



University of  
**Leicester**

Department of Geography

Postgraduate Courses in

# Geography



# Welcome to Leicester

We believe that our world-changing research produces high-quality teaching – and will inspire you to go further.

At Leicester we're all about pushing the boundaries – from our revolutionary discoveries in DNA fingerprinting, to unearthing ancient civilisations in Libya – we consider education and knowledge to be a power for good.

But this is also about you. We know our work is better in a shared academic community that includes you. Where you're coming from and your journey up to this point will have given you your own personal perspectives and ideas. Your experience, energy and willingness to ask the difficult questions benefits you and us.

We believe that our teaching is inspirational when delivered by passionate scholars engaged in pioneering research. At Leicester you'll be working with our leading academics who are at the cutting edge of their disciplines. By sharing their enthusiasm you'll be immersed in a stimulating and innovative learning environment, which will enable you to realise your potential and to compete alongside the very best.

Over half of our students are studying at postgraduate level so we understand your needs and concerns whatever your subject or mode of study.

## Credentials

- The University of Leicester is consistently ranked in the top 20 of UK national league tables and in the top 2% of universities in the world\*.
- Leicester research has impact. The University is ranked in the top 20 in the UK for research citations per academic.
- The University has won the Times Higher Awards in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and most recently 2013 for Outstanding Communications Team and Outstanding Fundraising Initiative. It is the only university to win awards in seven consecutive years.
- The University of Leicester is a major provider of distance learning programmes with over 25 years' experience of offering high quality courses.

\*QS World University Rankings 2013 and Times Higher Education World Rankings 2013



University of Leicester © Astrium Services

## A Welcome from the Head of Department

This brochure will provide you with information regarding the Geography department and our postgraduate programmes, enabling you to select the programme that best matches your interests and future career aspirations. Our programmes have been carefully designed to provide specialist training in a range of areas to prepare you fully for careers in business, planning, and management, as active decision makers in national and international organisations, and as productive scientists in research institutions and academia.

The Department has a large, vibrant and friendly postgraduate community. Currently over 50 students are registered on our postgraduate programmes, which include Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, Geographical Information Science (GIS) and Environmental Informatics. The quality of our programmes is reflected in achieving professional accreditation from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. The department has a widely recognised international reputation in the provision of the highest-quality graduate programmes, attracting high-calibre students from across the globe, different disciplines and cultural backgrounds.

In choosing to study in the department I am convinced that you will acquire and develop specific skills that will benefit you personally and professionally throughout your career. You will also make new friends and colleagues amongst the students and staff, as well as contributing to the department's strong research environment. I am confident that your experience with us will be both productive and enjoyable.

**Professor Sue Page**  
Head of Department

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## Why Study at Leicester?

### World Class Facilities and Resources

Teaching and laboratory facilities for postgraduate courses are excellent.

You will have exclusive access to two dedicated study rooms in the department, both equipped with PCs - one equipped as a GIS laboratory with industry-leading GIS and Earth observation software, with additional access to the University's LINUX HPC cluster. In addition, we have a purpose-designed Virtual Reality Theatre for 3D visualisation work.

We have modern laboratories for environmental, stable isotope and palaeoecological research, the preparation of thin sections, hardware modelling using rainfall simulation and flumes as well as a large, general-purpose physical laboratory.

We have recently installed a new optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) laboratory, and refurbished our environmental stable isotope facility. Additional resources include an atomic absorption spectrophotometer, a scanning electron microscope, a cold store, a coulter laser diffraction particle size analyser, differential GPS, a 3D laser scanner along with a wide range of electronic and traditional field equipment. A cartographic unit provides a high quality mapping, design and drawing service to the department and our map library has over 100,000 accessions (including aerial photographs and atlases).

### Scholarships and Funding

Scholarships and funding opportunities are constantly being updated, to reflect changing external and University-based provision. For the latest information on funding opportunities, please consult the following web pages:

**Graduate Office:**  
[www.le.ac.uk/gradschool](http://www.le.ac.uk/gradschool)

**International Office:**  
[www.le.ac.uk/international](http://www.le.ac.uk/international)

**Department of Geography:**  
[www.le.ac.uk/geography/postgraduate](http://www.le.ac.uk/geography/postgraduate)

### Enhance Your Career Prospects

Geographic knowledge and skills help make sense of the complex and dynamic world that we inhabit in the 21st Century. The training you will gain from a Leicester Geography postgraduate degree will enable you to benefit from these skills.

Geography is also relevant for personal and social development including self motivation and interpersonal skills, confidence building, project design and implementation, critical analysis and debate. As a Leicester Geography postgraduate you will develop practical and academic skills, communication skills (written and oral) and a sophisticated spatial awareness.

The employment record of past graduates on our Masters courses is exceptional. For example, most students actively seeking employment secure appropriate positions within six months of completing their Masters. Potential employers and career paths include universities, county councils, local and national government agencies (e.g. the Cabinet Office, GCHQ), district health authorities, GIS software vendors (e.g. ESRI UK, Intergraph, MapInfo), charities, NGOs and major commercial and business enterprises (e.g. Tesco, Boots, Shell, BT, Experian).

### Careers Service

A postgraduate qualification is an investment in your future. Like you, we are keen that your investment pays off.

Our Careers Service is well positioned to offer you guidance and support at any time during your time with us. Their huge range of programmes and awards is specifically designed to help you get ahead in your chosen career.

#### 1. Succeed in Your Studies

Whether you are coming straight to postgraduate studies from undergraduate level or returning to education, we know that getting to grips with styles of learning can be a challenge. However it is important if you are going to get the most out of your degree. The Careers Service's Learning Development team provides you with resources to help you extend and develop your academic skills through workshops, online resources and individually tailored advice.

#### 2. Gain Experience

In a competitive jobs market having that little bit extra can make all the difference. At Leicester you can build on your talents and add to your CV with numerous employability programmes and awards offered by the Careers Service, such as Tomorrow's Managers or Enterprise Inc.

#### 3. Develop Your Career

If you are looking to launch your post-education career or thinking about a change of direction, the Careers Service offers one-to-one careers consultations, workshops and Webinars covering interview and assessment centre skills, psychometric testing and CVs, covering letters and application forms.

Through the Careers Service events you can also meet a range of employers and discover directly the careers paths that are open to you.

Find out more about all the services offered by our Careers Service at [www.le.ac.uk/careers](http://www.le.ac.uk/careers)

### Centre for Landscape and Climate Research

In 2012 the University established the new Centre for Landscape and Climate Research. Its mission is to advance research excellence by providing a forum for postgraduate research students, post-doctoral researchers and academic staff to undertake cutting edge research projects. The research in the centre is investigating how and at which scales change in the water cycle affects ecosystem services, such as drinking water supply, carbon uptake and food security. The Centre Director, Professor Heiko Balzter ([hb91@le.ac.uk](mailto:hb91@le.ac.uk)), is recipient of a Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award and Coordinator of the European Centre of Excellence in Earth Observation Research Training GIONET ([www.gionet.eu](http://www.gionet.eu)).

Overall, the concentration of research activity through the close links between the Department of Geography, the Centre for Landscape and Climate Research and GIONET, provides a truly outstanding research environment. Whether you are thinking of a PhD degree, a Master's by Research (MRes) or a taught Master's course, we provide an intellectually creative and innovative home for your postgraduate degree.



### Library

The award-winning **David Wilson Library** is a stunning light, airy five-storey building providing state-of-the-art facilities.

Self-service loan and return, group study rooms, hundreds of PCs, wireless access throughout, staffed Help Zones, 24-hour opening during term time, plus a rather nice bookshop and café create a study environment second to none.

As a postgraduate, you will also benefit from the Graduate School Reading Room for the exclusive use of postgraduates and staff, comprising additional study spaces and bookable group study rooms. A PC Zone is also reserved for postgraduates.

There are also Information Librarians for each subject area, who can provide detailed advice for your discipline and help you make the most of the resources available in the Library and on the web.

We invest over £6m a year in the Library. There is access to more than a million printed volumes and a digital library of thousands of electronic journals and 350,000 books. The Library website gives you access to the online catalogue wherever you are. This includes the **Leicester Research Archive**, a digital collection of research papers and theses from members of the University.

The Library: [www.le.ac.uk/library](http://www.le.ac.uk/library)

## Our Degree Programmes

MSc in Geographical Information Science – RICS accredited

MSc in Geographical Information Science with Industry

MSc in Sustainable Management of Natural Resources – RICS accredited

MRes in Geography

PhD/MPhil by Research



## Taught Course Structure

A taught Masters (MSc) consists of 180 credits. The taught module elements comprise 120 credits of assessment. Candidates who successfully complete these elements (the Postgraduate Diploma) may proceed to the full MSc. The latter is awarded following the successful completion of a dissertation on an approved research topic of your choosing (60 credits). The MSc may be taken on a full or a part-time basis. Our degrees start around the end of September, and last for 12 months – full time. Please refer to the individual degree pages for information on the taught modules that make up 120 credits. A research Masters (MRes) also consists of 180 credits – please see the individual degree pages for more information or contact the department.

## Methods of Teaching and Assessment

We recognise the need for challenging and diverse methods of assessment. Our methods vary from traditional examinations, individual oral presentations, reports, web pages, research proposals, literature reviews and posters. We also include an amount of field-based teaching and computer practical sessions in our courses. As well as being taught subject knowledge, you will also receive training on how to plan, develop and execute a programme of individual research. We feel that the development of group skills is very important and a number of pieces of coursework involve a team of people. Coursework feedback is given promptly and in considerable detail, enabling you to improve continuously.

## Entry Requirements

For taught courses, applicants are normally expected to hold at least a second-class honours degree, or its equivalent, in geography or related disciplines. An upper second-class degree is desirable, but lower second-class degrees may be accepted, subject to satisfactory references. For research degrees, including MRes, applicants should generally hold, or expect to hold, a minimum of an upper second-class honours degree, or its equivalent. Anyone not meeting these requirements, or who holds non-standard qualifications, should, in the first instance, contact the department. Mature students who do not possess the normal qualifications but who have relevant industrial or academic experience are strongly encouraged to apply.

English language requirements are currently IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 in all four categories), TOEFL 575 (paper), 250 (computer), 90 (internet) or equivalent if you have not been taught in English or are not a native English speaker. Please consult our web pages at [www.le.ac.uk/geography/postgraduate](http://www.le.ac.uk/geography/postgraduate) for the latest information on language requirements. For preparatory courses contact the English Language Teaching Unit – [www.le.ac.uk/eltu](http://www.le.ac.uk/eltu)

## Research Interests of Academic Staff

**Professor Heiko Balzter** – Spatio-temporal scaling; spatial ecohydrology; environmental change; climate-land surface interactions; remote sensing; forest monitoring; greenhouse gas accounting; wildfires.

**Dr Kirsten Barrett** – Remote sensing of wildfire disturbance-recovery cycles, high latitude ecosystems, ecosystem resilience and vulnerability to climate change.

**Dr Katy Bennett** – Rural societies and culture; emotional geographies; gender; identity; geographies of home; new spaces of multiculturalism.

**Dr Juan Carlos Berrio** – Quaternary palaeoenvironmental reconstruction in the neotropics; tropical biogeography and ecology and ecosystem functioning of tropical ecosystems.

**Dr Arnoud Boom** – Biogeochemistry, biomarkers, stable isotopes and palaeoenvironments.

**Dr Gavin Brown** – Geographies of sexuality and sex-itself; diverse economic practices; social movement activism; autonomous spaces; social geographies of education and youth policy.

**Dr Andrew Carr** – Quaternary environmental change; dryland and aeolian geomorphology; geochronology; luminescence dating; stable isotopes; plant biomarkers as palaeoenvironmental proxies.

**Dr Ben Coles** – Economic, cultural and urban geographies; food, agriculture, markets, Brazil; ethnography and visual methods.

**Professor Lex Comber** – Geo-computation; spatial analysis of policy; uncertainty in geographical information; land use / habitats, accessibility analyses.

**Dr Claire Jarvis** – Virtual and augmented realities; spatial analysis; spatial literacy; mobile GIS.

**Dr Jörg Kaduk** – Interactions of biosphere and atmosphere under climate variability and change; global plant ecophysiology, phenology, biogeochemical cycling; measurements and modelling of biospheric trace gas (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>,...) exchange.

**Professor Peter Kraftl** – Geographies of children and young people; geographies of education (mainstream and alternative); geographies of architecture; utopian theory.

**Professor Loretta Lees** – urban geographies: gentrification/urban regeneration, global urbanism, urban policy, urban public space, urban communities, architecture, urban social theory and the urban geographies of young people.

**Dr Sue McLaren** – Quaternary studies; palaeoenvironments; desert environments; sedimentology; carbonate diagenesis; geochemical sediments.

**Dr Clare Madge** – Postcolonial geographies; geographies of education in/of Africa; geographies of cyberspace; internet mediated research; feminist methodology and ethical issues.

**Professor Sue Page** – Ecology of tropical peatlands in Southeast Asia (biodiversity, role in Quaternary carbon cycle, impacts of fire and land-use change).

**Dr Martin Phillips** – Contemporary rural societies and cultures; landscape and community studies; critical social theory, filmic geographies; museum geographies; historical geography; rural energy use and production.

**Dr Mark Powell** – Fluvial geomorphology with particular focus on gravel-bed river sedimentology and sediment transport dynamics. Applications of Terrestrial Laser Scanning in Fluvial Geomorphology. Dryland rivers.

**Dr Claire Smith** – Urban meteorology and climatology; extreme weather events; spatial risk assessment (climate change); sustainable urban environments.

**Dr Kevin Tansey** – Optical and radar remote sensing for land cover mapping, monitoring and retrieval of biophysical parameters.

**Dr Nick Tate** – GIS; spatial statistics; characterization and modelling of surfaces, terrestrial and airborne LiDAR.

**Dr Caroline Upton** – Political ecology; pastoralism; environmental justice; environmental and indigenous knowledges; conservation, resource management and ecosystem services; climate change adaptation; particular focus on Central Asia (Mongolia, Kazakhstan) and East Africa.

**Dr Mick Whelan** – Mathematical modelling of environmental systems; hydrology; water quality; environmental fate and effects of synthetic organic pollutants; environmental risk.



## MSc in Geographical Information Science (RICS accredited)

Geographic Information (GI) plays an increasingly important role in many areas of our lives: environmental protection, business and marketing, communications, forecasting, modelling, agriculture, and local and regional planning. Understanding GI systems (the software tools) and GI science (the technical discipline) is essential for effective management and analysis of spatial data.

The MSc in Geographical Information Science (GIS) at the University of Leicester is the longest running MSc in this subject in England and offers comprehensive training in GI Science and Systems. Since 1989 we have graduated over 450 students.

### Course Content and Structure

The GIS course is made up of six core modules each worth 20 credits plus a dissertation (60 credits):

#### Core Modules

##### Introduction to GIS

An introduction to GIS concepts and techniques through practical experience and state-of-the-art software.

##### Earth Observation and Remote Sensing

Explores the use and analysis of satellite remote sensing technologies imagery, image processing and classification software to analyse human-induced and environmental processes.

##### Programming for Spatial Scientists

Develops the fundamentals of programming skills, integrates

programming elements into GI applications including user interfaces for the visualisation of spatial information.

##### Spatial Information Science

Explores the nature of spatial information, data processing algorithms, spatial data analysis and transformations using statistical software.

##### GIS Methods in the Field

A fieldcourse for the acquisition of practical skills for undertaking GIS data collection on the move. Activities will include primary data capture, validation of extant data, creating and capturing crowdsourced data, OSM creation, mobile GIS and remote sensing accuracy

assessments. Includes attendance at the GIS Research UK conference.

##### Geographical Visualisation

From fundamental ideas to the leading edge in geographical visualisation, including map design principles, map generalisation, 3D modelling, space-time data visualisation, visualisation on mobile devices and virtual and augmented realities.



### MSc Dissertation

In the last five months of the course, students must undertake a research project. This provides you with the opportunity to examine in depth a topic of particular relevance to your interests and work. In the course of the dissertation, students must identify an appropriate research question to investigate; develop a proposal that details their research methods; undertake a literature review; and apply theory to the particular organisational situation in order to produce a critically informed analysis.

### MSc Geographical Information Science with Industry (1-2 year programme)

This new course follows the same taught modules as MSc GIS, but with the option for an industrial placement, designed to enhance your practical and professional skills as well as your career prospects.

Placements start in July. Students need to have achieved a minimum of 60 credits at Merit level with no outstanding (failed or incomplete) modules in the taught component of the course, to be able to progress to in the industrial placement.

Students find their own placement with support from the Department. After the placement, students complete the MSc Dissertation.

### Programme Quality Indicators

The programme teaching standards and resource allocation were rated as "excellent" in HEFCE's Teaching Quality Assessment exercise. The course has received recognition by the research councils, and is approved by the British Council for overseas applicants. External examiners have continually rated the programme as one of the best in the UK. The Course has been accredited by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

GIS teaching at Leicester has until recently been supported by the £4.4m award from the Higher Education Funding Council to establish a Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning to develop Spatial Literacy IN Teaching (SPLINT). This provides resources for mobile GIS, augmented and virtual reality environments with a specialist MSc computer laboratory and a state-of-the-art visualisation (VR) suite.



## MSc in Environmental Informatics (RICS accredited)

The growth in importance of geographical information science (GIS) within sustainable natural resource management research and practice has led to an increasing demand for relevant GIS skills amongst trained natural resource managers. To address this demand, the MSc in Environmental Informatics provides training in the techniques of GIS analysis, grounded in the sustainable management of natural resources and experience of applying GIS to resource management. The course deals with the creation, collection, storage, processing, modelling, interpretation, display and dissemination of data and information about the environment.

**You will take a mixture of six core and optional modules (each worth 20 credits) plus the 60 credit research dissertation.**

### Core and Optional Modules

#### Core Modules

##### Introduction to GIS

An introduction to GIS concepts and techniques through practical experience and state-of-the-art software.

##### Living with Environmental Change

This module draws on a range of cutting edge social science and interdisciplinary research projects ongoing in the Department to examine critical, contested aspects of sustainability, including climate change adaptation, environmental solutions and behaviours

in diverse human societies and geographical contexts.

##### GIS methods in the Field

A fieldcourse for the acquisition of practical skills for undertaking GIS data collection on the move. Activities will include primary data capture, validation of extant data, creating and capturing crowdsourced data, OSM creation, mobile GIS and remote sensing accuracy assessments. Includes attendance at the GIS Research UK conference.

#### Optional Modules

##### Geographical Visualisation

From fundamental ideas to the leading edge in geographical visualisation, including map design principles, map generalisation, 3D modelling, space-time data visualisation, visualisation on mobile devices and virtual and augmented realities.

##### Earth Observation and Remote Sensing

Explores the use and analysis of satellite remote sensing technologies in order



to analyse environmental and human-induced processes at the Earth's surface.

##### Programming for Spatial Scientists

Develops the fundamentals of programming skills, integrates programming elements into GI applications including user interfaces for the visualisation of spatial information.

##### Environmental Economics

Understanding concepts and techniques in economics which are of fundamental relevance in analysing issues concerning natural resources and the use of the environment.

##### Global Climate and Environmental Change

Analyses the climate change debate and its scientific basis, with regional case studies of environmental

change and its feedbacks to climate change. Students work with climate data and simple models, to analyse the potential impacts of environmental change on a range of sectors and to discuss potential mitigation and adaptation options.

##### Sustainable Management of Biological Resources: Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation

Addresses spatial variations in biological diversity and the biological and ecological principles underlying the conservation and management of habitats and species. Emphasises the essential role of ecosystem services in supporting human livelihoods and the ways in which our societies must adjust lifestyles to ensure the sustainable maintenance of these services.

#### Optional field-based module

##### Biodiversity Conservation and Global Change: Indonesia

Through field-based work in Indonesia students explore the importance of tropical peat-swamp forests (in terms of biodiversity, carbon storage and other ecosystem services); the threats these face (e.g. deforestation, drainage, wildlife trade, climate change) and conservation policies and responses.

Please note: not all optional modules will necessarily be available every year. Please check the postgraduate web pages at [www.le.ac.uk/geography/postgraduate](http://www.le.ac.uk/geography/postgraduate) for the latest information for any specific academic year.

### MSc Dissertation

In the last five months of the course, students must undertake a research project. This provides you with the opportunity to examine in depth a topic of particular relevance to your interests and work. In the course of the dissertation, students must identify an appropriate research question to investigate; develop a proposal that details their research methods; undertake a literature review; and apply theory to the particular organisational situation in order to produce a critically informed analysis.



## MSc in Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (RICS accredited)

The sustainable management of our planet's natural resources and environment, in order to provide sustainable livelihoods for all people, is the greatest challenge for the twenty-first century. This degree is designed for those wishing to develop a career in natural resource management. The course structure allows you to explore and develop your own interests within a carefully designed and vocationally relevant set of taught modules. This degree, which is organised by the department, is taught jointly between ecologists, economists and geographers. It offers postgraduates an unrivalled opportunity to understand the scientific basis of the management of our natural resources.

**You will take a mixture of six core and optional modules (each worth 20 credits) plus the 60 credit research dissertation.**

### Core Modules

#### Sustainable Management of Biological Resources: Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation

Addresses spatial variations in biological diversity and the biological and ecological principles underlying the conservation and management of habitats and species. Emphasises the essential role of ecosystem services in supporting human livelihoods and the ways in which our societies must adjust lifestyles to ensure the sustainable maintenance of these services.

#### Living with Environmental Change

This new module draws on a range of cutting edge social science and interdisciplinary research projects ongoing in the Department to examine critical, contested aspects of sustainability, including climate change adaptation, environmental solutions and behaviours in diverse human societies and geographical contexts.

#### Research Design and Methods

The acquisition of skills for formulating research proposals, literature reviews, data collection and the communication of research ideas. Prepares students for their 60 credit research dissertation.

### Optional Modules

#### Environmental Economics

Understanding concepts and techniques in economics which are of fundamental relevance in analysing issues concerning natural resources and the use of the environment.

#### Global Climate and Environmental Change

Analyses the climate change debate and its scientific basis, with regional case studies of environmental change and its feedbacks to climate change. Students work with climate data and simple models, to analyse the potential impacts of environmental change on a range of sectors and to discuss potential mitigation and adaptation options.

#### Water Quality Processes and Management

This module examines the principal natural and anthropogenic factors controlling the quality of surface and groundwater systems. A core objective is to facilitate an understanding of process as a key to establishing effective and sustainable water quality management strategies.

#### Earth Observation and Remote Sensing

Explores the use and analysis of satellite remote sensing technologies in order to analyse environmental and human-induced processes at the Earth's surface.

#### Geographical Analysis of Ecosystem Services

This module draws directly on the cutting edge research ongoing in our Centre for Landscape and Climate Research (CLCR) to explore

contemporary geographical analysis methods for the mapping and monitoring of ecosystem services. Students gain hands on experience of methods and techniques in ecosystem services management.

#### Introduction to GIS

An introduction to GIS concepts and techniques through practical experience and state-of-the-art software.

### Optional field-based Modules

#### Ecological and Environmental Assessment

This UK-based module introduces students to practical ecological (e.g. phase one habitat) survey skills, environmental risk and impact assessment techniques, in the context of UK legislative/planning requirements.

#### Biodiversity Conservation and Global Change: Indonesia

Through field-based work in Indonesia students explore the importance of tropical peat-swamp forests (in terms of biodiversity, carbon storage and other ecosystem services); the threats these face (e.g. deforestation, drainage, wildlife trade, climate change) and conservation policies and responses.

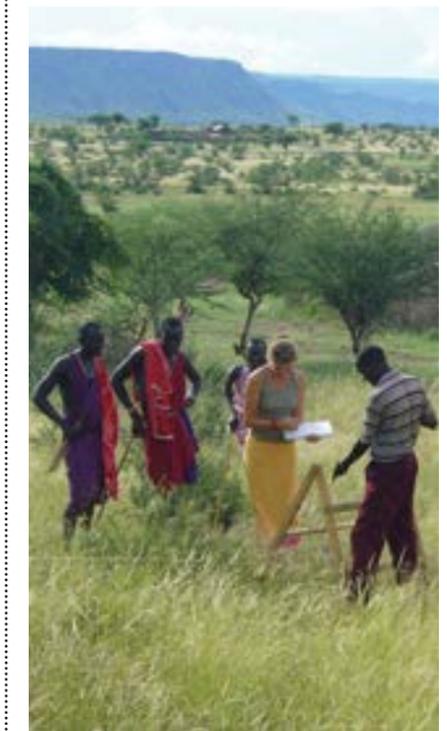
**Please note:** not all optional modules will necessarily be available every year. Please check the postgraduate web pages at [www.le.ac.uk/geography/postgraduate](http://www.le.ac.uk/geography/postgraduate) for the latest information for any specific academic year.

### MSc Dissertation

In the last five months of the course, students must undertake a research project. This provides you with the opportunity to examine in depth a topic of particular relevance to your interests and work. In the course of the dissertation, students must identify an appropriate research question to investigate; develop a proposal that details their research methods; undertake a literature review; and apply theory to the particular issue in order to produce a critically informed analysis.

“After looking for several years for a suitable MSc degree, I decided to study Sustainable Management of Natural Resources at the University of Leicester, because of its particular focus on sustainable development, protection of natural resources and climate change. When looking for a dissertation topic I was able, with the guidance of my dissertation supervisor, to identify a topic that helped me to accomplish my professional goals and aspirations.”

**Adriana,**  
MSc Sustainable Management  
of Natural Resources





“Doing an MRes at Leicester is a great way to gain experience in carrying out scientific research. The flexibility of the course allows you to focus on your research interests and work independently at your own pace ... The MRes is an excellent degree to undertake if you wish to study for a PhD or pursue a career in research.”

**Helena, MRes**

## PhD/MRes in Geography

The department offers a supportive and vibrant research environment in which to conduct doctoral research. The department is able to offer expert supervision and associated support and training on a wide range of subjects and themes and works closely with Doctoral researchers to develop their own particular interests.

The department offers research degrees at PhD and MRes level.

## What is an MRes?

An MRes is a “Master’s by Research” degree in which students undertake a one year research project (with a small number of taught courses) supervised by academic members of staff. It is essentially a “mini PhD” in that the projects are all directly related to ongoing departmental research. It is anticipated that the data generated will be published in international peer reviewed journals and the MRes dissertation is expected to be of a commensurately high standard. An MRes particularly suits students thinking of going on to study for a PhD in the future (a nice one year “taster” experience) or students who would like a MSc degree, but are looking for something that offers more scope to specialise in a topic that interests them (more independence, less lectures and exams, but still a range of transferable skills). The standard of work expected is high and ideally we would be looking for students who are on track for a good 2.1 degree or higher.

To help students develop ideas for research at both MRes and PhD level, we have a list of potential PhD and MRes research topics published on our web pages for which we are happy to receive applications. Applicants can also propose their own research topics. A list of academic staff research interests is provided on the following page.



Photo: Martine Hamilton Knight



## Student Life

### Campus

On our bustling compact campus it’s impossible to walk from one end to the other without bumping into someone you know along the way. The campus is a vibrant community, with all manner of places to meet, eat and drink, as well as study. We’re committed to providing you with high quality facilities and our £1bn campus development plan ensures all our resources meet the needs of modern and ambitious students.

### Students’ Union

The Students’ Union is brimming with opportunities that will make your time at Leicester unforgettable. The spectacular Percy Gee building boasts superb facilities, from bookshops to coffee bars and the fantastic live music venue, O<sub>2</sub> Academy Leicester. You are encouraged to get involved with the SU – there are over 200 student societies covering a huge range – sport, politics, media, performing arts and much, much more.

### Accommodation

We can offer accommodation that suits you best, including standard or en-suite rooms. All postgraduate accommodation is within easy walking distance of the main campus and the amenities of the city centre. For more information: [www.le.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.le.ac.uk/accommodation)

For private accommodation, the Students’ Union has its own letting agency – Sulets who can help you to find a suitable place to live. For more information: [www.sulets.com](http://www.sulets.com)

### City of Leicester

Leicester is a lively and diverse city and the tenth largest in Britain. It has all the activities and facilities you would expect, with a friendly and safe atmosphere. The city centre is just a short walk from campus so you’ll never be far from the action.

Leicester’s diverse heritage is reflected in a dazzling array of festivals and cultural experiences including the largest Diwali celebrations outside India, the UK’s longest running Comedy Festival and the University’s hugely successful book festival – Literary Leicester.

Recent developments have led to the opening of the world class Curve Theatre and Phoenix Square Independent Arts Centre in the new Cultural Quarter, which complement Leicester’s existing array of cinemas, theatres, museums and galleries.

Leicester is a city of sporting excellence. Sports fans can enjoy Premier League football with Leicester City and watch top-class rugby at Welford Road, home of the mighty Leicester Tigers. The Leicester Riders are a formidable presence in the British Basketball League (BBL), and during the summer months, Leicestershire County cricket club compete in the county championship and T20 Blast competition.

The sparkling Highcross complex features 110,000 square metres of retail therapy, bars, cafés and restaurants. For those with independent tastes Leicester Lanes houses a variety of boutiques and specialist shops.

As you would expect from a true student city, there is a huge range of bars, clubs and live music venues that cater for all kinds of tastes. Food lovers are treated to a fantastic selection of restaurants, with specialities available from every corner of the world.



@LeicesterGeog · /UoLGeography



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