6%	0%

12. Accreditation

This programme is not currently accredited

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/

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?

Support for student learning on the Programme is provided in the following ways:

- Student Experience and Support Officer (SESO): All students have access and support from the SESO, who provides support through the duration of the undergraduate experience. The School administration team are also available to provide advice and guidance.
- Academic Mentors: All students are allocated an Academic Mentor for the duration of their studies as part of the University's Academic Mentoring system.
- Module Leaders: All module leaders and teaching staff can be accessed for subject-specific support and advice.
- Director of Programme: Wider programme-related advice is available from the Director of Programme.
- Use of e-learning/the Keele Learning Environment (KLE): All modules are supported by learning materials that are accessible to students via the KLE.
- Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities or medical problems will meet with a member of the University's Disability & Dyslexia Support service and the Disability Liaison Officer at the start of the programme 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.

16. Learning Resources

- State-of-the-art Central Science Laboratory, which contains well-equipped research laboratories and computer suites.
- Bespoke Geography equipment in specialised labs including sediment and water analysis
- "Living laboratory" of the University Campus, including our own renewable energy site
- University Library with excellent online and physical facilities
- Virtual online support for all modules through "Keele Learning Environment" (KLE)

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

Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with Work Placement Year' degree programme or to transfer onto the 4-year degree 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 their year-long placement. Eligibility rules are included in the Annex.

Students wishing to take the work placement year should meet with the Programme Director to obtain their signature to confirm agreement before they will be allowed to commence their placement.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa must check with the Immigration Compliance Team prior to commencing any form of placement.

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.

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. Subsistence costs may be covered by the student (e.g. food).

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 courses, the programme offers optional field courses as part of third-year modules. The cost of this is still subsidized by the University but you may incur additional costs of independently arranged travel, accommodation and/or subsistence (e.g. LSC-30066 field course to Malaysia).

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 prebook 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).

Estimated Activity Cost	**Estimated Cost**
Mandatory costs	
Compulsory field courses (levels 4 and 5):	£0.00
Compulsory field courses (levels 4 and 5) - approx. £35 a day to cover subsistence costs for lunches and dinners.	£35 a day
Equipment: waterproof and appropriate clothing and footwear for field courses:	£200
Field Notebook(s):	£30
Optional costs	
Optional international field course:	£700
Optional international field course - subsistence costs for lunches and dinners (estimated at £35 per day)	£35 a day
Total estimated additional costs	**£275 - £1,665**

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.

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: Geography (2022) https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/sbs/sbs-geography-22.pdf?sfvrsn=29addc81_4
c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations
d. Accreditation scheme of the Royal Geographical Society: https://www.rgs.org/research/programme-accreditation

21. Annex - International Year

BSc Geography (Physical) 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 geography degree.
5. Integrate, apply and develop fundamental geographical principles to describe and explain phenomena and solve problems in the context of selected topics within contemporary geography.

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

BSc Geography (Physical) 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. Substantial experience of work with a relevant placement provider, including familiarisation with the professional working environment.
2. The opportunity to apply academic theory to real situations in the work place and to expand your employability skills.

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 Work 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.

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).
- 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 5 weeks after the 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:

- Evaluate their own employability skills.
- Create Intended Learning Outcomes for their placement in order to develop the skills areas which they have identified as needing further enhancement.
- Develop, through practice in the work place, the work-related skills identified in 1 and 2 above.
- Apply academic theory learned as part of their taught degree to real situations in the work place.
- Reflect on their work placement activities and evaluate the impact on their own employability skills.
- Explain how the sector of the placement operates and identify the skills required to pursue careers within the sector.

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module (NAT-30010) which involves:

1. Submission of a mid-placement portfolio comprising evaluation of employability skills and ILOs, action plan and an evaluation of the student's performance based on the placement supervisor's initial report.

Submission of a final placement report comprising a reflective diary and an evaluation of their performance based on the placement supervisor's final report.

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 module (NAT-30010).
- 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.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 31 March 2026

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes